

Saffron Walden Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

Membership Renewal

Membership is due for renewal on 1 March 2010. If you have not yet renewed and wish to be a member for the year to 28 February 2011, please fill in the membership renewal form at the back of the handbook. Subscriptions are £4 p.a. with a discounted rate of £7 p.a. where two members live at the same address. You can give your subscription to Annie Erdman at the March or April evening meetings or post it to her, in which case it would help the Society if you enclosed a stamped and addressed envelope. Annie is covering for John Bullen who is unavailable at present.

AGM 2009

The AGM and Sociable Evening were held in the Bowls Club, Abbey Lane on Tuesday 1 December 2009 at 8pm. At the AGM it was reported that Vic Mallion had retired from the Committee after 17 years' service.

Other important items were:

- membership had fallen to 227 (2008:254)
- there was a surplus for the year ended 28/2/09 of £66 (2008: £375) but with no net contribution from outings in 2009, future deficits are anticipated and need to be addressed by the committee.

Plant Stalls at Society Shows

There is a stall at every show selling members' surplus plants and produce for the benefit of the Society. This is a valuable source of income and we are very grateful to everyone who gives us items to sell. Members who wish to donate plants etc but are unable to attend the shows can phone John Bullen on 01799 502722 to arrange collection.

Summer & Autumn Shows

It has been decided to move the emphasis on Domestic Classes from the Autumn to the Summer Show in order to re-balance the number of exhibits at each. Members are advised to read the new schedules in the handbook as soon as they receive them.

Society Website

The website at www.swhortsoc.org.uk contains photographs of shows and current information about the Society.

Spring Show

The Spring Daffodil and Floral Show is on Saturday 10 April and will be held in the **Golden Acre Community Centre, Ross Close, Saffron Walden** (opposite Katherine Semar School). It will be open to members and the public from 2.00 p.m. We are always happy to welcome new exhibitors and hope you will find something to tempt you when you read the show schedule in the handbook. This is a very attractive show and much enjoyed by all who visit it, whether specialist growers, keen gardeners, domestic exhibitors or children.

Entry is free and forms should be sent to Yvonne Bishop **not later than the Thursday before the show**. Late entries may be accepted up to 9.00 a.m. on show day but will be charged at 20p per exhibit.

If you are growing a society daffodil for entry at the show, it is time to dig up the pot and bring it into the light in a cold but frost free place. By following the guidelines issued with the bulb, we hope you will be ready for the show.

Tips on Showing Daffodils

- Make sure there is water in your vases!
- Classes for single blooms (or stems) may have up to 2 daffodil leaves; for multi-bloom classes 3 would be sufficient, but foliage is always optional
- Leaves should have their tips just below the flower head
- Leaves and blooms should be as upright as possible and some form of packing is desirable; crumpled newspaper or directory pages is ideal. Top your vase with moss (there is often some available at the show)
- Try and ensure that your blooms are clean (a paintbrush or damp cotton bud can help), nick-free, and have 6 petals which are evenly overlapping
- Clean your vase before exhibiting and name your bloom (even if you only put "unknown variety")
- Remember good staging always impresses the judges
- Transporting your blooms to the show can be a problem. One way is to use plastic bottles in a carrying container
- Finally blooms intended for showing can be picked when they are just open, up to a week before the show, stood in a bucket of cold water in a cool dark place and brought into the light the day before the show

Outings

This year we are offering three outings as follows

- **RHS Garden Hyde Hall (Sunday 13 June) – Depart Common 1.00pm £11.00**
"Celebration of Roses"

One of the finest gardens in the East of England comprising several individual gardens, wild flower meadow, woodland, national collections, ornamental carp ponds and a nursery. The Celebration of Roses will focus on all aspects of roses from growing them to using them in floral displays and beauty products. An expert will be on hand to answer rose queries and Cants of Colchester, will be selling a selection of their finest roses

- **Easton Walled Gardens (Sunday 27 June) – Depart Common 12.30pm £19.00**
"Sweet Pea Week"

The 400 year old gardens were abandoned in 1951 when Easton Hall was demolished, following irreparable damage during the war. The revival of these 12 acre gardens has been on-going by the original owners, the Cholmeley family, since 2002. The gardens now include a David Austin Rose Collection, 50 varieties of Sweet Peas, trial beds, Irises, a popular cut flower garden, glass houses, and a vegetable garden. The Sweet Peas should be in full bloom!

- **Houghton Hall (Sunday 18 July) – Depart Common 10.30am £21.50**

The visit includes house and gardens. Formerly the residence of Sir Robert Walpole, the magnificent house interiors were designed by William Kent in the early 18th century. The grounds comprise woodland, deer park (5 types) and a 5 acre walled garden divided into a series of smaller gardens including herbaceous borders, rose garden, fountains, glass houses, fruit and vegetables

More details and full descriptions of the gardens are available from Annie Erdman who will also take bookings on 01799 524347. It is essential that sufficient members book outings to ensure that they take place.