



An entertaining AGM

The Ickenham & Swakeleys Horticultural Society's 66th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 2nd December 2011 was certainly an entertaining and lively evening!

The seasonally decorated Ickenham Village Hall was packed out and the audience of all ages had great fun with:

- a tricky horticultural quiz, which put even the experts through their paces
- a picture quiz, with large pictures of buildings and famous locations placed around the Hall
- a topical quiz, covering the weather, time zones, tv, opera and sport ... amongst other recent news items
- a raffle with well over a dozen very worthwhile prizes from wine and chocolates to an amazing allotment-grown Chinese pumpkin, vouchers and gardening equipment



Guests enjoying the quizzes



Winners of the junior raffle

a children's raffle with soft toys as prizes

- a seed swap with literally hundreds of packets of seeds being swapped and shared amongst members (surplus seeds will be available at the Trading Hut)
- a generous spread of freshly prepared food supplied by the Society and its members
- a bar with wine and fruit juices supplied by the Society
- a seed swap with literally hundreds of packets of seeds being swapped and shared amongst members (surplus seeds will be available at the Trading Hut)

The Presentation of the Show Trophies



Harry Dixon Champion Grower



Margaret Mayes wins 4 trophies



Lynne Davey winner of Domestic classes



Chris Lane wins Mens' Challenge and Wine trophies



Anke Phillips winner of best allotment



Junior winner under 10



Junior winner in the over 10s classes

The meeting under the Chairmanship of Graham Tarling heard brief reports from each of the Society's Committee members. The audience joined the Committee in thanking the many people who've contributed to the Society's success over the past year. Special thanks went to:

- the road stewards who deliver membership cards and newsletters across the length and breadth of Ickenham and
- Pat Faille and Karen McManus who retired during the year as the Society's General Secretary and Editor respectively



The Committee December 2011

Tony Ridler's contribution to the Society over many years – and his ongoing contribution to the success of the Trading Hut and the birdlife of Ickenham – was recognised by a unanimous vote in favour of his election as a Vice-President of the Society.

Whilst the Trading Hut and its heavily discounted products are a vital service for members, the Society is interested in many other areas locally, particularly:

- schools – Chairman Graham Tarling was proud to tell the audience about the achievements of the keen junior gardeners at both the Glebe and Breakspear Junior Schools. We have a generation of young gardeners already showing promise in Ickenham and are looking forward to seeing a bright 'green' future because of them!
- allotments – Margaret Christie told the meeting about the successes of the allotment association, particularly the innovative division of allotments intended to shorten waiting lists ... and the growing waiting lists.
- outings – Shaukat Manji is on course to let members have details of planned outings in the March newsletter.
- Ickenham Festival – all members are invited to grow shop-quality plants for sale on behalf of the Society at the [Ickenham Festival](#) which runs from 16th to 24th June 2012. Ickenham Festival Gala Day is 23rd June 2012.



Winners of best allotment in Hillingdon



Emma Hawkesworth displays our new logo

Finally, Emma Hawkesworth's logo design for the Society was presented to the meeting. The striking design will be included on future Society documents and publicity material.

Many thanks to newsletter editor Rachel Evans for this report, and to Ken Faille for the photos.