

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Society's summer newsletter. So far the weather has been "a bit of everything" – more like a normal English summer, unlike the floods of last year. Gardeners are always planning how they hope their gardens and vegetable plots will look – let's hope the weather mix will give good results and plenty of exhibits in the Annual Show.

Plant Sale

The plant sale was held on 11th May on a blustery dull day. However, the rain held off until c11am, by which time we had sold a lot of plants. The cold start in March meant that we delayed buying our plug plants – in spite of this, the trays and pots, brought on in Jim's polytunnel, were excellent. Pat Baker reports that we made a very acceptable profit – also down to all the plants donated by members.



64th Annual Show

This will be held on **Saturday 14th 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. Mark Moran will be presenting the prizes this year. He has been a long term supporter and sponsor of the Society, and has sorted out all the cups & trophies for the presenter in previous years. We may well need his help beforehand to make sure we give out the correct cups etc! There have been some slight changes to some classes following suggestions from members. The popular cake class 64 is unchanged, and expected to be well supported. The children's classes 18 & 19 will have the themes of "Wonderful Somerset" and "Productive Somerset" respectively. The Floral Art themes will be "Paradise is a Garden", "Boxed In" & "In the Pink" for classes 42, 43 & 44 respectively. The schedule is now available online from our website (see below). Entry forms for the show are also available to print from the website, as are membership forms for new members.

Harry Graham Hamlett

Ruth – our press officer – and Steve Hamlett are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Harry on 30th May 2013. Congratulations to all. We are delighted to have a birth to report!



Graham Coles

It was with sadness we learned of the death on 11th April of Graham Coles – the Glastonbury Town Crier – Much has already been written in the local press about all his voluntary activities in support of local charities and other events. The Society is grateful for all the help he has given us also. He has been out and about in his regalia during the plant sale and the Annual Show, making everyone aware of our presence, and increasing visitors to these events. He also took a close interest in the exhibits at the Annual Show. We shall miss him both for his help, and his friendly face. The Society has sent a donation to West Mendip Hospital in his memory.

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

Website – 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!

Society Dinner

A dinner was held on 23rd March at the Piper's Inn for members of the committee and some of helpers from the Annual Shows. It was also a celebration of Maureen Heal's contribution to the Society over many years as secretary – a role she is now sharing with Mary Whitaker. The evening was a great success, and there will, no doubt be further discussion regarding future dinners to include the wider membership, although this may require a larger venue should a large number wish to attend. It would be helpful to know how many people would be interested in attending a Society dinner in future years – and if this would depend on the cost. Our thanks to our president, Ken Dunthorn, who organised the dinner.

Cream Teas & BBQ

Our treasurer, Pat Baker, is inviting members of the Society to his garden (2 Prospect Close, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5YD) on **Sunday, 28th July** starting with cream teas from 2pm, and BBQ available later in the afternoon. There is no charge for this, but donations in aid of the charity "Time is Precious" (www.timeisprecious.org) would be appreciated. It is suggested that the afternoon could be combined with a visit to Kilver Court Gardens (www.kilvercourt.com) which are open until 5pm (last admission 4pm). Admission is £5 (£4.50 for OAPs).

Growing & Showing Advice

I have repeated an article 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.

Chrysanthemums:

1. Look at your blooms two weeks before the show. Pick your best blooms for form & freshness – not too young, not too old.
2. Mark blooms selected for the show, making it easier at the cutting stage.
3. Cut blooms 4-5 days before the show to uniform length, including extra bloom(s) to allow for damage or mishap.
4. Put blooms in deep buckets of water and secure them, not to damage them by touching one another. Put into cool dark shed or garage.
5. Decide how you are going to transport them to the show securely and give yourself plenty of time – don't forget your schedule to check class entries. Drive carefully on journey to avoid damaging blooms.
6. On arrival at the show, be especially careful unloading blooms. Get the feel of the show, talk to other exhibitors and find a quiet spot to stage your exhibit. Check your schedule and make last minute adjustments to exhibit – then it is all down to the judges; you have done your best!

Always remember that if you haven't entered before, a lot will be learned from the process. Even if you do not win a prize, you will increase your experience and do better next time – a lot is learned listening to the experts, who are always happy to share their knowledge.

Good luck to all those who enter – hope to see lots of entries and lots of people at the show.

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 or pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk. Remember, you can also send feedback via the Contact Us page of the website.