

Saffron Walden Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

Membership Renewal

Membership is due for renewal on 1 March 2011. If you have not yet renewed and wish to be a member for the year to 29 February 2012, 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 John Bullen at the March or April evening meetings or post it to him, in which case it would help the Society if you enclosed a stamped and addressed envelope.

Bridge End Gardens

On a lovely Autumn afternoon I went into the walled garden at Bridge End Gardens. It is so lovely down there; four equal lawns with paths in between and a pond at the junction of them. Each lawn has espalier apples all round. The Society donated an apple tree for the refurbishment and I gave a Victoria plum. The apple tree is a crab apple so that it fertilises all apples; unfortunately the plum died, but has been replaced. I enjoyed my visit.

Molly Glover
2010

Outings

We are looking for members to help organise Society Outings. We think that there is currently demand for about two trips a year, probably to an RHS Garden and Show.

There are currently no outings planned for this year and their re-continuance depends not only on our ability to find a new organiser, but also on support from members for outings not declining further.

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.

Spring Show

The Spring Daffodil and Floral Show is on Saturday 16 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. There are plenty of attractions at the show, apart from the exhibits, including a plant stall and raffle. Tea, coffee and cakes will also be on sale.

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

AGM 2010

The AGM and Sociable Evening were held in the Bowls Club, Abbey Lane on Tuesday 7 December 2010 at 8pm. At the AGM it was reported that Eric Hammond had retired from the Committee after 12 years' service, and Annie Erdman after 17 years.

Other important items were:

- Membership had currently fallen to 210 (2009: 227)
- There was a deficit for the year ended 28/2/2010 of £59 (2009: surplus £66) after a reduction of £685 in income (primarily due to a £474 decrease in profits from outings and a £169 decrease in membership subscriptions), offset to some extent by a reduction of £560 in expenses (primarily due to the receipt of a one off Mayoral grant of £200 and reductions of £150 in the cost of producing the handbook and £130 in the cost of meetings).
- A grant of £400 had been received from Stansted Airport Trust and used for the purchase of new show vases.
- The two grants received in the year ended 28/2/2010, totalling £600, had been generated through the efforts of Show Secretary, Kate Chambers.
- The Committee had introduced new revenue producing activities at Society shows in 2010 (raffles, sale of tea, coffee and cakes) and further reduced expenses.