

ANNUAL REPORT OF SHEVIOCK PARISH GARDEN CLUB. 2010

The Garden Club has continued to be successful during 2010 and our outings proved very popular. We sadly lost Diana Kelly, who very much enjoyed our meetings. Pam Whetton moved away and was much missed as our Treasurer. Other members moved away and are also missed. We welcomed new visitors and Andrea Evans joined as a new member.

The A.G.M. was held on 28th January – this was a rearranged meeting from 7th January and wine and cheese was served after the business was concluded. Betty sent a cake for us to enjoy after the cheese.

In February Robert Jubb gave us a talk on Seed Propagation. This was a very hands on meeting with demonstrations of planting seeds which we all had a go at. Whether any of the seeds germinated I don't know – mine didn't but members enjoyed the meeting – especially the male contingent.

March was supposed to be a talk on Dahlias but our speaker – Mike Boswell was injured so we held a quiz evening and free raffle instead – this proved very popular.

In April Diane gave a talk on growing Primulars and Auriculars including the history, cultivation and medicinal values. There was also an unofficial outing by some members to the Elizabethan House and garden on the Barbican.

There was no meeting in May because of the election. Several members had an outing to Mount Edgcombe where there was a demonstration on Hanging Baskets by the head gardener – Lee Stenning. Members produced baskets under close instruction with plants and other materials provided by Lee at cost price. This is highly recommended and takes place in 2011 on 21st & 25th May.

June saw a meeting with a trio of events – a talk on bumble bees by Dave Dunn, a demonstration of patio/barbecue arrangements by Betty Heapy and the evening finished with everyone making Tussie Mussies under the guidance of Diane Stevenson. This proved to be an enjoyable and informative meeting. In June we also had a joint outing with Crafhole and District W.I. Diane had initially suggested this outing but it was great to team up with the W.I. to visit Mary Newman's cottage in Saltash. It was a lovely Tudor cottage and a gem of an Elizabethan herb garden. The wonderful staff served members cream teas in the garden.

In July we had a Garden Safari where several members (and non-members) bravely opened their gardens and was enjoyed by everyone involved. Cream teas were served at Clicker Bungalow at a small cost which gave the Club much needed funds. To top it all we had glorious sunshine! July also gave members the opportunity to join with St.Germans Garden Club and visit Rosemoor gardens in North Devon. Diane attended several meetings to help organise this but St.Germans changed the date and also decided not to hire a coach so interest dropped off. Three members did visit Rosemoor and it is highly recommended as a wonderful garden – simply dripping with roses in the summer.

We had a successful stall, selling mostly herbs at the Summer Fayre in July. We made a healthy amount of money for the Hall even though we only used the Hall on 7 occasions in 2010. In August members contributed to entries in the Flower and Produce Show, which again was very successful.

In September we had an evening outing to Bodmin Herb Nursery. Many members and non-members had a tour of the nursery and then tea/coffee and biscuits was served in the café. Most of us purchased plants and were very impressed with Nursery whose owner has invited us back on another occasion.

In October we invited someone from the Tamar Protection Society to talk about his organisation. We had to change venues to the Chapel School Room and Peter Nicolas stepped in for a colleague and gave us a slide show of past and future projects of his society. The Garden Club gave a donation of £25 to the Tamar Protection Society who also help look after Mary Newman's cottage.

In November Pauline Kemp came along to give a talk entitled 'The Holly and the Ivy'. There were gale force winds and only 8 members turned up to listen to this fascinating talk. Diane and Bob helped collect examples of holly and Pauline brought her own examples to show us and this prickly subject proved most interesting.

We held our Christmas Party in December and although we were rather depleted in number – members provided some delicious plates of food that would have shamed a banquet. Diane organised a quiz with prizes for the winner and the lowest score. The quiz was rather challenging so maybe we need a different form of entertainment next year! December also saw us running a stall for the Christmas Fayre. Betty designed a lovely Dutch theme and Bob and Diane put it all together and many people said it was the best decorated stall in the Hall. We sold daffodils in pots and gingerbread plus other things and made approximately £44 for Hall Funds.

In conclusion I would like to thank members and non-members for all their hard work and contributions during 2010 – as the advert says – 'every little helps' and is much appreciated.