

## NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Society's summer newsletter. As I write this, we have just had heavy rain for a day – much needed after a long hot spell. No doubt the grass and weeds will now race ahead – let's hope our flowers and vegetables for the Annual Show also catch up. The Society has had a busy year so far. The refurbishment of Crispin Hall has meant that this year's Annual Show will be held in the Victoria Club. It will be interesting to stage the Show in a different hall, away from the High Street, although there is the benefit of parking there. We were also invited to have a stand at the English Country Garden Festival at the Bishop's Palace & gardens in Wells. More about this below.

### Plant Sale

The plant sale was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May this year – earlier than usual as the Library Gardens were not available the following week as Street Parish Council were using the area for their "Somerset Day". Unfortunately, information about the Plant sale did not appear in the Central Somerset Gazette, although it was sent to the paper in good time (The CSG does not seem to be as efficient since their offices in Wells closed – I have noted numerous errors recently – parts of stories appearing in the middle of different items, photographs without information, and references to photographs in text with no photograph!). However, the end result was that sales were down considerably on previous years. I suspect that a lot of people who usually come to buy their plants simply did not realise the Sale was earlier than usual. The plants available, however, were excellent. Cheaper plants can now be found in all the supermarkets, but our plants were better and very good value for money. The fuchsias for the members' class were grown for us by Sweet Acre, and the variety this year is "Snowcap". This is a hardy fuchsia, so they have a good chance of surviving the winter if planted a little deeper than they would be in the pot. We look forward to the entries for this class in the Annual Show. Profit from the plant sale was down, but we hope for a better year next year.



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

This took place at Strode Theatre on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, and, along with other local organisations, Street CDVS was again invited to send representatives to the Investiture. As before, we sent some photographs and information about the Society, which were included in an excellent Power Point presentation. Entertainment (by local school/college groups) followed, plus various reports from members of the Parish Council and awards to local people. The new Parish Council Chairman is Cllr Valerie Appleby.

### English Country Garden Festival



Back in March, we were invited to have a stand at The Bishop's Palace, Wells, for the annual English Country Garden Festival – particularly as they have several beds devoted to dahlias named after various Bishops! After discussion, the committee decided that this would be a useful event to

# *Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society*

support and also it would be a new experience – something we haven't done before. With some trepidation, we gradually assembled teams to man the stand over the three days 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June, and produced leaflets and photographs about the Society, displayed on a stand. Plants and bunting were purchased to decorate the stand – including two dahlias, Bishop of Llandaff and Bishop of York! Some photos are attached. The weather was a bit mixed, and it was thought that most of the visitors were not local, and so less relevant to the Society, but overall it was a useful exercise.

## **69<sup>th</sup> Annual Show**

This will be held on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. The venue this year is the Victoria Club, as the Crispin Hall will not be available. We are grateful to the Trustees of the Victoria Club for allowing us to use their facilities. For those who do not know the area, the Victoria Club is off Leigh Road, a short distance from the High Street. Take the left turn by the entrance to Hindhayes School. The postcode is BA16 0HB, and there is a map in the schedule. Parking is available, which should make life easier for exhibitors bringing and collecting their entries. 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 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 "Gone But Not Forgotten", for Class 43 is "With These Hands" – An arrangement depicting a hand skill or craft. Class 44 – the Novice Class has the title "It's In The Can" - An arrangement displayed in a decorated food tin can. A different challenge. The themes were suggested by our Floral Arrangement Judge, Jake Nicholson-Lailey.

In the vegetable section, Class 64 (new) is "A collection of produce from the garden displayed in a trug". Class 67 – also new – is a Fruit Class – "Four examples of any fruit". We hope that these classes will attract entries from gardeners who are reluctant to enter the other classes.


Our Cake Competition Class 66 continues – you don't even have to grow the fruit/vegetables in the cake yourself, although, of course, it is ok for you to do this. This section will be judged by Bob Burns MBE, of Burns The Bread.

Many of the classes now have increased prize money, so they are well worth entering. We hope that this will encourage more entries.

The joint Head teachers at Elmhurst School, Tracy Edwards & Mike Lawrence, will be presenting the Trophies and Awards at the end of the Show. They and previous head teachers have been very supportive of the show for many years, and we are very pleased that they have agreed to do this. 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 contains information about the Society with links to Newsletters, Schedules and photo galleries. Check it out – and let us know if you find any errors or omissions, or have any suggestions. Feedback welcome.

We also now have a Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/streetcdvs>. 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 18<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. While there was some disappointment with the puddings last year, there was certainly no problem this year!

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.