

# Saffron Walden Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009

## Membership Renewal

Membership was due for renewal on 1st March 2009 and if you have not yet renewed and wish to be a member for the year to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010, please fill in the membership renewal form at the back of the handbook. It would help the Society if you enclosed a stamped and addressed envelope. Thank you.

## Society Website

The Society has its own website at [www.swhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.swhortsoc.org.uk)

We would be pleased to receive photographs of Society events for posting to the site. You can e-mail your pictures to [annie@erdman.demon.co.uk](mailto:annie@erdman.demon.co.uk)

We would also ask any members who are willing to receive newsletters by e-mail to register their e-mail address with the Membership Secretary, John Bullen, at [john.bullen@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.bullen@ntlworld.com)

Members who have already registered need not re-register.

## Plant Stalls at Society Shows

There is a stall at every show selling members' surplus plants, produce and general items for the benefit of the Society. This raises about £150 per year and we are very grateful to everyone who gives items to sell. We would like to continue this valuable source of fund raising and members who wish to donate plants etc but are unable to attend shows can phone John Bullen on 01799 502722 to arrange collection.

## For Sale and Wanted

You can advertise items for sale in the newsletter – just contact David Erdman (contact details in the handbook)

## Summer Show

The Society's Summer Show is on Saturday 20th June and will be held in the Golden Acre Community Centre, Ross Close, Saffron Walden. It will be open to members and the public in the afternoon from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. when prizes will be presented by the Mayor. We are always happy to welcome new exhibitors and hope you will find something to tempt you from the show schedule in the handbook. Why not enter a class or two with a favourite house plant, cut roses or other flowers, a cake or bottle of home made wine. You could persuade your children or grandchildren to enter the junior classes.

Please remember to stand all pot plants on a saucer, as we need to protect our table coverings from water damage.

Entry forms are in the handbook and on the website. They should be sent to the Show Secretary, Yvonne Bishop, by **Thursday 18th June**. Her address is on the forms.

## Outings

There are still some seats available for outings to the following outstanding gardens:

### **Beth Chatto Gardens (Sunday 5 July). Depart Common 11.30am, £15.50**

The 7 acre Beth Chatto Gardens began in 1960 when the site was an overgrown wasteland between two farms. Faced with all kinds of difficult conditions Beth and the late Andrew Chatto set out to find homes for many of the plants they wished to grow. With dry and damp soil in both sun and shade, they were able to put into practice the underlying principles of what is now referred to as "Ecological gardening"

Adjoining the Gardens is a nursery providing visitors with the opportunity to purchase plants that they might have seen growing in the gardens. There are over 2,000 different types of plants for sale, predominately herbaceous perennials, bulbs and a selection of shrubs and climbers.

### **West Dean Gardens (Sunday 6 September). Depart Common 9.00am, £22.00, Including the "Totally Tomato Show"**

The gardens at West Dean are set in 240 acres of rolling hills in the South Downs, near Chichester, and surround an historic manor house, built in 1622. The gardens themselves cover approximately 90 acres.

The restored Victorian walled kitchen garden contains a vast collection of unusual, exotic and well-known vegetables and fruit. The Pergola designed by Harold Peto is over 100 metres long, and was extensively restored following the 1987 storm. It is host to many varieties of clematis, rose and honeysuckle. Herbaceous borders are planted with a wide variety of hostas, pelargoniums, ferns, iris, dicentras and spring bulbs. In the Spring garden, the summerhouse has been restored to its early 19th century glory with moss walls, seaweed decorations, heather ceiling and thatched roof.

There are sixteen Victorian glasshouses and frames. There is always colour on display from the large collection of plants on show, including exotic plants, orchids, strawberry plants, figs, nectarines and peaches.

In the walled fruit garden there is a pear arch, festooned with over 50 upright cordons, and around the walls, a wide range of wall-trained fruit – pear, apple and plums, many varieties of which are 'old' and unusual. At the Tomato Show there will be over 150 varieties of tomatoes grown in the traditional manner, cookery demonstrations and tastings.

If you wish to book a seat on either of these trips, please contact Annie Erdman on 01799 524347.