



Message from the Chair.

Once again the Society has had a successful year with shows, talks and coach trips, and I sincerely thank all the people who contribute their time and energy to make it all happen.

The Spring Show saw wonderful displays of daffodils, tulips and a range of other colourful spring flowers. There was plenty of rhubarb and vegetables supplied by just 14 entrants. Disappointingly only a few people came to admire the displays and enjoy the refreshments.

The Summer Show tested our nerves as the weather was unpredictable and the morning of the show was cold and damp. We all feared the worst! BUT the skies cleared and the sun shone for the whole afternoon. The Show Marquee was crowded with entries and the children did particularly well. Thank you everyone who helps to make it a success. Alex Burghart, our MP, awarded the prizes and was impressed by the standard of the entries. Although numbers attending the show were a little lower than in previous years, we managed to break even on the day, thanks in part to the great service provided by the Scouts with their BBQ, the bar run by the Rotary Club and the ladies supplying and serving in the tea tent. Thank you, everyone.

There were changes this year to the Autumn Show. Lack of entries in previous years encouraged us to shrink the scale of the show to just horticulture, so there were no domestic, photographic or craft classes. Nevertheless, there were stunning displays of flowers and vegetables but sadly these were supplied by only 13 entrants. We try to encourage children to enjoy growing things and there were three classes that they could have entered but we only had one entrant. As with the Spring Show there were very few people who came to enjoy the displays and refreshments.

This is forcing us to consider the future of the I&FHS. We understand modern life is very busy and that many new houses have little outside space, but gardening is a pleasurable and rewarding activity which has been shown to improve mental and physical health. We need more active members if we are to survive. In particular we need people who are prepared to join or to work with the committee. **We are facing a crisis.** By the end of 2020 we will need a Competition Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Publicity Officer and someone to organise our coach trips and also our talks. Also, two other committee members wish to resign. If we cannot replace these people the society will close. **This will mean that the 2020 Summer Show will be the last organised by the Society.** The Society has organised/ run the Show for 56 years, but we cannot continue without people who are prepared to commit to long term support. We are grateful to everyone who turns up on the day to help, and we couldn't do without them, but that is not enough to keep the show going. We need people who are prepared to get involved with planning the show. They don't necessarily need to be committee members to do this but need to take responsibility for some specific aspect of the planning of the show.

It may be that the nature of the show needs to change. It could become more of a Family Fun Day, with or without the competitive element of the show marquee. The show has been going for more than 120 years and been run by other organisations in the past. It would be very sad to let it die but someone needs to run it. In whatever way it evolves, it needs a team of people to organise it and, much as we would like to carry on, unless we can recruit more people to our committee or to work with the committee, that team will not be the Horticultural Society.

Coach Outings 2019/20.



Outings this year have been somewhat mixed, not all have been well supported; this particularly applies to the outing to Hampton Court Garden Festival, as it is now called, in July which was unusually undersubscribed and ran at a loss.

Our first outing of 2020 will be to Leonardslee Lake and Gardens in West Sussex on Saturday 16 May. Once known as 'the best woodland garden in the UK' it reopened this year, under new ownership, following extensive renovation; amongst other things you can visit the renowned Rock Garden and Dolls House Museum, see the rare colony of wallabies and catch sight of the deer roaming free in the woodland. The cost of this outing is £33 for members, £38 for non members; this cost will include coach and entrance plus a 60 minute guided tour as well as the driver's tip. We will be departing the village at 08.30, leaving Leonardslee at 17.00.

Our second outing is to Great Comp Gardens near Sevenoaks, Kent for their Summer Show on Saturday 8 August; this popular event is now in its 18th year featuring specialist nurseries, ornamental garden-ware suppliers and more. You can enjoy music by a local jazz ensemble and a glass of Pimms. William Dyson, the curator at Great Comp also runs Dyson Nurseries who specialise in salvias and other choice half hardy and hardy plants. They have not yet set their prices for next year, the **estimated** cost of this outing is £28 for members, £33 for non members; this includes coach and entrance as well as the driver's tip. We will be departing the village at 09.30 and leaving Great Comp between 16.30/17.00.

Needless to say, we will be visiting Wisley but as yet no date has been decided.

Details of all outings will be in the Member's Handbook which you will receive with your subscription renewal in the New Year and will also be on the website, www.ifhs.org.uk

Ann Monk 01277-352869

Competition Sub Committee.

The year started well with 106 entries in the Spring Show and especially good numbers of tulips and hellebores. However, only 14 people entered the show, surely loads of our members grow daffodils and tulips? If only you were brave enough to enter the shows!

The Summer Show figures were very average. There were 351 adult entries from 91 entrants and 601 entries from 191 children. That is over 952 cards (allowing for "no shows") to make out and entries to put on the score sheets. Despite an unusual number of early morning problems all went well once judging was underway and the marquee looked as magnificent as ever. Many thanks to the team who help every year with stewarding and marshalling; we couldn't do it without you.

At the Autumn Show we dropped all the "additional" classes and just stuck to horticulture, which made things much easier to manage. The entries were a little lower than average, with 112 exhibits on the tables and like the Spring Show, we were disappointed to only have 13 entrants, all regulars. As Sarah says in her piece, it is worrying. There must be some gardeners out there who have grown some lovely dahlias, apples or vegetables that could be entered?

Please, please participate in our shows. Believe it not, it is FUN and help from experienced people is given freely. We are seriously worried about the future of I&FHS, which was founded in the 1880s, and the committee is very keen that it should carry on.

Competition Sub-Committee Team

IFHS Talks 2019/20.

As always, our speakers have delighted us with their knowledge about and enthusiasm for, their subject matter. This year we welcomed back Zsuzsa Serer who specialises in orchids and exotics as well as herbs. We learned about the dedicated steps she has taken to develop the exact climate conditions that exotics require, and we had the opportunity to purchase some of her stock.

Barry Gaytor's talk about cacti and succulents impressed us all with such detailed knowledge about all things succulent. Again, we were able to purchase plants brought by Barry.

We have one more talk to come this year and we hope to welcome a few new faces in the coming year as we continue to find new topics and speakers to stimulate our interest.

In announcing our talks in the coming year, I would draw your attention to our September talk, when we will be offering an evening buffet and opportunity for social get together with our celebrity speaker. There is a charge for this event. More information in the 2020 Handbook.

Program of talks for 2019/2020

These take place (not September) in the Parish Room, Stock Lane and commence as shown.

Tuesday 15th October at 8pm Thelma Wilson and Olive Baldwin: Warley Place: once a famous garden, now a Nature reserve.

Tuesday 24th March at 2pm George Lockwood. Using evergreens and acers to introduce structure into the garden.

Tuesday 23rd June at 8pm Brian Wickenden. The plants and scenes of New Zealand and Australia.

Friday 25th September Tom Hart Dyke. From Captivity to a Castle.

This will be held in the Community Club. Full details in the Members Handbook

Helen Gillings 01277-353562

I&FHS Members are most welcome to attend the Society's

56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Tuesday 19th November 2019

7.45 for 8.p.m.

Parish Room, Stock Lane.

The presentation of Annual Reports, Accounts and Elections will be followed by a slide show of the Society's year. Afterwards you are invited to join your committee for a glass of wine/ fruit juice and snacks. If you wish to raise any questions please contact me before 12th November.

Rodger Green - Secretary 0758785111 rodgergreen1865@gmail.com

From the Membership Secretary.

The statistics have hardly changed since last year. We have 525 members at 345 addresses. Joint membership 180, single membership 165, retired members 382.

Situation almost vacant: **Membership Secretary: Horticultural Society.** Not that difficult if you have half a brain cell. Most of the work needs to be done annually anytime during the dark days of January and February, so not missing out on much. Minimal Word and Excel skills required. No pay, minimal training required, just a memory stick, a bundle of papers and best wishes. Form an orderly queue!!

Graham Slater, Membership Secretary graham.slater@sanechoice.com 01277 352142

From the Competition Secretary.

Spring Show 2019 Prize Winners

Pilling Dunn Cup – Highest Points in Show	Janet Collins
Second Prize – Second Highest Points	Anne Oxley
Third Prize – Third Highest Points	Cicely James
Ethel Ellis Memorial Challenge Cup – Best Exhibit in Show	Janet Collins
Trevor Cracknell Trophy – Best Daffodil Bloom.....	Janet Collins

Summer Show 2019 Trophy Winners

Lord Petre Challenge Cup for Open Horticulture.....	Ash Hofert
RHS Banksian Medal – Highest Points in Horticulture Classes..	Ash Hofert
Christy Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup for Flowers	Cicely James
Fieldgate Silver Challenge Cup for Roses	Andrew Clarkson
Skingley Medal for Best Rose Bloom	Andrew Clarkson
Christy Memorial Trophy for Sweet Peas	J. B. Mead
Nora Pinnock Memorial Trophy	Marion Clarkson
Sidgewick Silver Challenge Cup for Pot Plants	Janet Collins
Perpetual Silver Trophy for Fruit	Shane Anthony
Norton Disney Challenge Trophy for Vegetables	Ash Hobert
John Ray Trophy, Novice Trophy	Terry Cavanagh
Society Voucher (£10), Runner-Up: Flower Classes	Anne Oxley
Society Voucher (£10), Runner-Up: Vegetable Classes	Shane Anthony
Georgian Silver Challenge Cup for Handicrafts	Sandra Wright
Jocelyn Need Rose Bowl, Best Exhibit Handicraft	Joan Henbury
Silver Perpetual Trophy for Domestic Classes	Janet Kirby
Society Diploma for Preserves	Cicely James
Society Diploma for Cakes	Janet Kirby
Society Diploma for Savouries.....	Janet Kirby
Society Diploma for Men Only Class	M. Bates
Society Tankard: for Wine and Spirits: best bottle.....	Janet Kirby
Holland Cup: Children aged 7 & under	Scarlett Moothoo
Edwina Lamb Challenge Cup: Children aged 9 & under	Hannah Robinson
Carina Moss Cup: Children aged 12 & under	Holly Bailes
Lady Jarrett Silver Challenge Cup: Children aged 13 – 17 years.....	Harry Saddleton
Edwina Lamb Trophy for most artistic picture in Children's Classes	Jack Wright
The Jack & Doris Nichols Cup for Children's Horticulture	Martha Sainty
The Kari Best Award for Children's Handicraft.....	Anya McCoy
Ronald Flack Memorial Trophy – Annual Garden Competition	Pat and Con Cremin
Garden Competition Runner-up.....	Mrs O'Herlihy
Award for Best Small Garden	David Stott
Small Garden Runner-up.....	Trudy Cannin
Scarecrow Competition.....	Class Cyprus (Ing & Fry C of E Aided Junior School)

Autumn Show 2019 Trophy Winners

Skingley Medal for Best Horticultural Exhibit in Show	Janet Collins
P. J. Davy Perpetual Challenge Cup for Roses.....	James Blackwell
A. W. D. Nicholls Memorial Cup for Best Rose Bloom.....	Barbara Hancock
Beresford Kneller Trophy for Dahlias.....	Cicely James
A. Pudney Perpetual Cup for Flowers.....	Cicely James
H. J. Loker Perpetual Cup for Pot Plants.....	Not awarded
J. Roper Perpetual Challenge Cup for Fruit.....	Janet Collins
J. Miles Perpetual Challenge Cup for Vegetables.....	Ash Hofert
The Peter Baggott Memorial Trophy for a collection of Vegetables.....	Ash Hofert
£5 Prizes for Highest Points in Horticulture (excl. trophy winners)	Anne Oxley / Carol Slater
Children's Classes:	
Diploma for Best Pumpkin.....	Summer Robinson
Diploma for Heaviest Pumpkin.....	Summer Robinson
Diploma for Highest Points.....	Summer Robinson

Congratulations to all prize winners, we look forward to seeing you again in 2020