

HAGLEY GARDENERS' CLUB

Hagley Gardeners' Club is celebrating its 25th birthday and it has become an integral part of village life and interest, but where did it all begin? Written records are sketchy, many founder members have died but it seems to have had its origins with a group of fervent allotment holders leaning over their spades on a Sunday morning and complaining about the cost of all their gardening needs. One had joined Wollaston Gardeners' Club because they had a shared purchasing scheme. Why not Hagley?

In February 1974 the first meeting of the Allotment Holders was held at the Community Centre and to the delight of all, 26 turned up and appointed a Committee. They all agreed to pitch in cash to buy the first stores (this was refunded after 3-4 years). The local council purchased the first shed and great was the excitement when the first order was delivered.

Meetings began at the Free Church during the Winter of 1975 and the club became affiliated to the National Society of Leisure Gardens Association. Originally for allotment holders only, the club was opened to local gardeners and speakers were invited to speak on practical gardening techniques. In November 1979 the A.G.M. was asked to consider Club outings. These materialised along with charity concerts, celebrity speakers, stalls at village fêtes, participation in TV panel games and harvest suppers.

At Easter 1979 Hagley Gardeners' Club created its Jubilee Garden in Worcester Road and happily this has been revived and is diligently maintained by Bill Simpson.

Regular articles were submitted to the Village News from 1978-85 and the club continued to grow, moving from the Free Church to St. Saviour's Hall.

Writing in September 1974 the then Secretary considered there might be a Horticultural and Flower Show one day and the W.I. and the Gardener's Club staged their first show in 1983 (now an established annual event). The club continues to expand with regular meetings, professional speakers and interesting outings.

We shall be proud to celebrate 25 years in January 2000, at Hagley Country Club 7.15 for 7.45 pm. Tickets are £10. Further information from 882875,
Betty Ellis