

## AGM REPORT

After 80 years, Congresbury Horticultural Society took a leap into the future, when members voted, almost unanimously at the annual meeting, to change the name to Congresbury Gardening Club. There was a slight change to the organisation at some time in the past, as in 1936, the name was originally Congresbury, Puxton and Hewish Horticultural Society. The current change is to make the Society sound more friendly, and welcoming to new and younger people, who may wish to join for the talks and outings.

Another successful year was the good news from the President, Ann Gunner, with a current membership of 105, which includes ten new members, and three profitable shows. Although treasurer Liz English reported an overall loss compared with the previous year, with income about £1,000 less, the Club is still in a healthy position. The deficit was caused by the loss incurred with Joe Swift's talk, and that the marquee was not let for the evening after the Summer show. „There is some feeling that we still have too much money in the bank", she said 'and we are open to suggestions from members for a worthwhile project to assist". There was an immediate response from Arthur Hacking, suggesting that the Club could contribute towards the sensory garden, which the village school wish to create in memory of their late Head teacher Neil Tuttiett. Members unanimously agreed that the committee should pursue this when the project had been finalised. Another change put forward at the meeting was that members should receive future newsletters, programmes and membership forms by email, with Show schedules remaining in hard copy. Members who are not on the internet will still receive the information from another member. Regret was expressed at the recent loss of Jane Hayhurst, a keen gardener, and Margaret Gosling, who organised the church Flower Festival for the 800 anniversary

Julia Thyer spoke about the Christmas tree festival, which will be supported by the Gardening club with a tree in the church porch. Members are asked to make individual tree ornaments, with a gardening theme, which should be delivered by December 13. Committee members re-elected were Lyn Bacon, Maggie Bissett, Dave Hares, Jane Hares, Pat Jarvis, and Maggie Shrubshall. Sheila Jones, Pat Baker and Angela Osmand retired, and new members Karen Spears and Howard Sims were elected. Rosemary Bailey acted as chairman for the meeting, but Lyn Bacon is taking over as chairman. Janet Edwards continues as secretary and Liz English as treasurer.