

# Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

Summer 2012

## NEWSLETTER

Every year seems to be different – in England, the weather is never boring! After a hint of summer in March, we had the wettest April (and cold also) since records began – the rain starting just as the drought regulations came in! May started with a very cold spell, with late frosts. The drought orders were stopped – and it hasn't rained since then! The latter part of May has been much hotter than is usual. We have also seen a lot of very strong winds, causing damage to trees and plants that were just producing their first fragile stems upwards. I am not sure if any records of wind speeds etc are kept – it isn't as easy to compare as sun hours or rainfall mm! Let's hope we have good growing weather through the summer. Weeds are certainly thriving!

### Plant Sale

The plant sale was held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, perhaps the first fine day after a frosty start. There was a good selection of plants available both those grown on by the Society in Jim Searle's polytunnel. The plants – under Jim's care – came on remarkably well in spite of the difficult weather. Once again, our profit was slightly higher compared with last year (provisional figures from Pat Baker). We had hoped to have the Glastonbury and Street Sea Cadets to help carry plants to the car parks, but unfortunately they were unable to come at the last moment.



### 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Show

This will be held on **Saturday 8<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 Mrs Hilary Powell – Head Teacher at Elmhurst Junior School. Mrs Powell has encouraged the children at Elmhurst School to take an interest in the show with a corresponding increase in entries. Hopefully they will be the future members of The Society. 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, and you won't be surprised to hear that these are on an Olympic and Diamond Jubilee theme! A new class 62 – has been added. This is a Novice class – open to anyone who has not won a first prize in a class at a vegetable show, and simply requires "Any 3 vegetables". A good starting point for anyone daunted at the prospect of competing with the experts. – has been added to encourage more entries from the "fairer sex", although open to all. The classes previously 62 (Kelsae onions) and 63 (cake class) have been renumbered 63 and 64 respectively.

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.

### Arnold Sendell

It was with sadness we learned of the death on 20th May of one of our long serving members and generous supporters, Arnold Sendell of North Petherton. He was a regular exhibitor of fine chrysanthemums during the early years of the society. In recent years he was always present to examine, with his expert eyes, all the vegetables, flowers, floral arrangements and the schoolchildren's exhibits. His cheery smile and his comments were appreciated by all our members. Arnold had a great love of horses which he bred for Point to Point and Racing competitions. He was always asked if he had any tips. He could grow a particular chrysanthemum called ERMINE better

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than anyone around and he said if his next foal was female that ERMINE would be its name. He will be missed.

**Website – [www.streetcdvs.org.uk](http://www.streetcdvs.org.uk)**

The website continues to be a source of information about The Society, and we try to keep it updated as much as possible. Please contact us with any errors you spot, or information/photos/ articles you wish to be considered for inclusion on the web pages. 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!

## **Social Evening**

There will be a social evening for members on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at the Unity Club, when Michael Pollock will be giving a talk on the Fruit & Vegetable Garden. Those at the AGM will remember the "taster" talk he gave in limited time, which left everyone crying out for more!

## **Growing & Showing Advice**

I have repeated some articles below from the Newsletter of 2009, as this is not available on our website. This advice should build up on the website in the Newsletter links there, and may – eventually – be incorporated in a new webpage - tips and advice for inclusion in the future are welcome.

## **Tips for Showing**

### **General:**

1. Make sure you read the schedule correctly.
2. Give yourself plenty of time to put your entries in place – presentation is all-important.
3. If not sure about anything, ask for help from a fellow exhibitor.
4. Make sure you put your entry card by your exhibit.
5. Take time to look around at how other exhibitors display their entries.

## **Flower arrangements:**

### **Basic information:**

1. Material: means any kind of flowers, foliage, berries etc used in an arrangement.
2. Mechanics: items used to keep the flowers, foliage and stems in place within the container. The most popular type is floral foam.
3. Conditioning: preparation of the plant material before actually arranging it. By cutting the stems on the slant you give a larger surface area for water absorption. Stems should be re-cut immediately before placing them in water.
4. Containers: when choosing a container make sure it complements and does not dominate the arrangement.

### **Tips on how to exhibit:**

1. Make sure all plant material is well conditioned.
2. If using accessories, make sure they tone in with the flowers.
3. Do not overcrowd the allotted space.
4. Always check your measurements so that you are within the stated dimensions.
5. Let the flowers tell the story.
6. "Less" is often "more".
7. Make sure all plant material is of good quality – damaged leaves will lose you points.
8. Always read the schedule carefully so that you understand what is required.

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.