

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

Newsletter

Spring 2011

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2011. Hopefully the worst of the winter weather is behind us, although work in the garden is still somewhat limited at the time of writing this.

Annual General Meeting:

Having had to postpone the AGM in the last two years from its usual date in January, the committee decided to hold this year's AGM in February, and this took place in the pool room at the Unity Club on Tuesday 8th February. We were pleased to see a larger than usual turnout of members at the meeting, which may be due to February being a better time to hold the AGM.

The chairman was pleased to report on a successful year for the Society. This would not have been possible without the support of a very active committee. Pat Baker reported the accounts, which showed that the Society has improved its financial position over the last year. This was helped by the plant sale and the support of sponsors, vice presidents and other donations. The accounts were approved by two members of the Society who were not on the committee.

Elections were held and the new officers and committee are as follows: -

President:	Ken C. Dunthorn
Chairman:	John Merrick (68 Leigh Road, Street, BA16 0HD)
Vice Chairman:	Jim Searle
Secretary:	Mrs Maureen Heal
Entries Secretary:	Pat Baker
Membership Secretary:	L. A. (Sonny) Dunthorn (15 Gooselade, Street, BA16 0TD)
Treasurer:	Pat Baker (2 Prospect Close, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5YD)
Show Manager:	Gordon West
Committee:	John Baker, Terry Bratcher, Mrs Kay Burleton, Ruth Hamlett, Barrie Lovelace, Mrs Sandra Lovelace, Tony Nicholls, Gary Sowerby, Terry Vernoum Plus Officers

Thanks to Pat Baker for organising the raffle.

After the "business part" of the evening we should have had a talk on "Growing Vegetables". Unfortunately the speaker was unwell, and unable to attend. Thanks to various senior members of the committee who gave an impromptu account of the early post-war years of the Society, which was very well received.

On the Web:

Information about the Society may now be found via the Street Parish Council web site – www.street-pc.gov.uk - and clicking on Organisations. We also reported to the AGM that the

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committee will be considering setting up a website for the Society, which should improve communication, and perhaps help to increase interest in – and new members for - the Society. This will be discussed at committee meetings. **STOP PRESS** – Website agreed – Watch this space!!

Dates for your diary:

Saturday, 14th May 2011: Annual Plant Sale in the Library gardens, Leigh Road, Street: 8am – 12noon

This is a chance to buy plants for hanging baskets, bedding plants, tomato, cucumber & pepper plants, dahlias, chrysanthemums, fuchsias and some perennials all at very reasonable prices. Members only can collect their fuchsia and/or Kelsae onion plants for classes 41 and 62 respectively. It would be helpful to know how many plants are required, so please let Maureen Heal (secretary) know as soon as possible (tel. no. 01458 443277).

Money raised from the plant sale helps to fund the **Annual show (on 10th September this year)**, along with donations and sponsorship.

Communication:

To improve communication and to save paper and postage, it would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for as many members as possible. This would reduce the cost of keeping you informed. Please send your e-mail addresses to Pat Baker (pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk) or John Merrick (john@68leigh.freeserve.co.uk)

New Members

New members are welcome and we are always looking at ways to encourage people to join. Last year was difficult for chrysanthemums and dahlias, and we were unable to supply any at the plant sale. We hope these will be available this year. Our mix of bedding & basket plants worked well last year, but if anyone has suggestions for other plants they would like to see at the plant sale, please let us know (e-mail addresses as above).

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested in joining the Society.

Message from the Chairman:

The committee will be looking at the schedule to see if any improvements can be made to increase interest for possible exhibitors who are not currently catered for. It isn't easy to compete with the attractions of iPods and Wiis! We will keep trying!! We particularly want to encourage female members/exhibitors, as these seem to be in the minority (except for the floral art classes). We welcome the addition of Ruth Hamlett to the committee, which we hope will not only bring some new ideas, but will also reduce the average age of the committee! We would also like to encourage local schools to be more involved. Suggestions always welcome – let any member of the committee know. If any member would like to be more involved, we are able to co-opt new members to the committee.

If members have articles or ideas for articles for a future newsletter, please let us know.

Finally – if you haven't paid your subscription (still only £2), please send this to Pat Baker or Leslie Dunthorn – addresses as above.