



WEST MOORS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to:-

Federation of Dorset Horticultural Societies.

Federation of Hampshire Horticultural Societies.

On 1st November 1941, at the instigation of members of the West Moors Women's Institute, a general meeting was called to further the 'Dig for Victory' campaign in West Moors. At that meeting, chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council, officers and committee members were elected, and a set of rules adopted, rule one being, 'The name of the Association shall be The West Moors Horticultural Society'.

As a result of that meeting, 600 letters were printed and distributed to all houses in West Moors and Three Legged Cross, and at the Society's first Annual General Meeting the membership was stated to be 132.

A supply of lime and fertilisers at discounted rates was arranged, and later a Rabbit Keepers' section was formed, half the progeny to be sold to the Government. The first talks were held early in 1942, and the first Victory Garden Show was held on 18th September 1943. Over £1000 was raised for the Red Cross Agricultural Fund on the first three shows in 1943, 1944 and 1945.

The Society increased in membership and activities over the ensuing years, to include talks, whist drives, outings to gardens, and sales of fertilisers. A Spring Show was added in 1950 and a Rose Show in 1961, and these have been held - with occasional cancellations of the Spring Show due to bad seasonal weather - every year since.

A Road Warden scheme was started in 1946 to keep members informed about the Society's activities, and the scheme has been a feature since. Coffee mornings in the Memorial Hall and in members' gardens, and an annual Presentation Evening in October have been added to the Society's activities in recent years.

The Society has experienced mixed fortunes over the years, due to resignations and departures of Officers and Committee Members, and to the varying profitability of the shows and other activities. However, by 1989 a membership not far short of 800, and a sound financial position, has enabled the Society to acquire a useful quantity of show equipment, and with the present good standard of exhibits, the Society's shows can rival any similar shows in the area.

In all, the Society puts on a very interesting list of activities, and plays a prominent part in the social life of West Moors.

Chairman

Mr. P. Smith
875488

Secretary

Mrs. K. Lane
893059

Membership Secretary

Mr. A.J. Machin
872098

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The Society was inaugurated at a meeting in the Memorial Hall on November 1st 1941, to support the Government "Dig for Victory" Campaign.

The annual subscription was fixed at 1/6d. The Society purchased general fertiliser at £10-15-0 per ton, ground lime at £2-6-0 per ton and potato seeds and plants for resale to members. Hiring the hall for meetings cost 7/6d.

Numerous talks were held, giving advice to members on growing onions, leeks, shallots, potatoes, etc.

In June 1942, a Rabbit Keepers section was formed. All members had to dispose of approximately 50% of their progeny, to approved buyers, and records kept of sales.

A Land Girl was made available to the Society for garden work, the charge to members for her work was fixed at 1/2d per hour.

In September 1943, a Victory Garden Show was held in the School playground, which brought 550 entries, numerous interesting side stalls, games and competitions were arranged. The Band of the Royal Sussex Regiment played during the Show. As a result the Red Cross Agricultural Fund benefitted by £329-9-6d.

The 1944 Show raised £503-0-0 for the Red Cross, and with a cheque for £215-6-8d from the 1945 show the Red Cross received over £1000 in three years.

With the termination of the war the bulk purchase of supplies gradually ceased, and the Society continued with the Annual Show, Garden Competitions, and Social Events.

A Spring Show was started in 1950, and a Rose Show in 1961, each of which have continued to the present day. For the 1947 Summer Show the hire of a marquee cost £25, the cost of hire for the 1980 Show was over £170, which was mainly the cause of a loss on the Show of that amount.

In 1981 it was decided to discontinue the use of a marquee for the Summer Show, and to put on a separate Home and Handicraft Show in July. The Sections in this Show were spread in 1982, so that Cakes, Bread, and Pastries went to the Spring Show, Handicraft to the Rose Show, and Preserves and Wine to the Summer Show, this was found to be acceptable, and even after spending £250 on new equipment and furniture a small profit was made on the years working.

It is our intention to continue the three Shows, and with other Social events during the year, such as Talks on Horticultural Subjects, Outings to Gardens, Coffee Mornings, etc.

The Membership of the Society was 150 in 1945, and today after surviving difficult periods over the years, is over 700 and still growing.

We have no reason for complacency, and new members are welcomed, especially those who are willing to help with various activities, and to become Committee Members and Officers, replacing those who from time to time for various reasons are unable to carry on. If you would like to join, please contact our Membership Secretary, MR.A.J.MACHIN, at 12 Southern Avenue, West Moors, or Secretary MR.E.P.CARD, at 29 Fernside Road, West Moors.