

# Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

Summer 2011

## NEWSLETTER

In contrast to the very cold winter, April was exceptionally warm, while May was cloudy and windy. Throughout, rainfall has been well below average. I begin to think that there is no perfect weather pattern to suit farmers and gardeners! At least we can water when it's dry, although we have to be conscious that overuse can lead to shortages later in the summer if the dry weather continues. The warm spring was excellent for bringing on the plug plants for our plant sale, and we had a good variety of plants of high quality (see below).

### Plant Sale

We held the plant sale a little later this year, on 14<sup>th</sup> May, and there was no shortage of plants from members – tomatoes, chrysanthemums, dahlias, runner beans and many others, in addition to those grown on from plugs. We are grateful to Jim Searle for the use of his polytunnel and his care of the plants during their stay. The plants sold very quickly in the early part of the morning, but as the day went on, it became very blustery (not to mention rather cold and cloudy). At the end of the morning, some of the plants were looking rather sad, having been battered by the wind and dried out - they were not really fit to sell. Fortunately the extra plants we had meant that our profit was slightly higher compared with last year (provisional figures from Pat Baker), even though we spent more on plug plants, trays and compost. We are grateful also to the Glastonbury and Street Sea Cadets, who came to help carry plants to the car parks. The Central Somerset Gazette featured a photograph and article on the front page after the sale.



### 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show

This will be held on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September** in Crispin Hall. Schedules have been sent out (contact Pat Baker – 01749 347060 if you haven't had yours). Please return all cups and trophies to Maureen Heal as soon as possible. The Cups and Trophies will be presented this year by Matthew Burnell, of JeanesHollandBurnell Estate Agents. Matthew will be well-known to anyone buying or selling a house in this area, and has been a supporter of the Society for some years. We have made several changes in the schedule this year. The titles for the children's classes and the floral arrangement classes are in the new schedule. Class 60 is now "A display of three vegetables of the same variety which are not listed in the vegetable section (replaces "2 lettuces")." A new class – 63 – has been added to encourage more entries from the "fairer sex", although open to all. Feedback suggested that the schedule was too "male-orientated"! This class will be judged by Bob Burns of Burns The Bread. Class 63 is "A fresh fruit and/or vegetable cake presented on a white plate with a list of its ingredients. The exhibit to be covered with clear plastic."

The schedule is now available online from our website (see below). Entry forms for the show are also available, as are membership forms for new members.

### Don Young

Members will be saddened to hear that Donald Young passed away suddenly on 9<sup>th</sup> May, at the age of 76 years. He was on the committee before I joined, but Ken Dunthorn has written the following:-

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Don was a member of the committee for several years in the nineties and the early years of the twenty-first century. He was an enthusiastic chrysanthemum grower and gained prizes at our shows. He was a skilled carpenter and a lasting legacy to his work is the display cabinet used by the tea and cakes crew; also he produced the class number blocks and their carrying boxes. He was very modest and frowned upon recognition for these very useful and valuable assets. His wife, Joan, was a very good cook and very generous with her contributions, over the years, of an array of cakes for the refreshment stall for each show.

Ken Dunthorn, June 2011

## **New website – [www.streetcdvs.org.uk](http://www.streetcdvs.org.uk)**

This time last year a comment from Gary Sowerby was printed, as a newcomer on the committee. His main suggestion was that the Society had a website. The committee approved the idea, and after much work on the part of a small sub-committee, the website finally “went live” at the beginning of April. After a few initial hiccups, the website has been working well, and has been updated. We are grateful to Mike Potter of [www.webadore.co.uk](http://www.webadore.co.uk) who has set this up. The website has gradually expanded, and now has the latest schedule, newsletters – including this one, and several picture galleries – something for everyone. We hope this will be a better way of spreading information about the Society, communicating, and receiving feedback. The committee are committed to continuously updating and improving the Society. We hope that this may appeal to a wider spectrum of the population, and ensure the continued success of the Society. Don't forget to visit this site, add to your favourites and tell your friends about it!

## **Advice for exhibitors in the Floral Art Section from one of our judges (Bobby Beauchamp)**

1. The interpretation of the title is important, so read it several times so that a picture of your arrangement will form in your mind.
2. Use the designated space well. Too large an arrangement will crowd your work and too small will make your arrangement look insignificant. Aim for a balanced effect.
3. Do not use too many 'ornaments' with your arrangement. Let the flowers tell the story.
4. Always condition your foliage and flowers well. Everything should be in pristine condition.

## **Standard Fuchsias - Class 39**

Now is the time to think about a standard fuchsia for next year, as it takes around 18 months to achieve a full standard (stem length 75cm – 1m, 30 – 42inches), although a half standard (45-75cm, 18ins – 30ins) may be achieved more quickly. Start with a young plant, and leave one stem to grow. Remove all side shoots, but leave any leaves growing on the stem. Support the stem with a cane, and tie the stem at intervals as it grows. Repot as soon as the container fills with roots, and feed regularly. Continue until the stem has reached the desired height. Allow a further three sets of leaves to develop, and then pinch out the tip. Side shoots should appear from these sets of leaves. Form a bush at the top by pinching out the side shoots once they have developed two sets of leaves. Repeat this “stopping” process until the bush reaches the required size. The stem below the “bush” is left bare, and becomes quite “woody”. Flowers usually open six to eight weeks after the last “stopping”.

The process may be speeded up by buying “whips” from nurseries, where the process has been started. You will find that some varieties are better suited to growing as standards than others.

As always, feedback and articles for the next issue will be welcome. The more e-mail addresses we have, the easier it is to send out newsletters – please send these (and any other comments/articles) to [john@68leigh.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:john@68leigh.freeserve.co.uk) or [pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk). Remember, you can also send feedback via the Contact Us page of the website.