

1944.

There having been some adverse comments on the Society's Show in 1943 in respect of garnishing, the Chairman reported at a Committee meeting considering the schedule for the 1945 Show, that he had been "out-voted" on the garnishing question.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 129, Field End Road on December 18th. 1944. The Chairman, in opening the meeting, asked the Committee to consider whether steps should be taken to rent or otherwise acquire possession of a building already erected in which the Society could hold their Shows or meetings, or whether to acquire land and erect its own building. The Chairman, after discussion, asked that a vote be taken on the question whether land should be purchased as soon as possible even if it meant that the building would have to be erected later. The result of the vote was 12 "For" and nil "against" with 2 abstentions. After a further discussion as to the possibility of sites, Mr. Mitchell suggested the formation of a sub-committee to go into the question of "ways and means" of sites, prices of land, buildings, running expenses etc. and to report progress as soon as possible. A sub-committee of five was appointed with Mr. Cross as Chairman and Mr. Aldrich as Secretary. Several meetings of the sub-committee were held, but difficulty of access to the suggested plot in question resulted in the scheme being dropped.

Members successes in the COUNCILS FOOD PRODUCTION SHOW on September 2nd. and 3rd. compared very favourably with those of last year, particularly in view of the very great difficulty which had attended all gardening operations during the year. Mr. H. Groves took home the RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD CUP and the WOODMAN CHALLENGE CUP together with four other cups, his entries scoring 28 points out of a possible 41. One of the remarkable results was that Mr. Hardy and Mr. Croxson were awarded a SECOND and THIRD respectively in the NOVICES Class for Honey. The total number of entries was 276 and the total number of awards was 167.

The FIRST ANNUAL DINNER was held at the Orchard Hotel, Ruislip and was a great success.

Mr. T.G. Cross presented a cup to be known as the ST. CATHERINE'S CHALLENGE CUP for the lady obtaining most points in the Women's Section.

1945

At an Executive Committee meeting on April 13th. 1945 Mr. Parsons resigned as Fruit Secretary on account of ill health and Mr. Dronsfield was appointed in his place.

During 1945, Mr. Tingay offered a cup for the Fruit Show to be known as THE TINGAY CHALLENGE CUP.

A FRUIT CONFERENCE was held on November 28th. with Mr. T.G. Morris as Chairman. Mr. Hardy showed a film on budding Apple Stocks, Mr. Howard H. Crane spoke on how to plant the best fruit for exhibition, with samples of fruit from his own garden; and a demonstration on pruning, spraying and general cleanliness and the method of ~~combating~~ combatting various pests was dealt with by Mr. Tingay.

Mr. H.L. Jacquier gave a splendid demonstration on grafting and Mr. Hardy also gave some interesting details of new developments in the Fruit Garden to counteract the effect of frost on Fruit Trees and gave names of varieties which are practically immune from frost.

Forty-six members in two coaches visited the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley.

Mr. F.C.H. Witchell was appointed Trading Secretary.

1945 - continued.

At the Annual General Meeting it was proposed to drop the post of Assistant Secretary, but considerable discussion took place on the proposal and it was agreed to leave the post vacant for a year.

During 1945 a panel of nine Fruit Members was formed to advise members in case of difficulty with their fruit.

Mr. Bertram Park, on the invitation of the Committee, agreed to become a Vice-President.

The result of the SUMMER SHOW was a profit of £25. 4. 0.

On the proposal of Mr. Fleming at the Executive Committee meeting on July 9th. it was agreed to affiliate with the National Rose Society.

A DIG FOR VICTORY FOR VEGETABLES was held at Eastcote House during the Summer. There were 22 bottles of fruit and many vegetables on show, with some fruit. A notable exhibit was a pot of "Streamline" runner beans climbing up canes to a height of 6 feet. Mr. C. Noel Dore became a Vice-President.

A new Trading Centre at 1, The Point, Ruislip Gardens was opened.

At the COUNCIL'S FOOD PRODUCTION SHOW on September 2nd. and 3rd. Mr. H. Groves repeated his success of last year by collecting the RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD CUP, the WOODMAN CUP and four other Cups. Mrs. Lockey won the Housewives Efficiency Cup. The total number of Members entries was 276.

Two of our Members, Mr. J.H. Mitchell and Mr. W.H. Johnson were co-opted onto the local Council.

The second Fruit Show (with flowers) was held on October 6th. when there were excellent displays by Mr. H.H. Crane, Mr. Tingay, Mr. Hurford and Mr. Murch.

Mr. Crane and Mr. Tingay entered into friendly rivalry in staging two magnificent displays of apples and pears. Mr. Hurford also staged an excellent variety of apples and pears, and also had Roses, Dahlias and Chrysanthemums on view. Mrs. Eleanor Cross had some lovely bowls of Roses and Dahlias while Mrs. Dore's exhibit was composed of Fruit, Flowers, Bottled Fruit and Honey.

The class for Cox's Orange Pippins attracted the biggest number of entries i.e. 20 while other classes, namely No. 12 and 26a. had 12 entries. The class for Doyenne du Comice pears attracted 16 entries and for Bramley Seedling apples 16.

Mr. K.E. Moore was the winner of the Tingay Cup for fruit.

Our Chairman, Mr. V.E. Croxson, having been granted a commission in H.M. Army left for special duties. Mr. Gilbert, Vice-Chairman, was appointed in his place.

Mr. W.R. Fleming was elected an Honorary Life Member.

The fifteen months ending 31.12.45 left us with an excess of ~~income~~ income over expenditure of £11.4.6. and a total of £172. 8. 11 composed of Cash in hand, deposits in P.O. Bank, Savings Certificates and the value of stocks at £30.4.5.

1946.

It was agreed to invite the fifteen members who had notified their interest in the formation of a Chrysanthemum Group to a meeting with Messrs. Cole and Ridgeon to represent the Executive Committee.

1946 - continued.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on February 8th. with the President, Mrs. E. Cross, presiding and supported by three Vice-Presidents.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted almost without comment.

The chief item was the recommendation to change the title to EASTCOTE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. Some members were apprehensive by the omission of the words "and district" but it was pointed out that there need be no fear as the words were provided for in the rules. After an amendment to include the words "and district" had been heavily defeated, the Committee's recommendation was approved.

Mr. Jack Hardy pointed out that there was no time limit to the term of the office of President and proposed a limit of three years. This was seconded and approved.

Another alteration which the meeting approved was the change in the Society's year ~~was~~ from the 1st. October to the 1st. January.

With the issue of the April/May Bulletin, advertisements on the last page were started.

On February 6th. the Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Group was formed with Mr. H. Percival as Secretary and 100 members.

Two successful Chrysanthemum Shows were also held.

The Society's Summer Show was held on 27th. July with 428 entries and made a profit of £38. 3. 10d.

The FRUIT GROUP staged a non-competitive show at KODAK HALL on Sept. 14th. and 15th. and gained an "Award of Merit" given by the Middlesex Federation of Horticultural & Allotment Societies. The exhibit consisted of 40 dishes of fruit on a space 10 feet. x 4 feet of good quality and in excellent condition.

Through the courtesy of the R.H.S. we were able to publish in the Bulletin, a precis of an article by Mr. G. Fox Wilson of experiments carried out by him at the R.H.S. laboratory at Wisley on "D.D.T. and its effects on some horticultural pests".

The July issue of the bulletin contained a list of fruit bushes available for purchase by members at the following prices :-
Black Currants (3 varieties), Red Currants (2 varieties), all at 1/3d. each. Raspberries and Strawberries at 4d. each., in contrast to to-day's prices.

such a
There was a rush for the supply of bedding plants that the Committee had to allocate them as best it could, and return those orders which could not be met. The lack of sufficient plants was due to nurserymen not being permitted to grow many flowers.

~~xxvery successful DANCE AND SOCIAL xx~~

The first Chrysanthemum Show was held on the 21st. Sept. for Early Flowering blooms.

A successful Fruit Show was held on Oct. 6th. when a large amount of fruit was on show of a considerably higher standard than last year, and as a result of this the Fruit Committee decided to enter an exhibit in the R.H.S. Affiliated Societies Competition, on Oct. 7th. and 8th.

This exhibit contained dishes of 6 dessert apples, 6 culinary apples and 6 dessert pears. The entry was judged second best in the class, which was considered very good as it was the first time the Society had competed in this show, and was awarded the R.H.S. Silver Hogg Medal. The exhibit was later displayed at St. Lawrence Hall.

1946 - continued.

The most important item during the year was the SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING on the 23rd. October to consider the Executive Committee's proposal to increase the Membership subscription from 1/6d. to 2/6d. To put the case before the members, a letter was addressed to each one and of the number returned only three were against the proposition. The meeting therefore approved the scheme.

A very successful DANCE AND SOCIAL was held on 1st. Nov. when about 100 members and friends had an enjoyable evening. The dancing was interspersed with a few floor games and a Tap Dancer (the daughter of one of our new members) performed, and there were a couple of piano solos.

1947.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on February 7th. when we were pleased to welcome back our Chairman, Major V.E. Croxson, who had arrived home ~~from~~ leave the previous day.

Our President, Mrs. E. Cross although present at the meeting, was not well enough to preside, her place being taken by Mr. T.G. Cross.

Mr. Ranger resigned his post as Hon. General Secretary after serving over 5.1/2 years and his place was filled by Mr. F.H.J. Mead.

Mr. J.H. Mitchell was elected a Vice-President.

Mr. King and Mr. Ranger were elected Hon. Life Members, and the latter was also elected a member of the Executive Committee.

On account of the difficulty in obtaining stewards the Executive Committee recommended a Collector being appointed for the subscriptions; also that the bulletins should be posted to the members by the printers. The A.G.M. approved these proposals.

ALTERATION IN BULLETIN. Commencing with the June issue the bulletin was altered to a quarterly one with increased pages.

It was announced earlier in the year that a Gardens Competition was to be held. The winners of this were :-

Back garden :- Messrs. H.W. Janes, F. Day and J.B. Cox.

Front garden :- Messrs. F. Adamson, S.J. Croxson and Mrs. A. Cadenhead.

The SUMMER SHOW was held on the Ministry of Health Grounds on July 19th. Mr. H.C. Collins, speaking for the judges, said the flower section called for specially favourable comment as it was well above the usual show level, in spite of the handicap of the recent storms. The bush fruits were also exceptional, especially currants, both red and white.

The AUTUMN SHOW was held on the 4th. October at St. Lawrence Church Hall.

The JACK HARDY CUP was won by Mr. H.W. Janes.

The St. CATHERINE'S CUP by Mrs. Banks and the St. VINCENT'S CHALLENGE CUP by Mr. F.S. Paradine.

Some members of the Society were privileged to visit Mr. Howard H. Crane's garden which is noted for the large number of apple trees.

During the year Mr. V.E. Croxson took over the duties of Trading Secretary.

The General Secretary asked for names of members who were willing to spend an hour on Sundays to tidy up and keep the Mr Memorial grounds in good order.

Wax

1947 - continued.

A new show was staged on November 1st. i.e. the LATE FLOWERING SMXX CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW with 64 entries of an excellent standard of cultivation.

The year closed with a debit balance of £21.13.8. and a paid-up membership of 1106.

1948.

At the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on February 2nd. with about 70 members present, it was stated that all the local Councillors were members of the Society.

Early in the year Mr. Jack Hardy resigned his post as Editor owing to increasing official duties and an appreciation of his services to the Society was published in the March bulletin. Mr. Hardy was elected a Vice-President and an Hon. Life Member and in his place Mr. W.C. Whiting was appointed Editor.

Mr. Carey, a Judge at the Summer Show, gave the following opinion E-

" I SEE MOST OF THE SHOWS IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX? BUT SINCE MY FIRST ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE EASTCOTE SHOW I HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED IT AS THE STANDARD WITH WHICH TO COMPARE THE REST. YEAR BY YEAR IT IS A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT AND THIS YEAR IS NO EXCEPTION TO THAT RECORD "

FORMATION OF LADIES SECTION. A Ladies Section was formed during the summer under the Chairmanship of Vice-President Mrs. E. Cross.

The Gardens Competition this year included classes on the Council's temporary housing estates, and also for gardens maintained with paid assistance.

The Chrysanthemum Group competed unsuccessfully at the Wembley Chrysanthemum Show and they also staged an honorary exhibit at the recently formed Manor Chrysanthemum Society's Show.

THE AUTUMN SHOW. For the first time this show was separated from the Fruit Show and was held on the 18th. September. It was visited by the "Queen of the Skies" and her two Sky Maidens in the Battle of Britain R.A.F. Week.

THE FRUIT SHOW 2nd. October. The fruit displayed was of a high standard particularly for a season when pests and diseases had been unduly prevalent. The East Malling Research Station staged a demonstration of APPLE PESTS AND DISEASES with details of appropriate remedies.

A non-competitive exhibit was staged by the President, Mr. Howard H. Crane, with 30 dishes of popular apples.

The FRUIT GROUP staged an exhibit at the R.H.S. Affiliated Societies Show on Oct. 5th. and 6th. obtaining for the third year in succession the Hogg Silver Medal, although the competition was keener than on the previous occasions.

THE LATE CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW was held on the 13th. November when the tabling space was at least three times as large as on the previous year. Mr. Ornsteen presented a Cup to be won outright at the show.

1948 - continued.

FORMATION OF THE ROSE GROUP. In the latter part of the year a Rose Group was formed with Cr. T.G. Cross as Chairman and Mr. A.P.T.Elliott as Secretary.

On April 3rd. there was a rose pruning demonstration by Mr. Bertram Park O.B.E. in his garden and on Nov. 1st. he gave a talk on " The Care and Cultivation of Roses ".

1949.

SWEET PEA LECTURE AND FILM. On January 19th. Mr. J.C.P.M.Davis, President of the N.S.P.S. gave a lecture and colour film at which there was a record attendance of 180.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This took place on February 1st. with a record attendance of 200 members presided over by the President, Mr. H.H.Crane, F.L.S. with Councillor F.S.Gibson, Chairman of the R-N.U.D.C. and five representatives of the Eastcote Ward present. All the existing Vice-Presidents were re-elected.

The Committee accepted, with sincere regret, the resignation of Mr. V.E.Croxson, Trading Secretary, on the advice of his Doctor.

The month of March was interesting for those keen members who made a point of attending lectures which were as follows :-
On the 1st. The use of Electricity in Horticulture, by Mr. C.A. Cameron Brown of the British Electricity Authority.

On the 16th. Roses, by Mr. D.L.Fluxman, Deputy President of N.R.S.

On the 30th. Dahlias, by Mr. J.H.Jackson F.R.H.S. Technical Adviser to the Ruislip and District Society.

The attendances, however, were poor and did not warrant bringing speakers to these meetings.

Miss B. M. Young (B.Sc.Hort) at Field End School on April 5th. gave a talk on "Green Vegetables all the year round "

During the summer a Garden Party was held at St.Catherin's Farm which contributed £ 8. to the Society's Prize Fund.

VISIT TO SUTTON'S TRIAL GROUND. The Ladies visited the Trial grounds of Sutton's at Slough where they found many plants full of colour.

ROSE GROUP SUCCESS. The Rose Group were successful in winning the "Franklin Dennison Memorial Cup" at the N.R.S. on July 1st. Mr. Bertram Park, Vice President, also won 3 Firsts, 4 Seconds, and 1 Third at the same show.

SUMMER SHOW 16th. July. From a horticultural and organisation point of view, the high standard of previous years was fully maintained. The show coincided with one of the worst storms experienced in the district and the attendance and financial results were naturally affected. A tree opposite the Secretary's tent was struck by lightning, but no damage was done. There were 640 entries and a profit of £31. 17. 6. was made.

Mr. E.R.Hole presented a cup to be known as the "Quantocks Cup" for competition in the Sweet Pea Classes and Mr. A. T. Hurford presented the Society with a Rose Bowl for competition at the Summer Show and was elected as Chairman of the Society. Mr. A. Turner presented a Cup to be known as the

CONDOR CUP for Table decoration at the Summer Show.

1949 --- continued.

A SWEET PEA CONVERSAZIONE was held at the Cavendish Pavilion on Sept. 24th. and the September Bulletin saw the return of the monthly issue of four pages with the writer of these notes as Editor in place of Mr. Whiting who had resigned. This reversion to a monthly issue was at the request of many members who wanted news of forthcoming events and of the Society's activities earlier and at more frequent intervals than provided by a quarterly bulletin.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM AND DAHLIA SHOW on Sept. 10th. revealed an intimate atmosphere in a marked degree and although the Palm Court was filled with a splendid show of flowers which drew considerable praise from the Judges, there was a happy social feeling that spoke well of the 'camaraderie' existing through the Society.

There were 83 entries in the Chrysanthemum classes compared with 71 last year, and in the Dahlia classes 35 as against 24 last year, in spite of the weather.

On September 13th. a visit to the Early Flowering Chrysanthemum Show at Westminster was paid by the Ladies Section.

Forty members of the Chrysanthemum Group visited the Trial Grounds of the N.C.S. where they saw about 5000 plants in bloom.

During the Autumn Mr. Jackson gave a lecture on Dahlias and Mr. Andrews on Early Chrysanthemums and these gentlemen were described as " Mines of Information".

FRUIT SHOW. At the Society's 6th. Fruit Show on October 1st. it was noticed that there was more enthusiastic competition, a greater interest and a higher quality of fruit; also the technique of staging reached a higher level.

The Domestic section earned the Judge's opinion "FOR QUALITY, THIS IS THE SHOW OF THE YEAR !"

The Chairman of the Fruit Group, Mr. T.G.Morris, considered this was due to the keenness of the President. Mr.Howard H. Crane, who had a decided influence on the interest displayed by the members and which resulted in the Society winning the Affiliated Societies Cup at the R.H.S. Show for the first time.

The President was successful in winning the "Blue Ribbon" of the R.H.S. Show and the Gold Medal of the Fruiterers Company for his collection of Dessert Apples.

The Moore Bros. were successful with their exhibit of Pears.

SWEET PEA LECTURE. On October 19th. Mr. A.W.Gower gave a lecture on Sweet Peas when Mr. J.C.P.M.Davis, President of the N.S.P.S. who presided over the meeting described as " the greatest living exponent of growing Sweet Peas " and who had won the Daily Mail Cup seven times out of ten attempts.

DINNER AND DANCE. The Annual Dinner and Dance held on October 29th. at the Palm Court was much enjoyed by 100 members and their wives who heard Miss Millicent Ward A.R.C.M.(Songs) and Miss Percival, A.L.A.M. (Gold Medalist) (Elocution). Mr. Noel Frewin (President of the Eastcote Chamber of Trade) proposed the Toast of the Society in a fine example of after dinner speaking.

On November 1st. Mr. Bertram Park lectured on Roses with Lantern Slides.

THE LATE FLOWERING CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW on November 12th. was, in number of entries and standard of blooms, fully equal to previous shows. Mr. Bertram Park staged an unusual and outstanding honorary exhibit of Roses which was remarkable for the time of the year.

On November 16th. Mr. Raymond Bush, the well known Fruit Expert, Lecturer and Author gave a lecture on Fruit.

Mr. A. Blackburn, F.I.P.A. a Vice President of the Society and the late Superintendent of the Blackpool Corporation, gave a talk on December 6th. on " Modern Methods in the cultivation of Chrysanthemums !"

1949 -- continued.

Mr. Ornsteen again presented a Cup to the Society and an anonymous donor gifts for the purchase of N.C.S. medals.

ELECTION OF NEW VICE PRESIDENT. Mr D.M.Campbell, M.B.E. A.H.R.H.S. recently retired from the post of Superintendent of the Central Parks, (Hyde Park, Regents Park etc.) was elected Vice President.

PRESIDENT'S FOURTH YEAR. The President, Mr. Howard H.Crane. F.L.S. was invited and accepted the Presidency for the fourth year at the special wish of the Executive Committee.

SWEET PEA SECRETARY LEAVES EASTCOTE. The Sweet Pea Group was reluctant to say 'Good-bye' to Mr. Dunstan and his wife on their departues from Eastcote but welcomed Mrs.Dorothy Ward as Secretary in his place.

NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS. Lady Anderson, Group Captain Alan Dore, Mr. E.R.Hole and Mr. A.Blackburn.F.I.P.A. A.H.R.H.S. accepted the Society's invitation to become Vice Presidents.

Towards the end of the year the Society affiliated to the NATIONAL SWEET PEA SOCIETY.

1950.

On January 5th. a New Year's Party was held at Palm Court, probably the most successful social function held by the Society to date. Every available ticket was sold and the members (about 200) danced, supped and enjoyed the entertainment of the popular stage, radio and television star, Miss Betty Paul. Her well known numbers delighted the company and her final gesture to the old folk, by waltzing the closing bars of the last number "I was never kissed before" with a guest member of the Eastcote Darby and Joan club was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm. "Darby" was equal to the occasion and showed that his herat was years younger than his silver grey hair.

Cllr. F.S. Gibson, Founder President of the Aged Peoples Association who was present with Mrs. Gibson, thanked the Society. Mr. Hurford, in his reply, thanked the many donors of splendid gifts - fruit, plants, preserves, cakes etc which in one way and another swelled the proceeds and enabled the Society to hand over a cheque for £ 20. to the Aged People.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This was held on January 25th. at Field End School when approximately 130 members were present.

The Committee's report for 1949 was approved.
Mr. Howard. H. Crane was re-elected President

March 8th. The lecture by Mr. Bertram Park was most timely, the main feature being three full length films showing some of the glories of the pre-war N.R.S. shows accompanied by a commentary. The lecture also dealt ~~witxx~~ from initial planting to exhibiting and Mr. Park gave a practical demonstration of pruning.

On March 15th. a Lecture on Dahlias was given by Mr. Bantin. The lecturer is a successful grower of these plants and has won many prizes at Wembley and the "Evening News" Shows.

A very enjoyable Whist Drive was held at St. Catherine's Farm by kind permission of Cllr. and Mrs. T.G. Cross on March 1st. when eight tables were filled.

Lady Anderson, Vice President, invited members to visit her garden on April 1st. Forty members were present and Lady Anderson conducted the party around.

Order Forms were included in one of the Spring Bulletins for a large number of flower seeds and substantial number of Gladioli corms.

During the year the Ladies Section, which had been formed during the summer on the suggestion of Mr. F.H.J. Mead under the Chairmanship of Mrs. E. Cross (Sec. Mrs. F. Paddick) visited Bexhill and a Jam Factory.

We lost Vice President Mr. Duncan Campbell. M.B.E., A.H.R.H.S., who died suddenly in the summer.

During the year a Gardens Competition was held for Front and Back gardens and these were judged on two occasions. Three prizes were awarded in each class.

After many years of disappointing weather the Society was able to stage a Summer Show on July 8th. under a perfect sky at Eastcote House. The President, Mr. Howard H. Crane, welcomed the guests including Cllr, Louis Carr, Mrs. Carr, the Judges and helpers. Mr. Habermal, one of the judges, congratulated the Society on a show in which many exhibits were extremely good and made judging difficult and concluded "YOUR SHOW THIS YEAR IS ONE OF THE BEST EVER SEEN". Mr. A.E. Blake, another judge, said "EXHIBITS WERE EXTREMELY GOOD, NOTABLY SWEET PEAS". The Judges also described the show as "THE GREATEST TRIUMPH YET".

There were four splendid displays of preserves by the local Women's Institutes, Honorary exhibits by Mr. Bertram Park, (Vantha Roses), Howard H. Crane (sweet scented Violettas) and an extensive display of flowers, foliage and plants by the

1950 - continued.

Council's Park Dept. The Show, however, resulted in a loss of £40. 3. 9.

On August 20th. a party of about 60 members visited the gardens and parkland of Waddesdon Manor, between Aylesbury and Bicester, the residence of Mr. J. de Rothschild. The party was welcomed by Mr. J.F. Johnson, the Head Gardener, who recounted briefly the history of this 3000 acre estate during the 60 years he had been in the family service. Interest is now concentrated in the glass houses where were seen 30,000 Cyclamen plants in all stages of growth, rare tropical plants, carnations, peaches, grapes and other fruits, tomatoes etc. In the surrounding garden over 3000 chrysanthemums were in bloom. The return journey was broken at Aylesbury where tea was taken at the Bull's Head Hotel parts of which date back to 1461.

The September issue of the Bulletin was our 10th. ANNIVERSARY NUMBER and included a letter from the Chairman of the Council, County Councillor W. Louis Carr, as follows ----- "BUT BY YOUR OWN ACTIVITIES YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELF A MOST VIGOROUS INFANT AND THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY MUST FEEL VERY PROUD INDEED THAT THEIR EFFORTS HAVE REACHED MATURITY SO RAPIDLY.

IT WAS A MOST SATISFYING JOY TO MY WIFE AND MYSELF TO BE WITH YOU ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR SUMMER SHOW THIS YEAR WHICH WAS A GRAND EFFORT. YOU DESERVED THE BEAUTIFUL DAY WITH WHICH THE SHOW WAS BLESSED AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE EXHIBITS SERVED TO UNDERLINE WHAT IS NOW RECOGNISED IN EASTCOTE? AND INDEED IN THE URBAN DISTRICT? THAT THE EASTCOTE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY STRIVES ONLY FOR THE BEST ; ACHIEVES THE BEST."

On September 9th. the Society staged an exhibit at the Manor Society's Inter-Society Competition but were beaten by the Ruislip Central Society.

The Autumn Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Show on September 16th. was great success with 59 more entries than last year and the standard of cultivation showed a ~~great~~ marked improvement. Mr. F.H. Page, a comparative beginner, who had not shown before succeeded in winning in the "Open" classes for Chrysanthemums with four awards and won, not only the Bickerton Cup but also the Silver and Bronze N.S.S. Medals. The Judges expressed regrets in having to disqualify several exhibits through minor non-conformity to the schedule but the overall standard was SO HIGH THAT NO LATITUDE WHATEVER COULD BE ALLOWED.

At the N.C.S. Show the Society exhibited 3 vases each of 5 blooms of Earl's Flo wering Chrysanthemums and were awarded FIRST PRIZE.

The Ladies set up a very attractive stall at the Cavendish Pavilion and raised the sum of £5. 16. 6. in aid of Battle of Britain week and also contributed £4. towards the expenses of the Autumn Show.

The Fruit Group were again successful in winning the Affiliated Societies Cup.

A Brains Trust on Chrysanthemums was held on October 5th. with the Ruislip Central Society.

On October 13th. Mr. H.G. Park showed a colour film by the Plant Protection firm on Chrysanthemums with a commentary.

Mr. Eric Hobbis, the B.B.S. Contry Magazine Broadcaster gave a lecture on Soft Fruits.

1950 --- continued.

THE ANNUAL DINNER was held on November 18th. at which there were only 80 members present. The company was presided over by Mr. Howard H. Crane and Mrs. Crane with County Councillor Louis Carr, Miss Carr and the judges of this year's shows as principal guests. The chief entertainer was Mr. Bert Shrimpton, the Musical "Knut" with a fund of yarns and a variety of musical instruments including hand saws from which he extracted music.

Mr. F.H.J.Mead, after four years as General Secretary resigned on account of his wife's serious illness, and on Medical advice Mr. H. Janes resigned as Show Secretary.

1951.

An interesting article on DAFFODILS AND NARCISSI by Mr.H.E.A.Tooke was published in the three bulletins, January to March.

A New Year's Supper and Dance was held on January 25th. at Palm Court.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on February 6th. at Field End School. The President, Mr. Howard H.Crane was asked to make a Presentation to Mr. A.T.Hurford who had been Chairman of the Committee for a number of years and to Mr. F.H.J.Mead who had been compelled to relinquish his office on account of the serious illness of his wife.

Mr. W.R.Fleming, who had for many years been a Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee was appointed Chairman, and Mr. V.E.Croxson as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. A.E.Blake, K.L.B., F.L.S. and Mr. W.E.Evans were elected Vice Presidents.

SECOND FLORAL DEMONSTRATION LECTURE. A large audience was present at the lecture and demonstration by Mrs. Russell on her return visit and although this covered the ground of her previous lecture, Mrs. Russell did so in an entirely different way and held everyone's close attention for nearly two hours by her informative talk which was followed by two practical demonstrations with the use of green foliage only and an arrangement of spring flowers for a wall decoration.

Our FIRST SPRING SHOW at Bourne School on April 14th. was a success although small.

A perfect day with a most enjoyable run was made by coach on June 2nd. to visit the gardens of Messrs. Waterer, Sons and Crisp at the Floral Mile, Tywford where 100,000 roses are cultivated and thousands of Irises and Neonies. After the visit, the coach was driven to "Green Monkey" for tea and the return trip was made through fresh green lanes by way of Wargrave, Marlow, Burnham Beeches and Denham.

The Rose Group was successful in winning for the second time in three years at the N.R.S.Show on June 29th. the Franklin Dennison Rose Bowl, and Mr. Roy Hay, reporting on the exhibit said " The Eastcote Horticultural Society's Bowl of H.T.Roses and bowl of Polyantha Roses in the Affiliated Societies Competition WERE REALLY SUBERB AND FULLY DESERVED the Franklin Dennison Cup for their exhibit !

SUMMER SHOW, This was held at Eastcote House on July 7th. with an almost record number of visitors who were regarded with a show which was outstanding in character and appeal. The highest praise was given to the exhibitors and Mr. A.E.Blake, one of the judges, REGARDED THE ROSES AND SWEET PEAS AS FULLY EQUAL TO THOSE HE HAD JUDGED A FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY AT THE BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

1951 --- continued.

Summer Show. Mr. Beere said he had judged all shows since 1942 and had seen improvement year by year which now resulted in a show at which ORGANISATION AND DISPLAY WERE SECOND TO NONE.

Miss Boswell was equally enthusiastic about the Domestic Section and said "attention to detail and staging reached the highest level". In addition there were many magnificent and honorary and trade displays. A special award, the R.H.S. Silver Gilt Medal was awarded to the Parks Dept. RNUDC. for the beautiful water garden and rockery made more effective still by the restful contrast with the brilliance of the surrounding exhibits. This was a very popular exhibit and brought many congratulations to Mr. Beere, Parks Superintendent, and his team.

Extract from Roy Hay's report of our exhibit at the National Rose Show :- "The Eastcote Horticultural Society's bowl of H.T. Roses and bowl of Polyantha Roses in the Affiliated Societies competition WERE REALLY SUPERB AND FULLY DESERVED the Franklin Dennison Memorial Cup for their exhibit".

FESTIVAL SHOW. Sept. 8th. The schedule for this joint show contained classes for chrysanthemums, dahlias and other flowers, fruit, vegetables, inter-society collective exhibits, domestic economy (preserves, cakes etc.) and childrens classes. Added attractions were a horse gymkhana, fun fair etc.

Despite the weather, a party of 38 visited Sunninghill Park at the invitation of Messrs. W. Blom & Son. Ltd. of Watford, on Sept. 15th. where an excellent show of plants and flowers was seen and enjoyed.

On the 26th. September Mr. Franks, Secretary of the N.S.P.S. gave a talk on Sweet Peas and was accompanied by Mr. J.C.P.M. Davis, President N.S.P.S. and Mrs. Davis, but the number of members present was disappointing.

The Society's Fruit Show was staged at Field End School on October.6th. and showed once again that good quality fruit can be grown in Eastcote although 1951 could not be regarded as ideal for fruit culture.

The Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Group obtained a 1st. award for 6 vases each with 5 blooms at the N.C.S. Show in November and 3rd. prize with the same exhibit at the Wembley Show.

The year ended with a paid-up membership of 1180.

1952.

During the early part of the year the Chairman Mr. W.R. Fleming presented the Society with a Challenge Cup to be known as the Rodney Cup to be awarded for a Bowl of Sweet Peas arranged for quality and effect, at the Summer Show.

Oné January 16th. a talk and film on Carnations was given by a representative of Messrs. Allwood Bros.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on ~~XX~~ February 6th. to consider raising the subscription from 1/6d. to 2/6d. for the first member of a family with 1/6d. additional for each other member and 6d. for each member under 17 on January 1st. each year. A letter was posted to each member giving the reasons for the increase and of the number returned only 3 were against the proposition and when the proposal was put to the meeting this was approved. After the meeting above, the A.G.M. was held at which the Annual Report and Financial statement were read. Mr. Croxson proposed that retiring Presidents be designated "Past Presidents" in order to retain the honour and this was agreed to. The meeting approved a sum not exceeding £ 5. to be donated to deserving charities at the discretion of the committee. The meeting further agreed to a proposal by Mr. Croxson that Presidents should occupy the Chair for one year.

1952 -- continued.

On Mar. 5th. Mr. A.E.Blake gave a very interesting talk to an appreciative audience on the cultivation of Gladioli and showed some diseased corms in order that members might know the difference between the various diseases.

Eastcote at Leisure Week. A new type of exhibition as far as Eastcote was concerned was held at the Community Centre from March 17th. to 22nd. to demonstrate to members of the various societies, clubs, etc. their activities. The Society was represented and staged some flowers etc. with literature and members formed a rota for attending and explaining the advantages of joining the society.

Lady Anderson invited members to visit her garden at Eastcote Place and herself conducted the party round.

The Spring Show was held on April 12th. at Field End School.

On a perfect ~~Summer~~ day the Summer Show was held at Eastcote House on July 5th. with an exhibition of craft, needlework etc. by the combined Womens' Institutes in addition to the display of vegetables and flowers and a display by the Ruislip Northwood Sea Cadets. Messrs. Meredith & Son had a notable exhibit and accepted a bulk order for roses, fruit trees, herbaceous plants and bulbs. During the show Mr. A.E.Blake announced that he would give 3 prizes for 6 stems of Rosella Blake Sweet Pea together with a challenge cup to be known as the Rosella Blake Trophy.

A Garden Party and Whist Drive with a Bring and Buy stall was held on July 11th. at St.Catherine's Farm.

Mr. Hurford, Past President, paid a grateful appreciation in the Bulletin, to Mr. and Mrs.V.E.Croxson on their valuable work to the Society on the occasion of their leaving the district.

Mr. Haw of the Wembley Society and a judge at our Spring Show gave a most interesting and instructive talk on Sept. 3rd. to an appreciative audience on the cultivation of daffodils and narcissi explaining the method of growing bulbs in pots and pans for interior decoration. Tulips and hyacinths were also mentioned.

The Ladies section organized and held a Produce Stall at the Cavendish Pavilion and raised the sum of £ 5. 7. 4. in aid of the R.A.F.A.

An " Any Questions Forum" was held on September 17th. at Field End School which was filled to capacity. This was organized by Mr. Huxtable. The Chairman was Mr. F. Streeter and the panel comprised Mr.A.E.Blake Mr. J.C.P.M.Davis, Mr. H.H.Crane and Mr. E.Thistlethwaite and the occasion was one of the most successful ever held by the Society.

The Fruit Show was held on October 4th. and at the R.H.S.Fruit Show a few days later the Society was unlucky to miss the R.H.S. Cup by one point.

The Society, through the courtesy of the Council, had had the use of two buildings for the sale of fertilisers, lime etc. and as they had now been given notice that at some future date the Council would require both buildings the Executive decided to launch an appeal for a new Store Hut. A Building Sub-committee was formed with Mr. A.W.Cranfield as Chairman with a view to obtaining new premises and to consider means of raising funds. A target of £500 was set as a minimum necessary to acquire a site and erect a building suitable for the storage of gardening implements, lime, fertilisers etc. This Committee decided to have a Christmas Draw and each Liaison Officer was supplied with a book of tickets.

1952 --- continued.

The Late Chrysanthemum Show was held on November 15th. with blooms of excellent quality.

Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Park were present at the Annual Dinner and Dance held on November 19th. with 90 members and guests. In proposing the toast of the Society Mr. W. H. Johnson reached an extremely high level of after dinner speaking.

December 1952 was the 100th. issue of the Bulletin in which Mr. Hurford, Past President, appealed to members to come forward to fill three vacancies i.e. General Secretary, Treasurer and Show Manager and for more helpers at the Store Hut.

Mr. and Mrs. Cranefield were the hosts of the Executive Committee and various members on the occasion of the first Christmas Draw which proved to be a very pleasant evening. After the draw refreshments were served. The number of tickets sold was 5820 and the sum of £118.1.7 was carried to the Building Fund. This excellent result was due partially to many gifts of prizes and cash donations from Vice-Presidents and members.

At the end of the year the membership stood at 1296, an increase of 116 from the previous year.

1953.

The A.G.M. was held on Feb. 4th. with about 60 members present. The President, Mr. Bertram Park was in the Chair supported by several Vice Presidents. The Treasurer recommended that £30. should be transferred from the General Account to the Building Fund and this was approved. Mr. Park proposed Councillor T. G. Cross as President which was adopted unanimously. The Chairman, Mr. W. R. Fleming informed the meeting that he would shortly be leaving the district and proposed that Mr. F. H. J. Mead be elected as Chairman with Mr. A. W. Cranefield as Vice-Chairman in lieu of Mr. V. E. Croxson who had left the district. They were adopted unanimously. The Executive Committee was re-appointed with the addition of Mrs. Cranefield, Mr. Bristow and Mr. J. Hines to replace previous members. Mr. Swirles was confirmed in his appointment as Trading Secretary. Mr. A. Chandler was appointed Hon. Gen. Secretary with Mrs. H. F. Bouquet as the Ladies Secretary. As Mr. Mead had been elected Chairman it became necessary to find a new Membership Sec. for which post Mr. R. T. E. Sutton had volunteered with Mr. H. W. Ridgeon as Assistant. Both were elected.

On March 25th. Mr. Bertram Park gave a talk on Roses illustrated with slides of the National Rose Society.

The THIRD SPRING SHOW which was held on April 11th. was a success as far as the attendance of the public was concerned although the number of exhibitors was disappointing. An honorary exhibitor of two pots of Hippeastrums was shown by Mr. W. E. Evans and he intimated that he would be willing to provide bulbs to any members who wished to grow them.

Members were again invited to visit Lady Anderson's garden at Eastcote Place.

The Ladies Section held a Garden Party followed by a Whist Drive in the evening at St. Catherine's Farm.

The Society, through no fault of their own, had to abandon the usual Summer Show at Eastcote House and therefore decided to hold two shows, an early one in June called the CORONATION SHOW, for Roses, Sweet Peas, Violas, Delphiniums and Soft Fruit and a late Summer Show on September 12th. The early show was held at Field End School on June 27th.

1953 - continued.

The Rose Group exhibit was up to standard quality and was successful in winning the Franklin Dennison Bowl at the July Show of the National Rose Society.

The LATE SUMMER SHOW held at Eastcote House was a great success and the President. Cllr. T.G.Cross referred to the changed date and bold adventure which had been amply rewarded. The Judges panel was agreed that the number and standard of the floral exhibits were quite beyond their expectations.

The FRUIT SHOW was held on October 3rd. at Field End School with 270 entries. There were, in addition, 40 entries in Bottled fruits and jams and 36 entries for Chrysanthemums, an innovation this year which added colour to the show.

In the R.H.S. competition the Society gained second place with 85½ points against 87½ points by the winners, and Mr. H.H.Crane FLS,

Mr. G.H.Bickerton a member of the Chrysanthemum Group, offered a Cup for the Novices Classes in the Autumn Show.

was placed First in the class for 12 dishes of Apples each dish AS NEAR PERFECT as one could wish to see. Mr. Crane also gained 8 other First Class awards for Dessert varieties of Apples as well as a few seconds. He also gained a Silver Gilt Medal for an exhibit of 70 dishes of apples, all excellently coloured.

On December 3rd. Vice President Mr. A. Blackburn. F.I.P.A. gave a lecture on Chrysanthemums which was supported by two other Societies.

1954.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on February 2 10th. with between 80 and 90 members present. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. T.G.Cross owing to his wife's illness, Mr. Hurford was elected Chairman for the meeting and welcomed back Mr. A.W.Cranefield who had returned home after eight weeks in hospital for a serious and drastic operation. Mr. P.J.Beere F.I.P.A. was elected President for the year. Mr. V.E.Croxson and Mr. J.S.Ranger were elected Vice Presidents unanimously. Mr. F.H.J.Mead announced his inability to continue as Chairman and Mr. A.W.Cranefield with Mr. J.W.G.Clarke were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. The Executive Committee was re-elected with Mr. C.W.Benson and Mr. E.E.Wizard to take the places of Messrs. Cranefield and Clarke. Mr. L.J.Morrell was appointed Rose Group Secretary with Mr. A.P.T.Elliott as ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ General Secretary, Mr. Mead as Membership Secretary, Mr. A.J.Hurtable Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Sec. Mrs. J.Hines as Ladies Sec. Mr. A.R.Holness as Fruit Group Sec. and Mr. A.J.Stevens as Treasurer.

The Executive Committee recommended Mr. C.W.Benson for Life Membership which was heartily approved.

The meeting then proceeded to discuss the proposed discontinuation of the Bulletin and after much discussion it was agreed to continue publication.

MRS. ELEANOR CROSS, a Vice President died on the 11th. February. Mrs. Cross served as President of the Society from 1943 to 1945 and was a staunch supporter and had many other interests in the district. When the Ladies Group was formed she took a lively interest in its inauguration and served as its Chairman. Wreaths on behalf of the Society, Ladies Group and Rose Group were sent.

MR. BANTIN gave a lecture on February 18th. on the cultivation of Dahlias, which turned out to be one of the finest Dahlia Lectures given in the district.

The DINNER AND DANCE was held on March 26th. but was poorly attended only 44 tickets being sold. Mr. P.J.Beers was in the Chair supported by Mr. Leslie Freeman, Chairman of the Council.

1954 -- continued.

THE FOURTH SPRING SHOW was held at Newnham Avenue School on April 10th. with 63 exhibits, 13 more than last year and 8 more exhibitors. The good quality of the exhibits was specially mentioned by the Judge, Mr. A.J.Cole of Wembley.

The SUMMER SHOW at Eastcote House on July ~~2~~ 3rd must be regarded as a triumph for the Rose and Sweet Pea groups for the entries in these classes were described by the judges as exceptional in quality and quantity. It was most remarkable, said one judge, in the worst season I have seen in my 30 years experience as a season which has caused many professional growers to be absent from the National Shows.

The ROSE GROUP was again successful in winning the Franklin Dennison Bowl at the N.R.S. Summer Show.

A party of 36 members accompanied by the President and Chairman of the Society paid a visit to the Wisley Fardens on September 18th. A one-manpower chair of about 1890 vintage was procured which enabled the Chairman to see much of the beauty which we expect to see at Wisley. Mr. Gilbert, the R.H.S.Fruit Officer, met and showed round the party which was given details of lay-out of the fruit plantation.

The FRUIT SHOW was held on October 2nd. at Field End School when 366 exhibits were staged and which included classes for Chrysanthemums and Dahlias. The judges were of the opinion that it contained some of the best fruit seen in this part of Middlesex this year. Both the Novices and the Domestic Section received favourable comment. Excellent honorary displays were staged by Mr. E.H.Brown, Mr. C. Noel Dore and Mr. E.C.Tingay. During the afternoon the President, Mr. H.J.Beere, made a presentation to Mr. K.E.Moore in token of his past work which the President said had done much to bring the Fruit Group from infancy to the high position it held to-day. Out of 45 exhibitors only two failed to gain an award amongst 250 exhibits.

At the R.H.S. FRUIT SHOW on October 5/6th. the Fruit Group won the cup by a margin of 3.1/2 points and four members Mr. Howard H Crane, Messrs. K.E. and S.A. Moore and Mr. R.G. Edwards were successful in gaining between them 25 awards in the 30 classes at the R.H.S. Late Apple and Pear competition.

The entries for the LATE CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW held on Nov. 6th. were much below normal but the Committee was cheered by the number of people who turned up to see the show on a very bad afternoon. Mr. H.F. Bouquet presented the Society with a Cup for the Decorative Classes in the Autumn Show to be known as THE KATHLEEN BOUQUET CUP in commemoration of his wife who had passed away earlier in the year.

On December 2nd. a very good lecture was given on Chrysanthemums by Mr. J.B. Stevenson, Vice Chairman of the N.C.S. which was accompanied by coloured slides.

A book published by the R.H.S. "The Fruit Garden Displayed" shows how the garden of our Vice-President Mr. Howard H. Crane was developed from its original state.

The Council offered the Society a plot of land on lease, adjoining the Community Centre on which to erect the proposed store hut and for which a member had generously offered a loan, interest free, to bring the Building Fund up to its target of £500 which, at the beginning of December amounted to not more than £ 240.

THE CHRISTMAS DRAW was held at Mr. Cranefield's house on December 15th. when for the third time his wife's "copper" was brought into use as a container for the countfoils. Mr. and Mrs. Beere completed the draw.

The year ended with a paid up membership of 1035.

1955.

MRS. MEAD, wife of the Membership Secretary, passed away on January 4th. after a long illness. Several Society members were present at the Church Service and Past President, Mr. A. T. Hurford played the organ. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Society.

A Chrysanthemum special event was held on January 25th. in conjunction with other Societies in the district when Mr. Huxtable, the Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Group Sec., showed a film of the ascent of Mount Everest to an interested audience of members and friends. Two other films were also shown - "Up the Garden Path" and a coloured film of the Queen's reception at Fiji and Tonga Island. The hall was practically filled and the clearness and volume of the descriptive matter accompanying the film was excellent.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on February 9th. at Field End School when there were two nominations for President - Mr. T. G. Cross and Mr. A. E. Blake. A vote was taken which went in favour of Mr. Cross who was then elected President.

No member was prepared to fill the post of Membership Sec. which Mr. Mead had resigned owing to his wife's death. Paid up membership was down as also was Trading due to the demolition of the Joel St. centre and allowing the stock to fall at the Control Tip centre to facilitate the moving of the stock to new premises.

It was announced that Mr. R. B. Stickler had been appointed the new Chrysanthemum Secretary.

Mr. Cutler of the Middlesex Horticultural Committee gave a talk on February 25th. illustrated with slides on Pests and Diseases of Fruit.

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We staged our FIFTH SPRING SHOW on April 26th. at which there was a record number of entries - 79 in all, and the attendance of the public was greater than usual. There were no entries for the Hippeastrum Cup presented by Mr. W. E. Evans.

Without any formal ceremony the NEWSTORE HUT was opened on the 15th. May from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

The President, Cllr. T. G. Cross, was married at St. Mary's Church, Harrow on the Hill on May 31st. to Miss Hilda W. Parker and the Society offered its congratulations in the June Bulletin.

The SUMMER SHOW was held on July 2nd. at Eastcote House. The Chairman, Mr. Cranfield, inaugurated the Show Luncheon in a short speech of welcome to President Cllr. T. G. Cross and a special welcome to Mrs. Cross and also announced amid applause that the Society had once again won the FRANKLIN DENNISON TROPHY at the N.R.S. Show the previous day. There were 632 exhibits from 148 exhibitors and a new class for "Peace" roses had been included which had attracted 18 entries and had been won by Mr. F. C. H. Witchell. There were some excellent Trade exhibits and an unusual display by the Social Club of the Lancashire Dynamo & Crypto Co. which comprised six picture frames with actual flowers in lieu of paintings to give the effect of a painted picture, the whole exhibit being flood-lit from the footlights. The Middlesex Society of Floral Art staged a number of ~~santakaxx~~ floral decorations.

WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS. A warning was given by the General Secretary that unless more members were ready to continue to look after these gardens, the Society would be compelled to give up with great regret, the work which had won praise from the general public in the past.

The AUTUMN SHOW was held on September 10th. and for the first time included Fruit Classes. Mr. Cartwright put up an excellent Trade Exhibit.

36 Members visited Queenswood School, Hatfield on Sept. 17th. with the President and Mrs. Cross. The party was met by Mr. Hoare, Head Gardener, who conducted us around the orchards. Members were specially interested in two trees which had been grafted by Mr. Hoare and in a fine plantation of raspberries.

1956.

A meeting was held at the Cavendish Pavilion on January 9th. to demonstrate the preparation of Chrysanthemum cuttings.

The Annual General Meeting was held on February 14th. with Cllr. T.G. Cross in the Chair. He was the winner of the 1955 Banksian Medal which was handed to him by Mr. Jack Hardy. After this meeting an Extraordinary Meeting was held to approve the rules which had been overhauled by a committee the full text of which had been published in the January bulletin. These were duly approved.

The death was announced of Mrs. Evans wife of Vice-President W.E. Evans. The Society was represented at the funeral by 4 members and floral tributes were sent.

On March 24th. a Social was held at the Community Centre when games, competitions and dancing was enjoyed. There was some excellent conjuring by Mr. Russell Hartley and solos by Miss Heather Lenham. The Field End Womens Institute Concert Party gave excellent entertainment.

The Spring Show was held at Newnham School on April 14th. with 70 entries and was a great success. An experiment at this show was a class for late keeping fruit.

A party of 36 members paid a visit to the Chase Cloche Co. at Chertsey and were able to inspect various rows of fruit, flowers and vegetables all of which had been raised in their early stages under different types of cloches. All plants had been grown in compost of the company's own making.

A Garden Party which was to have been held at St. Catherine's Farm on June 16th. had to be abandoned as it was literally "washed out" owing to continuous rain all day.

The Summer Show was held at Eastcote House on July 7th. in fine weather and lunch was presided over by Mr. Jack Hardy who welcomed the guests. There were 692 entries, roses and sweet peas being much in evidence. A Judo display and a Childrens Fancy Dress Parade were special attractions.

On September 14th. the death of Mr. W.E. Evans, Vice-President was announced after a short illness. Five members attended the funeral and floral tributes were sent.

The R.N.U.D.C. Allotments and Gardens Competition resulted in the Field End Site being the winners with High Grove being Third. The presentation was followed by a Quiz with Mr. Howard H. Crane as Question Master the team consisting of Mr. R.O. Samuel, Mr. A. Blackburn, Mr. Beere and Mr. Holness

The Autumn and Fruit Show were combined this year at Field End School on September 29th. An exhibit of great interest was staged by Mr. S.A. Moore on behalf of the Fruit Group illustrating with actual fruits the results achieved by pomologists in producing new varieties of which Cox's Orange Pippin was one of the parents. The exhibit comprised 37 different varieties.

The Late Chrysanthemum Show was held on November 10th. and was better supported than last year with 53 entries.

1957.

The Annual General Meeting was held on February 14th. at Field End School.

The February Bulletin contained a list of books many of which had been donated to the Society by Mr. Evans which were available to members to borrow.

1957 continued.

Mr. Cranefield announced with great pleasure the completion of the Building Fund for the new Store Hut, the total cost being £ 630.

Early in the year it was suggested by Mr. Ranger that the Hippeastrum Cup presented by Mr. W.E. Evans should be re-named The W.E. Evans Memorial Trophy. Permission to do this was obtained from the sons and daughter of Mr. Evans and a special class as created in the Spring Show.

Early in March the death occurred of Mr. H.E.A. Tooke who, like Mr. Evans, had been keenly interested in the Spring Shows.

More than 50 members were present at the Rose Pruning demonstration by Mr. Bertram Park in his garden.

The Spring Show should have been held on April 13th. at Newnham School but due to the early season most of the blooms were over or nearly so, and the show had to be cancelled.

The Bulletin for July/August was a special Rose Number of 6 pages.

A Garden Party and Dress Parade was held on June 15th. at St. Catherine's Farm together with a Bring and Buy Stall.

Owing to the dry summer and hot weather, the Summer Show was not up to the Society's usual standard, nor were there as many entries as usual.

The Autumn Show was held on September 14th. at Field End School, the general opinion being that it was up to our usual standard there being many excellent Chrysanthemums and Dahlias.

Held on October 5th. at Field End School the Fruit Show proved that it had been a difficult year for the fruit grower there being a 20% drop in the number of entries but the Fruit Group were able to collect and stage the 18 dishes of apples and pears necessary to bring the R.H.S. Cup back to Eastcote.

On October 9th an Illustrated Talk was given by Mrs. Frances Perry P.L.S. on " The Small Garden " and was well attended and after the talk the successful entry at the R.H.S. Fruit Show was on exhibition.

The Late Flowering Chrysanthemum Show was held at Newnham School on November 10th. and was much better supported than the previous year with 55 entries. A Gift Stall organised by the Ladies Committee was a centre of attraction, the proceeds of which amounted to £17.11.6.

Mr. Adamson gave a talk on Chrysanthemums in December which was well attended.

A Social and the last of the Christmas Draws was held at the Community Centre in December.

Mr. Cranefield announced that the sons and daughter of the late Mr. W.E. Evans "in view of their father's long association with the Society" were willing to forego the balance of payments on the £100 loan which he had granted to the Society for the provision of tabling.

1958.

On February 28th. the A.G.M. was held and probably due to the bad weather did not attract such a large audience as we have had in previous years. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bertram Park, O.B.E. and the years report and accounts and the reports of the various groups were agreed to. The Chairman proposed the appointment of Mr. Bertram Park as President and then proposed that as a tribute to the work of the Show Secretary Mr. J.W.G. Clarke be elected as a Vice-President. This was approved with applause to which Mr. Clarke replied. The Chairman then further proposed that Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Cadenhead and Mr. J.H. Brindle should be elected as Hon. Life Members and these were agreed. The business of the meeting being concluded three coloured films of the National Rose Society with appropriate comments by the President were given.

The Ladies section organised a JUMBLE SALE on March 8th. at the Cavendish Pavilion which resulted in a profit of approx: £ 32.

The SEVENTH SPRING SHOW was held on April 12th. It was regretted that there were only two entries for the W.E. Evans Memorial Trophy Class one of which had to be disqualified as it did not comply with the schedule.

On May 13th. the death occurred of Mrs. Hurford, the wife of Past President Mr. A.T. Hurford after a long illness. Mrs. Hurford was very keenly interested in the Society and exhibited in the early shows.

The SUMMER SHOW was held at Eastcote House on July 5th. and the Ladies section, who were responsible for the catering arrangements, were paid many compliments regarding the dainty and reasonably priced refreshments.

The SWEET PEA GROUP gained FOURTH PLACE at the National Sweet Pea Society's Show at Westminster on July 8th in the Affiliated Societies Shield Class.

The PRESIDENT gave his annual Rose budding demonstration in his garden on July 6th.

A party of 75 members, in 2 coaches and private cars visited Wisley Gardens. After wandering around, the party found its way to the Bookham Grange Hotel where an excellent tea was consumed.

Some of the Rose Group members paid a visit on August 30th. to the N.R.S. Trial Grounds and were guided round by Mr. Bertram Park who explained the system of how the trees are entered by the raisers.

The AUTUMN SHOW was held on September 13th. at Field End School. It was remarkable that notwithstanding the incessant rain and storms few of the chrysanthemums showed any ill effects, although Dahlias appreciated the wet and made an excellent show.

Held on October 5th. at Field End School the Fruit Show included classes for Chrysanthemums and Dahlias. Many commendations were received on the standard of exhibits staged. In spite of unsuitable weather, lack of sunshine and hailstorms the quality of the fruit was exceptionally high and the number of dishes showed a 10% increase over last year.

At the R.H.S. FRUIT SHOW the Society was awarded second place.

The LATE CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW was held at Newnham School on November 8th. and though not large there were some good blooms the star exhibit being that of Mr. H.F. Bouquet who staged a variety named "Dwarf Rose" with 21 blooms of equal size. The Gift Stall under Mrs. Crane's supervision was well patronised and realised a sum of £12 towards the deficit on the Summer Show.

--- 1958 --- continued.

The Christmas Draw on December 4th. was combined with a Social and about 45 members came along despite a fog which persisted throughout the evening. Dancing and games, in the capable hands of Mr. Kenneth Double who acted as M.C. assured that there was never a dull moment. Songs and duets were given by Mr. Dennis Ransome and Mrs. Dorothy Hall. In the absence of Mr. Bertram Park the draw was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Crane.

1959.

The Society was greatly honoured at the R.H.S. Annual meeting when it was announced that our President, Mr. Bertram Park, O.B.E. had been awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour, one of the highest honours in the world of horticulture and is not lightly bestowed.

The V.M.H. was established " to enable the Council to confer conspicuous honour on those British horticulturists resident in the United Kingdom deserving of special honour at the hands of the Society " and was to commemorate the reign of Queen Victoria and is limited in numbers to correspond with the years of her reign.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at Newnham Avenue School on February 26th. when it was reported that paid up membership was 1116, the attendance being better than the previous year with 70 members present.

THE 8th. SPRING SHOW was held at Newnham School with a greater number of entries than ever before. The W.E. Evans Memorial Trophy was awarded to Mr. Howard H. Crane.

The FIRST COMBINED RUISLIP/EASTCOTE ROSE SHOW was held in the Great Barn, Ruislip on June 20th. This was organised by a committee of members of both societies and proved a great success, nearly 600 visitors paying for admission.

The SUMMER SHOW was held at Eastcote House on July 4th. with 439 entries.

The Executive Committee was surprised when the Chairman, Mr. A.W. Cranefield announced that he and his wife would be leaving at the end of August for Birchington-on-Sea after having lived in Eastcote for 37 years. Mr. J.W.G. Clarke agreed to act temporarily as Chairman.

Mr. Bertram Park gained further honours by winning a N.R.S. Gold Medal for two of his varieties, JUNE PARK and LADY ZIA. JUNE PARK was also awarded the Clay Cup for the best British Scented Rose.

On September 12th. the AUTUMN SHOW was held at Field End School and was described as rather like the Curate's egg, the good parts being the Dahlias, Vegetables and Fruit while the Chrysanthemums and other flowers were not so good.

34 Members left Eastcote on September 19th. to visit the trial grounds of Messrs. W. Blom & Sons of Watford at Ascot and afterwards the nurseries of Messrs. Brown & Such who allowed everyone to wander anywhere among the dahlias.

THE FRUIT SHOW was held at Field End School on October 3rd. and was of a high standard and great credit is due to the members who contributed.

At the R.H.S. FRUIT SHOW on October 7th. our Society was successful in winning again the R.H.S. Cup.

Mr. T.G. Morris, Chairman of the Fruit Group, whilst inspecting the Fruit Trees at the Store Hut on November 21st. collapsed and died. He was a Vice President of the Society and was well known for his extensive knowledge of modern practices and techniques. He was for many years responsible for writing reports published in the R.H.S. Fruit Year Book and was a successful exhibitor at the N.R.S. Fruit Shows and also a excellent judge.

---1959--- continued.

He was succeeded as Chairman of the Fruit Group by Mr. K. E. Moore.

During the year, under the able direction of Mr. G. S. Palmer, Mr. Houseman and others tackled the job of making the surround to the Store a credit to the Society and much work was accomplished.

1960.

THE A?G.M. was held on February 25th. when Mr. Bertram Park. O.B.E. V.M.H. was re-elected President. The paid up membership was 1165 and it was reported that the Summer Show the previous year had resulted in a loss of £ 101. 17.8. due partly to the very hot weather and partly to the fact that a school in the near vicinity held a Fete on the same day. During the meeting the President made a presentation to Mr. J.S.Ranger of a Silver Cup to commemorate his 19 years service to the Society and also a purse of money to Mr. and Mrs. Cranefield that they might purchase in due course various rose trees and shrubs for their new garden.

We had to report on March 28th. the death of Mr. A. Blackburn. F.I.P.A., A.H. R.H.S., a Vice President, who died at Seaford where he had gone to live on account of his wife's health. He was also President of Ruislip and District Hort. Society.

Held on April 9th. the SPRING SHOW had no outstanding exhibits. The winner of the J.S.Ranger Trophy (offered for the first time) was Mrs. D. Ward and Mr. Ranger himself presented it. The runner-up was Mr. J.W.G. Clarke.

The second venture of the RUISLIP/EASTCOTE ROSE SHOW on June 18th. was a great success. There were more entries and the standard was considerably higher .

To everyones disappointment the SUMMER SHOW had to be held at Field End School on July 2nd. and we all missed the atmosphere of Eastcote House.

* A visit to Hampton Court and Bookham was arranged on August 27th. but only 19 members and friends attended resulting in a loss to the Society.

Mr. Park gave his annual Budding Demonstration in his garden on July 10th. which was well attended and much appreciated by some 40 members and the Editor, in his report said " the instructions given were so clear and concise that even he felt that the art was not beyond him " .

The AUTUMN SHOW was held at Field End School on September 10th. and it was pleasing to note that Mrs. V. Morris, widow of the late Chairman of the Fruit Group, was the winner of the Amateur Gardening Diploma.

Writing on October 26th. to the Chairman, the President offered special prizes to Novices at the Society's Shows during the year to celebrate the Society's 21st. Birthday, the prizes to consist of a book on exhibiting, a Trophy and an additional prize of 10/- to the Novice gaining the highest aggregate of points at each show. To the Novice gaining the second highest number of points, a suitable book on exhibiting and additional prize money of 5/-.

THE FRUIT SHOW was a great success in that the quality of the exhibits was as high, if not higher than ever before. The entries of pears were really first class and the Judges found it a difficult matter to select the winner.

At the R.H.S. FRUIT SHOW the Society was Second with 83.1/2 points 2.1/2 points behind the winners. The whole exhibit was re-staged + following Wednesday; Mr. Moore gave a resume and Mr. Cutler of the Middlesex Federation talked about " Pot Fruit Growing " .

1960 --- continued.

The Late Chrysanthemum Show on November 5th. was reasonably successful --- only 22 members exhibited with 88 entries. The quality of the blooms was First Class

1961.

On February 17th. Mr. A. T. HURFORD died. He was a Founder member and a pillar of the Society having held the posts of Chairman, Vice President and President. He was well esteemed by all who worked with him. Several members attended the cremation at Breakspeare.

Mr. Witchell, the Bulletin Editor, announced his resignation as he was leaving Eastcote for Oxfordshire. Mr. Mortell temporarily took over his duties until Mr. A. Pirks was appointed.

It was announced that the Memorial Cup to Mr. T.G. MORRIS had been obtained and would be presented at the A.G.M. and would be for the member obtaining the most points in the Fruit Classes at all the shows, during the year.

The A.G.M. was held at Newnham School on March 9th. with only 43 members present, possibly due to the foggy night. The report and Financial statement were approved. "The apathy of the members in respect of the shows was very disquieting," said Mr. Clarke giving some very revealing figures for the Summer Show. Out of 109 entries 5 members contributed 65 entries or, in other words, 1/2 % of the total membership provided 50% of the show. The President. Mr. Bertram Park. O.B.E. V.M.H. was re-elected

The 10th. SPRING SHOW was held on April 8th. at Newnham School at which there was a big increase in entries.

The RUISLIP/EASTCOTE ROSE SHOW. This, the 3rd. show by the two Societies again proved another great success. Staged on June 17th. in glorious weather the attendance was higher than last year and the entries were increased by 25%, but at the N.R.S. Show on June 30th. we were beaten into fourth place.

THE SUMMER SHOW was held on July 1st. at Field End School on one of the hottest days of the year and attracted only 235 entries but owing to the heat some of them were not up to standard, especially in the Rose and Sweet Pea classes.

The AUTUMN SHOW held at Field End School on September 9th. only attracted a moderate attendance. There were approximately 300 entries but with new entries in the Fruit and Domestic classes.

The R.N.U.D.C. Prize giving at the Old Barn, Ruislip presided over by Cllr. T.G. Cross on September 23rd. was not so well supported as previously and the number of exhibitors was fewer. The display of Dahlias, Chrysanthemums and Fruit on the Society's stand was one of the most decorative. The President stressed the need for more support for the allotment sites.

The number of exhibits at the FRUIT SHOW on October 7th. was about the same as in 1960 but the Fruit entries were nearly 50% less and the flower classes 100% greater while the Domestic classes were up by 50%. Considering weather conditions, the standard of the whole show was very good.

At the R.H.S. Fruit Show the Society lost the cup by 3 points. The exhibit was staged at Newnham School and explained by Mr. K.E. Moore after which, Mr. H.L. Rayner from Southall spoke on "Soil Cultivation".

The TWENTY FIRST ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND PARTY was held on October 18th. at the TITHE BARN HOTEL, South Harrow under the Chairmanship of the President Mr. Bertram Park. O.B.E. V.M.H.

1961 -- continued.

with 175 members present. Mr. Lally, Chairman of the R.N.U.D.C. was present and proposed the toast of the Society to which the President replied. The guests were toasted by Mr. H.H. Crane to which Mr. E.S. Saywell, Clerk of the R.N.U.D.C. replied. Magical Moments with Eric Ward were most enjoyable and the ceremony of cutting the Birthday Cake ~~xxxxxxx~~ took place at 11 p.m. after which there was dancing until midnight. Music during the Dinner and Dancing was by the Frank Millborow Quintet, the M.C. being Mr. Desmond Webb.

On November 21st. the Society lost another of its old members by the death of Mr. J.H. Mitchell. He was one of the early Vice Presidents and President for many years of The Eastcote Residents Association. Several members were at the Service and Cremation at Breakspeare.

The November and December Bulletins were combined in order to reduce the cost of printing two separate bulletins. A new Editor was announced, Mr. A. Stratton of 17 Deane Croft Road who has kindly taken over from Mr. Pirks who was leaving the district.

On concluding the History of The Eastcote Horticultural Society I should like to record my appreciation and thanks to Mr. Ellis (Ellis Exon Ltd.) the printers of the Bulletin for at least 10 years and to Mr. Woods, his Manager for their unfailing help and advice during those years.

In August we had to report the death of Mr. C.W. Benson after a very long illness. He was a devoted and hard working member and for many years was Chrysanthemum Group Secretary serving also on the Executive Committee.