

Chariman's Address – LRA AGM Monday 11th May 2009

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to welcome you to the 2009 AGM of the LRA. You will find copies of the agenda and the 2008/2009 accounts on your chairs.

We are very pleased to have been able to increase our number of committee members this year. We have sadly lost the excellent services of Andrew Hopgood, Peter Clark and Irene Bates and I would like to thank them very much for their very hard work during their time with us.

I am pleased to welcome some new members; Viv Stevens and Rob and Maxine Hibbert, also Steve Bartlett, who has done a fantastic job in creating our new website and administering this for us. www.lalehamonthames.com.

We now have a committee of eleven people, the most for a long time. As always, new members are always welcome and offers of help for annual events such as the Laleham Fair are always gratefully received.

Our committee currently comprises myself, Geoff Want, Jo Bartlett, our Treasurer, Steve Bartlett, our Web Guru, Viv Stevens, Rob and Maxine Hibbert, Steve and Danny Fairfax, excellent project managers of our landscaping, Charity Dog Walk fund raising and organiser of the ever popular Dog Show at our annual fair; Beryl Shattock – our open gardens, heritage gardens and Spelthorne in bloom guru. Finally, Lindsay Hudson, our super Secretary, who is hopefully continuing to accurately record all our minutes!

Our second item on the agenda is apologies for absence and these come from: Geoff Want, Rob and Maxine.

If there are any questions on the Treasurer's report, these will be fielded by Jo.

We have yet to appoint a new membership Secretary.

Also on the membership report, we currently have in excess of 100 members and as always are looking to increase this each year. If you would like to join the LRA or renew your membership, please see me afterwards.

Events over the last period – The Fair as always was a great success. I have the breakdown of figures for this if anyone is interested, but we did very well over previous years and were blessed with fine weather, which always helps. We are very grateful to all the sponsors who donated fabulous prizes for the prize draw and general donations were well up on last year. We believe we have the format about right now, but are of course, always looking to improve. So as with all our events, your ideas and suggestions are very welcome. This event was organised with a limited number of very kind people helping, – including Andrew Davies, Laurence Curtis, our fabulous compere, and Danny for the dog show – there are many more, of course, so I apologise if I have not mentioned you!

The Open Gardens Day, again organised by Beryl, was once again a great success, raising nearly £500. Thanks to Carol Auster for designing and producing our tickets/maps, to Beryl for a great day and to everyone who opened their gardens, provided refreshments, and to everyone who came and supported us and enjoyed a truly lovely day out. This money comes into our funds and is used to purchase and pay for the maintenance of the hanging baskets and planters all around the village. We hope you all feel this is a worthwhile project to help our village look lovely throughout the summer months.

From the funds we raise donations have been made to the Mayor's charity funds and to the Darby and Joan, also to Marie Curie Cancer Care, the Tamar Owl Sanctuary and Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Suggestions of other worthwhile causes are always welcome.

Events during 2009 are the Open Gardens Day on Saturday 6th June, the Laleham Fair on Saturday 4th July and an Autumn event in the Village Hall, theme to be agreed.

Any questions?

Election of officers

Chairman

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Secretary

Any other business. Bar open

Mary Madams - Chairman