

Crowhurst & District Horticultural Society

50th Anniversary Party – Sunday 3rd July 2022

Chairman's Speech

Good afternoon everyone. It's great to see so many friendly faces here today! We hope you are enjoying our vintage tea party this afternoon which the committee has arranged to commemorate that the Horticultural Society has now been running since 1972, after being founded 50 years ago this summer. I hope this afternoon is allowing you to relax and catchup with fellow members and friends. Thank you to all of you for attending.

To also honour this special year, I am pleased to announce that the committee have agreed to provide a flowering Cherry tree to be planted in the orchard in the Recreation Ground alongside the other trees planted earlier this Jubilee year. This will be planted in the Autumn and you are welcome to join us at the small planting ceremony when the time comes. Further details on that to follow.

Furthermore, we have also agreed to purchase a new wooden bench which (we hope) will be sited here, in front of the Village Hall, next to the existing one. Interestingly, the current bench was donated many years ago to the village by a former member of the Horticultural Society. We will be adding a commemorative plaque to the new bench to honour all our past members and supporters who we have sadly lost over the years. They all remain in our thoughts, particularly today and those who we have lost since our 40th Anniversary 10 years.

As I'm sure you will have already seen, Oliver has undertaken some research about the history of our society from 1972, but he also found that there have been flower shows in Crowhurst for much longer than just the past 50 years.

We now know there is a strong tradition of horticultural groups in Crowhurst, going back over 120 years. Oliver has found some very funny stories from those former organisations and he will give you a few highlights in a moment.

Thank you to those of you who lent us photographs from our past events and other information about the society to help Oliver build the display boards and help us build an archive of the history of the society. Do please remember to have a look at the display if you have yet to do so.

Back to the here and now, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members for their help and support in arranging our event today and for their ongoing work at all our other events throughout the year.

We also wish to give special thanks to Katie and Jan for being our wonderful waitresses this afternoon; Christina for preparing the party food; Caroline for make the wonderful cake which we will cut in a moment; and to Ann for producing these stunning floral displays to brighten the hall.

You will have all been given a raffle ticket as you came in today and we will pick the lucky winner who will take home Ann's beautiful floral table display at the end of the afternoon.

So now I will hand over to Oliver to talk you through some of his research. Thank you Oliver.