

**Barham & District Horticultural Society**  
**Report to Barham Parish Council**  
**Tim Bines Chairman.**  
**15 April 2010**

Thank you for inviting the Barham & District Horticultural Society to report to you on our last year.

Our aim is to be a friendly open society encouraging gardening through a wide range of activities.

Every year we have:

1. New Year talks – normally two or three. These are on aspects of gardening which we think members will find relevant or which members have asked for at our AGM. We are trying hard to obtain good speakers at reasonable prices – a difficult thing to achieve!

2. Spring Plant Sale – to which members and others bring plants for sale by the Society.

2. Two Shows – one in the Summer and the other in the Autumn. These have a range of vegetable, flower cookery and photography classes and normally secures at least 200 entries.

4. Outings to gardens- usually there are three to gardens in the South East at key times of the year e.g. our forthcoming visit to Pashley manor in east Sussex to see the Spring tulips. Occasionally we have an extra outing – last year we were invited to HRH Prince of Wales Highgrove Garden which proved a memorable trip.

5. We have added a pumpkin competition in the Autumn – this has proved extremely popular with both the School and many residents some of who found getting their pumpkin here to the Village Hall a heavy job!

6. Recently we have reinvigorated our competitive element by entering a team in the inter-village Neame Cup competition – we greatly enjoyed meeting other gardening societies in East Kent through this - and also the inter village Lower Harges Show competition.

7. We round off the year with a Christmas party for members which always proves popular.

8. Finally we provide members with the opportunity to purchase seeds and compost etc cheaply through bulk ordering.

We are always looking for new ideas and have in particular sought to encourage children to participate in both Shows and in the Pumpkin competition by providing each child in Barham School with seeds.

Our annual membership fee is now £4.00 per person and £6.00 for family membership. We have about 240 members in Barham and the adjoining District. The Society is run by a committee, we have an AGM every year to elect the committee and to seek members views and ideas. We now have our own website – with links to other websites including Barham Parish Council - which gives details

of the Society and its activities enables bookings to be made etc - we will be looking to develop this further over the next year with the hope of Emailing members directly. This is especially important in reducing our printing costs – we provide both a Spring and Autumn Newsletter as well as a Show schedule and membership card which is proving quite costly.

As venues we use both Barham and Kingston Village Halls – we are most grateful to the Village Hall Committees for their help and support and I would like to say my personal thanks to them both.

If there is anyone who is not a member here tonight who wishes to join this Society do say and I will be delighted to pass their details onto our Secretary.