

Akeley Gardening Club AGM 11th February 2009

Chairman's Report

Our membership for 2008 has remained static at 66. Please continue to encourage your neighbours to join – the discounts at local nurseries alone are worth the membership fee of £2 per year.

Our annual dinner was again held at the Bull & Butcher, which always provides a good meal for village groups. We have booked again for this year for Friday 27th March.

The plant bring & buy was held at the village hall on 17th May and provided an enjoyable afternoon as always. Could members please think ahead when planting seeds or propagating, and set some aside for the plant sale. We like to make a donation to a local charity from this event so it's for a worthwhile cause. Our Charity this year was the Friends of Buckingham Hospital. For 2009 we have chosen Willen Hospice.

Unfortunately the BBQ was cancelled due to the weather, but was replaced by a pleasant 2 hours with a glass (or 2) of punch and nibbles in Jackie and Joe's garden in the middle of the day – and we did have to shelter under the apple trees for a while. Let's hope we have better luck this year. As always we would welcome the offer of a garden venue for our BBQ although Jackie and Joe have always made us very welcome. As the drinks and nibbles was quite successful we thought members might like to offer to host a similar event during the summer – a coffee morning, Sunday drinks, afternoon tea, strawberries and cream or even a Pimms 'do'. Please let us know if you might be interested, the club would put something towards the cost of refreshments.

The Annual Show was held on 6th September at the village hall. There were 141 entries (135 in 2007). In view of the difficult growing season last year this was a pleasant surprise, it was especially encouraging for us to see that there were more people entering partly as result of the show being open to the whole village. We will discuss more details of this year's show under any other business.

On 5th October 38 brave souls visited a rather wet Wisley – it was still a very enjoyable day out and well worth the £10 cost of the trip. The rain didn't spoil our enjoyment, the cafes and restaurants weren't too busy and the new glass house was warm and dry ! so we have arranged a trip for 14th June this year and look forward to seeing the roses in the sunshine.

On 25th October we held our Autumn plant swap at the village hall, this was another wet day – something we were getting quite used to for Gardening Club events. Unfortunately many of the plants that were brought were not claimed and we had to dispose of some of them, so we have decided to drop this event from our calendar.

On 30th November we went to Silverstone Golf Club for a carvery lunch. This was very good value and easy to organise and has become a regular feature on our calendar. The only problem this year was the arrangement of tables and we will remember to ask them to provide us with one long table next time.

At this point we always ask if anyone would like to join us on the committee. We are very grateful for those who give their time and gardens for our events through the year but it would be nice to see a new face or two at our Committee meetings.

Sherri Holland
Chairman