

Barham & District Horticultural Society
Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held at the Barham Village Hall on
6th November 2008 at 7.30 pm

Present: Brigadier M. Atherton (President), Dr. Tim Bines (Chairman), Mrs. P Austin (Treasurer), Mrs. J. Clough (Show Secretary), Mrs. G. McGuire (Secretary)
Committee Members: Mr. A Clough, Mr. T. Cummings, Mr. D. Davis, Mrs. M. Duke, Mrs. T. Fleming, Mrs. L. Oakey, Mrs. S. Smith, Mr. B Wright

Apologies: Dr. C Barber, Mrs. J. Bull

President's Address

The President opened the meeting. He thanked all committee members and the chairman for the devotion to the Society and for their hard work during the last year.

Minutes of the 2007 AGM

The minutes were a fair reflection of last year's meeting.
Proposed by Bill Oakey, seconded by Tishy Fleming and approved nem.com

Secretary's Report

The secretary reported that the membership had increased to 249 from 220 last year and that many new members took part in the shows and came to some of the outings. The coach outings to France as well as to Wisely had been blessed with sunshine and had been thoroughly enjoyed by members. It was however difficult to fill the coaches to full capacity despite the fact that members of other societies had taken part in these outings. She asked members to join in and to encourage friends to come with them. The plant sale was, as always, successful and plants sold within the hour. She then reported on the programme for next year, which includes two coach outings, one in May to Savill garden, Great Windsor and the second one to Sheffield Gardens in October. There will be two garden visits by car, one in June to The Salutation in Sandwich and the second one in July to Mount Court Farm in Acrise.

The talks will be on Hellebores in February and on designing a herbaceous border in March. The last talk of the year will be at the Christmas Party titled 'Ghosts in Kent'. She thanked all members for their support during the last year.

Treasurers's Report

The Financial Statement had been distributed to members and the treasurer made the following comments: Bank Current Account: 202.36, deposit account: 1.130.28.

Show Secretary's Report

The judges commented favourably and felt that the general standard of all the exhibits was good and improving. Entries into the Autumn show were down by about 20 and especially in the Floral Art Class. Many members would prefer simpler subjects.

We were pleased that the children's entries in both shows were considerably up; this was due to Mary Duke's efforts and encouragement at the local school and the committee is very grateful for that. We hope she will continue this good work.

The judge for the cookery section made various comments on lemon curd, chutneys, biscuits etc The show secretary finished her report thanking Brian Wright for organising the judges and drawing up the schedule and Sue Smith and Pat Austin for their help with the organisation

All three reports were proposed by Andrew Clough and seconded by Dave Davis.

5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2008/2009 .

Election of Chairman and Officers: Chairman:: Dr. Tim Bines
Treasurer: Mrs. Pat Austin
Show Secretary: Mrs. Jean Clough
Secretary: Mrs. Gaby McGuire

Proposed by: Mimi Hoare, seconded by John Crothall and approved nem.com

Election of Committee Members: Dr. Chris Barber

Mrs. Jenny Bull
Andrew Clough
Tess Cummings
Dave Davis
Mrs. Mary Duke
Mrs. Tishy Fleming
Mrs. Liz Oakey
Mrs. Sue Smith
Brian Wright

Proposed by Jean Clough, seconded by Bill Oakey and approved nem.com.

6. Future Events

The Secretary dealt with the events planned for 2009 in her report.

7. Members Suggestions

The chairman asked members to make the planned events a key point in members' diaries.. He pointed out that the coaches booked are always comfortable and well equipped and that outings are very enjoyable. He then asked members to make suggestions for 2010 which were as follows:

The gardens of Buckingham Palace,

Beth Chatto

Pashley Manor at tulip time

Sandling Gardens

Great Dixter

Nymans (NT)

The American Garden

It was suggested to have a competition for the best home-made compost as part of one of the shows

An evening of Gardeners' question time

A picnic and walk on the jumping downs with a guided tour by one of the Stour Project guides.

A drawing or painting of a flower/vegetable, an embroidered flower, a still life to be included into the show schedules.

8. Any Other Business

Andrew Clough will deal with the seed orders and Liz Oakey with the compost orders.

The meeting closed at 8.15 and members exchanged plants, collected their new schedules and enjoyed a glass of wine and refreshments