

Newsletter

Spring 2019

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Outside the wind is gusting at 50 mph+, so no gardening today. After a record breaking period in February, we are back to cooler weather. Birds and plants are confused! I guess it helps to take our minds off Brexit for a short while.

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM took place in the pool room at the Unity Club on Tuesday 12th February. Attendance was better than the last few years, thanks to the better weather.

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted. The Chairman gave a report on the previous year and thanked all members of the committee for their invaluable contributions to running the Society. He also said that after 10 years as Chairman, he would like to step back and let someone else bring new ideas to the Society. The Treasurer, Pat Baker, gave his report, and issued copies of the accounts, which he expanded on. Essentially they showed that the Society continues to be in a satisfactory financial position with our income slightly higher than expenditure. Holding the plant sale later in May was more successful. The Annual Show was again at the Victoria Club, which worked very well. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

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

President:	Ken C. Dunthorn
Joint Chairs:	John Merrick and Kate Wilson
Vice Chairman:	Jim Searle
Correspondence Secretary:	Mrs Lin Driscoll
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs Mary Whitaker
Entries Secretary:	Pat Baker
Membership Secretary:	Pat Baker
Treasurer:	Pat Baker (2 Prospect Close, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5YD)
Show Manager:	Gordon West
Press Officer:	Ruth Hamlett
Committee:	Chris Bentley, Paul Boncey, Colin Driscoll, Mrs Mary Hughes, Les Taylor, Terry Vernoum Plus Officers

John Merrick and Kate Wilson will act as joint chairs, with Kate taking an increasing role. I am delighted to have her to help with the Society, and I am sure she will bring some new ideas. We are also pleased to welcome Mary Hughes to the committee.

Paul Boncey is again updating and organising the printing of the Schedule for the Annual Show. If you have any comments or suggestions, or if you wish to sponsor a class, please **contact Paul Boncey on 07775697879** ASAP – or see contact details at the end of this Newsletter or on our website – www.streetcdvs.org.uk

The 2018 schedule will remain on the website until the 2019 version is available.

Although the Crispin Hall is now available, the success in using the Victoria Club Function room, with the easy access and parking, convinced all present to continue using this venue.

Thanks to Pat Baker for organising the raffle and to Gordon West for arranging the refreshments.

After the break, we were treated to an excellent illustrated talk on “Growing & Showing Dahlias” given by Martyn & Val Davis. As some of you will know, Martyn & Val have been our judges in the dahlia section, and inside information on what they are looking for was very well received. Having previously been exhibitors, they decided to train as judges with the National Dahlia Society. They now visit National shows over a wide area. We look forward to seeing them at this year's Annual Show.

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

This year's **Annual Plant Sale** will be held on **Saturday, 18th May in the Library Gardens, Street**, starting at 8am until c12 noon. Fuchsia plants for the Members' Challenge cup will also be available. The variety chosen for the Members' Challenge cup will be Spion Kop (see photo) this year. This fuchsia is a compact upright bushy shrub, which is ideal for members to grow for the Annual Show (Class 41). It is not frost hardy, so will need to be kept in a frost free place in the winter if you wish to keep it for a further year.



As before, plants are being supplied by Sweet Acre Nursery, who bring on the plants to be at their best for the Plant Sale. In addition, members also donate plants for the sale – tomatoes, runner beans and many others. Come early for best choice. Money raised at the plant sale helps to fund the Annual Show, along with donations and sponsors.

Pat's Summer BBQ:

After missing last year, Pat is again holding a BBQ at the Baker house – 2 Prospect Close, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5YD - on Saturday, 6th July, starting at 6pm. There is no charge for this, but we hope you will give generously as Pat and his family are raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, as three family members currently have cancer, and are being supported by MacMillan. Pat & Adele's daughter-in-law, Natasha is doing a sponsored hike from Weymouth to Wareham (26.2 miles), so sponsorship to support her will also be very welcome. Apart from the BBQ, there will be a raffle, and games including Blackjack and roulette! There will also be some delicious jams and marmalade for sale – made by their daughter, Trish.

The date for the **Society's Annual Show** will be on **Saturday, 14th September**

Our Show attracts entries from a wide area, including National exhibitors, and the standard of Dahlias, Chrysanthemums and vegetables is as good as, if not better than, many National Shows. This is partly due to our good record in the past, but also the prize money attracts entries.

However, it is important to stress that the Annual Show includes many other classes apart from Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, and Vegetables, although even these classes have novice sections. Schools classes, children's classes, Floral Arrangement classes, Begonia & Fuchsia classes, a cake class (with fresh fruit and/or vegetables (of course!)), and other "fun" classes and classes that we hope will attract entries from those using the various allotments in the area. Full details will be in the schedule - available shortly on our website.

Some people say that they do not know how to display their entries. It is always worth looking at the photo galleries on our website, to see how exhibits have been displayed in previous shows. Alternatively, there is always Google!

We are always pleased to have new sponsors for classes in the Show. Anyone or company wishing to sponsor a class should contact Paul Boncey ASAP – see contact details on page 1.

Schedules should be available at the Plant Sale.

Kate Wilson, our new joint Chair, writes:

Hello members,

My name is Kate and I am honoured to be chairing our society alongside John, who has been steadfast in the smooth running of the society for the last 10 years! I look forward to our time together as co-chairmen.

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

I have only lived in Somerset for 5 years, originating from East Sussex, and have been a member of the society for 3 years now. I fell in love with the area and the people immediately. Everyone is so welcoming.

In my first year I became the youngest member of our committee and my first point of business was to set up the society's **Facebook** page with the help of our ever needed press officer, Ruth.

In the next year I took over the role of press officer and I can tell you all it is not as easy as it may seem!! We also started our new venture into the **Merriman Park Fun Day** which was a great success. At the AGM this year I joined John at the helm and have some great plans for the society.

I love gardening and grew up with avid growers as parents. I also grew up with black and white movies, 1950s music as well as classic rock (thanks to my dad) and so appreciate the sentimentality of tradition and times past.

I will strive, with the help of the committee and you, to help our society become accessible to all growers and home crafters in our beautiful village, bring in the next generation of gardeners that are so desperately needed to keep our society and the love of gardening alive, to expand the society to allow every member of the family to enter our shows and attend our events and I aim to achieve this without disrespecting the legacy and tradition of our founders or lowering our standards that have kept the societies reputation in our specialist classes strong for all these years.

My aim is to welcome all from amateur to expert.

I would love to have a separate event in the year dedicated to the children growers of our community to help encourage more of them to enter and attend our September shows as well as expand our classes into the traditional home crafts to help encourage maybe the woodworker or baker of the family to come along and enjoy the atmosphere the show can bring and the prospect of a prize.

This year I will be heavily involved with the local primary schools and nurseries/playgroups to hopefully add to the entries of the current children's classes in this year's show, so please spread the word throughout and let's make this year our best year yet and keep the spirit of Britain's gardeners going for many more generations to come!

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 (merrickj13@gmail.com). Contributions to the Newsletter also welcome. Please also look on our website – www.streetcdvs.org.uk,

and our Facebook page - .