

## NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Society's summer newsletter. It looks as though we will be leaving the EU in due course, although it is not clear how this will affect gardeners. Some of the vegetable varieties that are not allowed under EU rules may re-appear – some of you may remember Chris Smith from Pennard Plants telling us about varieties that he is not allowed to sell because they do not fit in with the regulations. Maybe there will be some of these returning. Only time will tell. Weather-wise, this has been a very topsy-turvy year, with a bit of everything. There seems to be far more really windy days this year, which hasn't helped my greenhouse, or some of the more "fragile" flowers and veg.

### Plant Sale

The plant sale was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May – a rather cold start, but dry. The sale was due to start at 8am, although some enthusiastic purchasers came not long after 7am, when only some of the plants were available! Apparently they came later last year, and missed the best of the plants, so were determined to get the best plants this year! Certainly, they left happily carrying their purchases. The plants available were a mix of those donated by members and those grown especially for us by Sweet Acre Nursery. The quality was excellent, and very good value compared with plants available elsewhere. Members were able to collect their Kelsae onion plants to grow on for the Annual Show, donated by a member – in spite of the fact that the RHS reported that they are not available!. The fuchsias for the members' class were grown for us by Sweet Acre, and the variety this year is "Star Wars". We look forward to the entries for this class in the Show! Final figures are not yet available, but the indications are that the sale will provide a satisfactory amount to support the Annual Show



### The Investiture of the New Chairman of Street Parish Council

This took place at Strode Theatre on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, and, along with other local organisations, Street CDVS was invited to send representatives to the Investiture. We were also invited to send photographs and brief details of the Society which were included in a presentation shown at the event. Several members attended and were pleasantly surprised both by the quality of the presentation which included the Society details & photos and the entertainment (by local school/college groups). An excellent evening!

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

This will be held on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September** in Crispin Hall. Schedules have been sent out (contact Lin Driscoll (tel no 01458 443303) if you haven't had yours). Please return all cups and trophies to Lin Driscoll (tel no 01458 443303) as soon as possible. The children's school classes 18 & 19 continue in two age groups this year – pupils in year 2 and under, and pupils in year 6 and under. The themes for these two classes are again on a Disney theme, having proved popular last year. Class 18's title is "Our Favourite Disney Fairy Tale", while Class 19's title is "An Adventure with the Pixar Gang of Disney Characters".

In the Floral Arrangement section, the theme for Class 42 is "Once Upon A Time", for Class 43 is "A Banquet Fit For The Queen" – suitable for the centre of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday dinner table. Class 44 – the Novice Class has the title "Me Old Mucker. An arrangement displayed in a Wellington Boot." Plenty of scope for invention here!

# *Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society*

In the vegetable section, there are two new classes – Class 63 is for the Ugliest Vegetable, while Class 64 is “Fit for a Roast” Three varieties of any vegetables that grace a roast dinner, displayed on a 20cm plate that will be supplied. Two uncooked of each variety. We hope that these classes will attract entries from gardeners who are reluctant to enter the other classes.

We are very pleased that Philip Eavis – probably best known as part of Living Homes, but also very active in the community over many years – has agreed to present the cups and trophies at this year’s Annual Show. Philip has been a supporter and sponsor of the Society for many years. He was (?still is) involved with the Street Chamber of Trade. We look forward to seeing him at the Annual Show.

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

Our website has been going for more than five years now, and it has now been fully revamped by Mike and Melissa Potter, who have done a fantastic job. The new website is a ‘responsive’ design so will automatically re-format for Tablets and Smart Phones. The new website has only recently “gone live”, and we hope you will like it. Feedback welcome.

We also now have a Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/streetcdvs>. Thanks to Ruth Hamlett and Kate Wilson for all their efforts to set this up and update it. There is a link to this from the

website – look for the  in the header on each page.

## **Society Dinner**

A dinner was held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Piper’s Inn for members of the committee and some of helpers from the Annual Shows. The food was excellent and a very pleasant evening was had by all.

## **Summer Social Event**

Adele and Pat Baker and Tricia held their annual BBQ and cream teas event on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July - attended by approx. 30 friends and family. £265 was raised which goes to the charity “TIME IS PRECIOUS” to make life as full as possible for children with a limited life expectancy.

## **Richard Holland**

Richard Holland – a well-known character and Funeral Director, but also a member and supporter of the Society, died on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The Cyril & Richard Holland Trophy was donated by Richard in memory of his father, Cyril.

## **Michael Whitaker**

Sadly, I have to report that Mike died after a short illness on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Mike has been a supporter of the Society for a number of years, and, of course, his wife Mary is our Minutes Secretary. Mike has been less well for a while, although his demise was quite sudden and peaceful. Several members attended the funeral. Our thoughts are with Mary and the family.

## **Bob Burns MBE**

On a happier note, our congratulations go to Bob Burns, who was awarded an MBE in the Birthday Honours for his service to the community and to charity. Bob has been a great help to us, advising and judging the cake section, but he has given his time freely to many community events and charities over many years. He certainly deserves his MBE.

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