

# EWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th March 2011

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2011 AGM of the Ewell Horticultural Association and thanked Margaret Angus for taking the minutes. 46 members plus the Chairman, Treasurer and Minute Secretary attended.

As always, the past year has been very busy. 2010 was a very successful year despite our need for more committee members in key areas and additional help at the shows. We have approximately 2000 members and the Chairman thanked Roger Bellingham, our Registrar, who does a marvellous job behind the scenes, keeping track of all the members.

The committee had one resignation during the year, Jenny Olney, who has moved away from the area, so we wish her well and thank her for her service to the EHA. Fortunately, we have recruited a new member recently, so the Chairman welcomed Lynne Mason to our family. However, we are still short of people in key positions. The Association is in need of a Secretary, a Show Secretary and a Publicity Officer, if anyone is interested the Chairman invited them to contact him and he will endeavour to explain what is required for the roles.

The Trips and outings are a very popular part of the Association's activities. The Chairman thanked Brenda Allen and Pauline Horne, who organised four very successful trips in 2010 which proved to be the most successful so far with a record 61 members on the Beth Chatto trip on 30 April. 39 members went to Hopleys Plants and Benington Lordship in Hertfordshire on 12 June and 51 to Stansfield in Oxfordshire and Kelmscott Manor on 12 August. 48 members enjoyed the 4 day trip to the gardens of Dorset and Hampshire in July, staying in a very good hotel in Bournemouth, and visiting Abbotsbury, Ivy Cottage, Knoll Gardens and Apple Court, finishing off with an interesting visit to Gilbert White's house in Selborne on the way back.

The 2011 trips have filled up very quickly and there are waiting lists for all but one. There is one spare space for the trip to Ramster Gardens and Crosswater Farm on Friday 6 May. The Highgrove trip for 7 April was understandably very popular with a long waiting list; for all those who are unable to go this year it is hoped to arrange another trip next year, giving them priority. The 4 day trip is to Wales, staying in Llandrindod Wells, and visiting some of the best gardens in Wales, including Powis Castle, Aberglasney and the National Botanic Garden of Wales, with lunch at Painswick Rococo Garden on the way down and a stop in Hay-on-Wye on the way back. A full coach of 48 people has been booked and everyone should have a great time. Brenda and Pauline appreciate all the thank you notes they receive and welcome any feedback or suggestions that our members may have.

We had four well-supported shows in 2010, with the attendances well up on previous years, the number of entries was up again, and all the shows were very successful, despite some early poor weather. The Mayor attended on three occasions. We even had the Late Autumn Show mentioned on the local Radio Station, Radio Jackie. Encouragingly the number of new members entering classes also increased, to the point that several newer members won prizes and cups. The Chairman thanked Terry Eddowes for all her hard work in the absence of a Show Secretary.

Not surprisingly, the quality of our catering seems to draw in people to the Shows, also congratulations to Dawn Simms and her team. However with greater attendances, comes greater work, so we are in need of more help at the shows, particularly with the teas, so if anyone is able to help for an hour or so during the afternoon, please contact Dawn Simms.

On a personal note, the Chairman thanked all the members of the committee for their hard work during the year, as everyone has taken on more work, to cover our shortfall of committee members. In addition, he thanked all our helpers at the Shows, flower distribution and Potting Shed. In particular, he thanked Tim Goldsmith, although not on the committee, as has been a tremendous help to the Association, especially at the Shows.

The Newsletter continues to attract excellent comments; the Chairman especially thanked Katherine Alexander for her hard work in the single-handed preparation and setting out of the current Newsletters. The Chairman also thanked all those involved in the distribution of the Newsletters, in particular Shirley Holwill and all the Road Stewards.

Thanks must also go to Fred Evans for organising our talks, attendances have been very good and once again, we have a full programme of lectures for the year. In particular the Chairman mentioned the February talk, by Barbara Gollop one of our own members, who gave an excellent and novel illustrated talk.

Many thanks go to Rob Thomson for setting up and maintaining our Website, especially as recently Rob has completely revamped the website, to hopefully make it more user friendly; any comments regarding the website would be welcome.

The Potting Shed continues to be competitive and very well attended on Sundays between 10am and 12noon, with a growing trend of new, younger members requesting information. Many thanks go to Carol Bradbury, without whose knowledge and enthusiasm the Potting Shed would be a sorrier place.

The Chairman especially thanked Gordon Norris, for all his behind the scenes activities, without Gordon's help the Association would severely suffer.

The Chairman summed up by saying that we are as always in need of people to join the committee, in particular, the key offices of Secretary, Show Secretary and Publicity Officer, but anyone just willing to join our friendly band of committee members, without committing to any of these, would be most welcome.

Finally the Chairman thanked the ladies who provided the refreshments at the AGM as they do at all the talks and invited members to listen to the talk which followed by David Cheston entitled 'A Garden Pourri'.

The Chairman invited questions but there were none.

## 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Acceptance of Minutes: proposed – Anne-Marie Evans, seconded – Dawn Simms. Accepted

## 3 MATTERS ARISING

None.

## 4 TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS

Karen Robbins presented the Balance Sheet plus the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Karen talked through the Accounts explaining that the Potting Shed sales had decreased but the gross profit had increased. The low profit the previous year was due in part to the sell-off of old stock. Next year the direct overheads would be lower due to the rent rebate and no requirement to pay Council Tax which would hopefully result in a surplus. The Membership subscriptions were down; but keeping track was complicated as most members paid once to cover two years. The majority of the 2133 subscriptions received in 2010 also covered 2011. The printing cost of the Newsletter was £300 per issue. The Shows are increasingly covering their costs due partly

to an increasing number of entries but also, in no small part, to the popularity of the refreshments. Overall a net surplus of £259 was achieved. It was acknowledged that the Potting Shed and the tables would be bound to depreciate over 5 years. A question was asked from the floor as to whether we would ever use the Building Fund. The answer was that an EGM would be required to move the capital; Karen commented that there was no need to dip into this money.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Gordon Norris and seconded by Terry Eddowes. Accepted.

## 5 FLORAL ART GROUP REPORT

Sheila Stracy, the Chairman, was happy to report that the Group has had another good year keeping the membership at around 50 members. There was a varied programme, learning how to make foliage arrangements, spring baskets and using candles. There were also three evenings with Area Demonstrators entitled 'Colourful Comedians', 'Blooms, Leaves and Twigs' and 'Sparkle and Spice'. Members entered the Ewell Horticultural Shows and put on some lovely displays. The 2010 Cups were won by Sheila Stracey for Floral Art with Janet Andrews as Runner Up; Pam Eade won the Intermediate and Pat Hitchen the Novice. At the non-competition Show Jean Merralls won the Public Choice.

The Group took part in the 'Floramania' at Hampton Court Palace in March and the RHS Wisley Show in September. In October the Area Show took place at the City of London School in Ashted. The highlight of the year was an outing to Highgrove which everyone enjoyed and went very smoothly. Once again Elsie Price opened her garden for a Tea Party & Doreen Chambers opened hers for a Coffee Morning, both raising lots of money for Charity.

Surrey NAFAS has been celebrating its Golden Anniversary and several members enjoyed a meal at the Queen's Stand along with 250 others which was organised by Maureen Hanlan, the Surrey Area Chairman. Sheila Banks has now taken over that position and we are honoured that both are members of Ewell.

Shelia Stracy was confident that Ewell Floral Art will continue to be a happy, friendly club creating lovely designs with flowers.

## 6 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Committee nominated Yash Gursoy as President. The proposal was seconded by Anne-Marie Evans and passed by the membership.

## 7 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Karen Robbins took the chair at this point; it was proposed by Terry Eddowes that Dave Tarrant be elected as Chairman. Seconded by Anne-Marie Evans. Passed. Dave Tarrant thanked the members for voting him as Association Chairman for another year.

## 8 ELECTION OF SECRETARY

There were no nominations for the position of Association Secretary.

## 9 ELECTION OF TREASURER

It was proposed that Karen Robbins be elected as Treasurer.

Proposed by Dave Tarrant. Seconded by Lynne Mason Passed

Dave Tarrant additionally thanked Karen Robbins for all her hard work in producing the Accounts.

## 10 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected en bloc:

Sales Secretary	Roger Sheffield	Lecture Secretary	Fred Evans
Registrar	Roger Bellingham	Equipment Officer	Gordon Norris

Domestic Secretary Katherine Alexander      Catering Officer Dawn Simms  
There were no nominations for Vice Chairman, Show Secretary or Publicity Officer.

Proposed by Tim Goldsmith      Seconded by Sheila Stracey      Passed

#### 11 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Terry Eddowes (Show Secretary's Assistant)	Carol Bradbury
Fred Evans (Assistant Treasurer)	Anne-Marie Evans
Margaret Angus (Minutes)	Shirley Holwill
Sheila Stracey (Floral Art Representative)	Lynne Mason

Proposed by Dawn Simms      Seconded Pam Hancock      Passed

#### 12 ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Ray Gosney was proposed as Auditor.

Proposed by Dave Tarrant      Seconded Stan Holwill      Passed

#### 13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Brenda Allen commented that some Newsletters were delivered late; other members made similar comments. Dave Tarrant apologised; he emphasised the need for Road Stewards to get the Newsletters out promptly and if this was not possible they should inform someone on the Committee; a letter reminding Road Stewards of this would be sent out next year. He agreed that the Newsletter should appear on the Website at the same time as it is issued on paper. Reg (?) thought that the Newsletters should be available 2 weeks before the start of the month; Dave Tarrant agreed that the Committee would consider how the distribution of Newsletters could be speeded up.

2. Terry Eddowes make a request for more help at the Shows especially as the Committee started to consider events for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015. Help was particularly needed to breakdown the Shows when the Committee had been active since early in the morning.

3. Reg (?) made a plea for exhibitors to remove their vases from the Show Bench and place them in the box and even for the Committee to purchase some new small china vases. The Chairman agreed that the Committee would consider this suggestion.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.