

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Society's summer newsletter. Hopefully you are all busy in the garden nurturing your plants for the Annual Show. We have had a very mild start to the year, with plenty of sunshine and enough rain to keep our flowers and vegetables growing well – at this stage all looks promising for the Show.

Plant Sale

The plant sale was held on 17th May and for once, we had perfect weather – dry, warm and sunny. The plants for sale were excellent – thanks again to Jim Searle for all his care of the growing on the plug plants prior to the sale. Thanks also to all those members who supplied plants to sell in aid of The Society. The fine weather brought out more people than usual, and as a result we had few plants left at the end, making the clearing up task a lot easier than usual. Pat Baker also reports that the money raised from the sale was the best for some years. Thanks also to Pat Baker's colleague who was on holiday the previous weekend, so the sale was a week later than intended – if it had been the Saturday before, we would have faced gales and rain!



66th Annual Show

This will be held on **Saturday 13th 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 Lin Driscoll (tel no 01458 443303) as soon as possible. Jill & Steve Durston, of Durston Garden Products Limited, will be presenting the prizes this year. The popular cake class 64 is unchanged, and expected to be well supported. The children's classes 18 & 19 will have the themes of "Our Favourite Book" and "A Visit to the Circus" respectively. The Floral Art themes in this centenary anniversary of the start of WW1 will be "Lest We Forget. A Tribute to the Tommies of WW1", "Keep the Home Fires Burning. A tribute to the ladies who undertook various jobs previously carried out by the men fighting at the front in WW1." & "In Red, White and Blue" 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.

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! It is also hoped to set up a Facebook page for the Society. Any other suggestions welcome.

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

Society Dinner

A dinner was held on 22nd March at the Piper's Inn for members of the committee and some of helpers from the Annual Shows. Alan Gledhill and his staff again produced an excellent carvery with choice of desserts. Ken Dunthorn again organised the dinner very successfully – thanks to him and to Pat Baker – who collected the money and arranged the wine.

Cream Teas & BBQ

Our treasurer, Pat Baker and his wife, Adele are again inviting members of the Society to their garden (2 Prospect Close, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5YD) on **Sunday, 20th July** starting at 1pm with a BBQ, followed by cream teas available later in the afternoon arranged by their daughter, Tricia. 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 4.30pm (last admission 3.30pm). Admission is £5 (£4.50 for OAPs).

Growing & Showing Advice

I have repeated an article below from the Newsletter of Summer 2010, 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.

Fuchsias

The first problem I had with fuchsias was spelling the name correctly – but this became much easier when I found out that fuchsias were named in honour of the German botanist Leonhard Fuchs (although he had nothing to do with fuchsias!). My previous "expertise" with fuchsias has been limited to growing a lot of plants and hoping one would be good enough to show (which has worked reasonably well so far!). So I had to do a bit of research! Space limits this to a few growing and showing tips gleaned from my google surfing.

Before the show:

1. Nitrogen feed early in the year, start high potash feed approx 6 wks before the show
2. Pinch out growing points to shape the plant and increase the flowering potential. The last "pinch" should be 9-10 weeks before the show for single flowered varieties, 11-12 weeks before for double and semi-doubles.
3. Always grow several plants – then choose the best for the show.

For The Show:

1. Flowers – always remove dead or dying flowers – it is better to present a plant with 20 fresh flowers than with 50, half of which are dying or dead.
2. Leaves – remove any heavily marked or dying leaves. Clean all the leaves individually before showing, removing water marks etc.
3. Soil – before the show, remove the top layer of soil and replace this with fresh soil. Another option is to cover the soil with pea gravel or similar.
4. Pots & Saucers – make sure the pot and the saucer are scrupulously clean – presentation is just as important as the plant.

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 merrickj13@gmail.com or pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk. Remember, you can also send feedback via the Contact Us page of the website.