



WISBOROUGH GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Newsletter February 2010

Welcome to our next newsletter!

The imminent date in the WGHS calendar is the AGM on Monday 1st March 8pm in the village hall. Not only is it your chance to have your say but an opportunity to pay your subscriptions and collect your shiny new Show Schedule and Membership Card for 2010. At this AGM the committee will be asking for your vote on a constitution change – “that new members to pay full price up to the end of each calendar year and any new member from commencement of the calendar year would not need to renew their membership until March 1st the following year”.

We hope you may be able to attend, but if not, to renew your subscription please use the tear-off portion at the bottom of this newsletter and send it to Trevor Benson. Getting subs in is never easy so we are hoping this will speed the process! Instead of the usual Quiz Barry Newman will be giving us some hints and tips for showing horticultural entries.

SUBS ARE NOW DUE – PLEASE FILL IN FORM AT BACK TO RENEW

THE CHAIRMAN'S 2010 AGM REPORT:

Another year has rushed by and our AGM and Spring are not far away. There has been a lot to learn for most of the committee, particularly for Philip and me, as we picked up the reins from such knowledgeable and long standing members of the Society – it was a daunting task. Having said that I think last year was a successful year for the Society and we now have more members than ever before.

We have had excellent speakers at our Winter meetings talking on a wide variety of topics, ranging from ‘The Modern Kitchen Garden’ to ‘Gardeners’ Question Time’ and finally, at the end of January, the wonderful talk by Chris Beardshaw on ‘An Quintessential English Garden’. The hall was full to capacity as Chris told us how to orchestrate our gardens through spacing, colour, form and choice of plants.

The plant sale in May drew crowds to Ivy Cottage on The Green and many people not only supplied and bought plants, but enjoyed a lovely cup of tea and piece of cake.

The two outings last year were most enjoyable. Our trip to Sissinghurst, on the hottest day of the year (air conditioned coach this year!) was marred only by the heat. The gardens as always were stunning. About 24 of us visited a garden in West Burton one evening in August where we were made very welcome by Jean Jackman and her husband, who provided refreshments and a tour around her lovely unstructured and very full garden and small nursery where we were able to buy plants.

The exhibits in the shows in June and August were as usual of a very high standard and we had entrants from far and wide.

The Village Hall in June was a feast for the eyes and the perfume of all the flowers was wonderful. Many visitors also stayed for a delicious tea. In August we were very fortunate to have a lovely summer's day, which drew the crowds and about 1500 people wandered around the marquee looking at all the exhibits.

I look forward very much to all the activities we have arranged for this year and hope to be able to meet many more of you. I hope more of you will have a go at entering exhibits in the shows and continue to enjoy your gardens.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone committee and members alike, for the support you have given me over the past year.

Helen Vause

Anniversary

2011 is a significant date for WGHS as it's our 60th anniversary. The committee will be putting on their thinking caps as to how best to celebrate this milestone of continuity – and we do have all the minutes back to 1951! If you have any ideas do contact one of us – it cannot pass by unnoticed. We do know we existed before the war and looking back to previous newsletters the question has been asked before, “does anyone know anything?”. We ask again and hope that someone, somewhere knows something!



New Cups etc

There will be two new cups for the August show. Mr and Mrs Greatorex are kindly donating a Flower Bowl for the most points in the flower section of Group 2.

A newly created “Committee Cup” for the most points in Group 2 for someone who has not won a cup in the August show (1&2) in the last five years (including the current year). So, a challenge for flower growers and those who never quite manage to win a cup!

Every year we apply to the National Vegetable Society (NVS) for their coveted plaque, and though it wasn't awarded to us last year, we are happy to report they will for 2010. This will be for three long pointed carrots in the August show (class 12).

It is worth noting that not only are we affiliated to the NVS but also the Dahlia Society and the Rose Society – and, of course, the Royal Horticultural Society. If anyone wants more information please contact the secretary and he can point you in the right direction. Do remember that the RHS at Wisley give free advice to members for that particularly difficult problem you may have.





Plant Sale

After all the “proper” winter weather the gardens are looking a bit sad but once the warmer and drier days appear our gardening light will turn to green. The Plant Sale on Saturday May 8th (2pm at Ivy Cottage by the pavilion) is an opportunity not only to buy but to sow/grow on/divide sundry plants to sell for our funds. Good greenhouse plants such as tomatoes and cucumbers are always in demand. We are going ahead for an autumn sale in October – this is new territory for the society, but worth a try!

National Gardens Scheme

The National Gardens Scheme was founded in 1927 and raises funds by opening gardens to the public in England and Wales. Every year the “Yellow Book”, as it is affectionately known, is published and in 2009 there were 150 gardens in Sussex alone! It is an ideal opportunity to see different gardens and get ideas of what may work for you – and to raise money for various charities. Some of them sell plants, some do teas and some are by appointment only. It is possible to visit two or three in one day so it can be an excellent day out! All the gardens will have been inspected and one of the criteria is that every garden should have at least 40 minutes to engage members of the public. The Sussex edition of the “Yellow Book” is free and will be available at our events and in the village shop at Wisborough Green



Talks

We hope those who attended this winter’s talks have been inspired! Putting all those ideas into practice seems great in the winter but when the spring comes.....We all know that sinking feeling when the bulbs arrive having ordered from that lovely catalogue in your warm sitting room!

For the last talk the hall was packed to hear Chris Beardshaw, speak with such passion and enthusiasm. His descriptions of rhythm and movement in garden design left one heady with excitement – especially when he said how the hot colours increase your heart rate! He pointed out we must all grow, not just what suits the soil etc., plants that reflect our personality so that we can be at one with our gardens however large or small. It was a great evening – overflowing with ideas.

A previous speaker, Ray Broughton, provided us with tips aplenty. Now that many chemicals have been withdrawn he gave us an old remedy for banishing mildew (think pulmonarias and courgettes). Buy some gold top milk and spray on the top cream. Apparently it kills the mildew in 24 hours but needs to be washed off after two days – it will smell! Generally this works on all powdery mildews, rusts, black spot, whitefly and greenfly. Another tip was for getting rid of convolvulus (bindweed). When it is growing well, mix equal quantities of milk plain flour and malt vinegar and either spray or paint on. At the very least these are edible treatments!

He also talked about zonal positioning but that may be a subject for another day – it is nothing to do with a top-shelf magazine!

Our last talk is on Monday April 12th (8pm) when Everitt Leeds’ subject is “Clematis through the seasons”.

Outing:

The outing to Kew Gardens is on Monday 12th July. The cost will be £26 (£2 less for seniors). This includes the coach, entry to Kew and a conducted tour of one hour.

Contact Jane Lywood – 01403 820225 – she will be at the AGM and the April talk selling tickets.

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Membership Renewal

I enclose £..... annual subscription (£5.00 individual / £8.00 joint) *Cheque made payable to W.G.H.S. please*

Please reply to: Trevor Benson Tel: 01403 700284
The Luth, The Luth, Wisborough Green RH14 0BZ

Members Name(s)..... Tel No.....

E-mail Address.....

Address.....

Signed.....