



Important Information

THE CHS SHOP

The Crawley Horticultural Shop in Ifield Avenue, West Green, Crawley (tel. 01293 535585) is open in 2009 from;

10am until 12 noon every Thursday from 10 January–10 December
9.00am until 12 noon every Sunday until 6 December,
9.00am until 12 noon every Saturday from 1 March
until 26 September, and
6.30pm until 8.00pm every Wednesday from 1 April
until 24 June.

NEW MEMBERS

The CHS policy for recruiting new members is by word of mouth by you the members. Why not pass the word about the benefits of membership to like-minded friends and relations. A perfect present for a birthday or special occasion would be CHS gift voucher/token to be spent in the shop, or a membership enrolment for one or four years.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter will be on the Society's website by early May with printed copies made available for Group Meetings and in the Shop .

Helen Bergin

Telephone 01293 535972

Email—bergreen2003@yahoo.co.uk

Enquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Chrissie Smith—telephone 01293 539221

If you would like to receive your Newsletter by email, please contact the Membership Secretary, Peter Nash on 01293 511919

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions and four year subscriptions taken out in 2004 expired on 31st December 2008 and should be renewed as soon as possible. Renewals can be made in the Shop or direct to the Membership Secretary, Peter Nash, 65 Millbank, Ifield, Crawley. RH11 0JQ.



Crawley Horticultural Society

Spring 2009

Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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Well, spring has sprung and the weeds are growing well, at least in my garden. Let us hope what we plant grows as well.

There is a big upsurge in allotment ownership this year and we have had lots of new members who are just starting work on their first plot. I hope you can all take the rough with the smooth as many crops will do well, but you may be disappointed with others not growing as you expected. But, do not give up! All gardeners have problems and if you can find the time to attend some of the group meetings, especially the Fruit and Vegetable Group where you will find help and support from other 'allotmenters'.

Why not come along to the shows where you can see what other members have been growing, and perhaps add your successful produce to the show bench?

I sincerely hope all goes well with everybody this year and wish you health, wealth and good gardening.

JOHN GREEN

DIARY NOTE

Plant Sale 16 and 17 May

Bulb Sale 29 and 30 August

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

This year is flying by, and it's hard to believe we are getting ready for summer, when it only seems like yesterday we were preparing for the spring show.

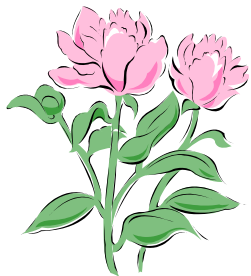
We are having a good year so far. With new members joining, the shop is doing very well, and our groups keeping us informed and entertained. If you have not already joined a group, please give it some thought. Even if you would just like to meet new people and make some new friends, groups can be lots of fun. Next time you come to the shop check the notice board to see the group details, and if you would like a schedule for any group, just make a note of the contact details and give them a ring. Or if you have use of a computer check our website.

The Society has also been invited to join in with various community projects. The Interfaith garden on 21st March at the other end of the West Green playing field, nice and close; with the container gardening workshop on 25th April in a new garden layout at Lambeth Walk, Broadfield, and a gardening and allotment workshop at the Crawley Library on 6th June.

We will also be attending the Michaelmas Day event in the town centre so please come along and give your support.

Let's hope the weather is not as wet a last year, we have been quite lucky so far. So here's wishing for a successful growing season and happy gardening to you all.

Chrissie Smith



2009 PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale will be held in the hall over weekend 16 and 17 May between the hours of 9.0am and 12 noon.

CRAWLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

In 2007 the committee decided it would be beneficial to the society if we started a website of our own. I had no experience of compiling a website but worked hard, making lots of mistakes on the way, until we had our website www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.moonfruit.com up and running. At first we did not have many people looking at it as it was hard to get listed on Google, Yahoo etc. but now the major search engines list the society and the groups as well.

In 2008 we increased the amount of news and articles placed on the website and over the year we had 4350 people visit the site. The Groups now have their programmes listed on their website pages and some have pictures of plants, shows and members.

In 2009 we have already had 1750 people visit our website and we now have a almost 50 megabytes uploaded. Both members of CHS and non members contact me about items they have viewed on the website and we are always looking for new items to add to it.

The latest page update, Society News page 3, has photographs of the people involved in the inauguration of the Interfaith garden on West Green playing field, on 21st March. Charlie Dimmock and Chris Collins planted a *Davidia involucrata* var. *vilmoriniana*, common name handkerchief tree or dove tree.

The Interfaith garden in Crawley is the first of approximately 25 scheduled to be planted throughout the U.K. and is the latest initiative of the Royal Horticultural Society to increase awareness of gardening to all nationalities.

We all hope you enjoy the items on the website and if you have anything you would like placed on it contact me on mick.reed@blueyonder.co.uk.

MICK REED

INTERFAITH GARDEN PROJECT Saturday 21st March 2009

It was the perfect day for this new project, led by the RHS and partnered by Crawley Borough Council's 'Let's Face It' team.

The sun shone brightly and the birds were sweetly singing, when at 9.30 am the VIPs and volunteers gathered at the new garden site, (formerly the Anniversary Garden on West Green playing field by the Virgin Active health centre), for the Health & Safety briefing by CBC's Ruth Growney.

At 9.45 am we were welcomed by His Worship The Mayor Councillor Dr Howard Bloom, and his wife, and Dr Simon Thornton-Wood, RHS Director of Science & Learning gave thanks from the RHS. It was time for refreshments at 10 am, so the VIPs all came to our hall and indulged in tea/coffee, biscuits and home made cake, served by Rene Ellis and our Chairman John Green.

The RHS VIPs included publicity and liaison staff, National and Regional Britain in Bloom judges and special VIPs Charlie Dimmock (Ground Force) and Chris Collins (Blue Peter Gardener).

Charlie Dimmock was a true star when she met the son of one of our members. Little Charlie was born with Congenital Heart Decease and will have to undergo a heart and lung bypass. Charlie and Charlie spent a while together in our hall garden, chatting about his favourite plants. He will have some fond memories to share with his friends and a photo he can proudly show off.

The new garden will have a fountain as a centre piece. The design will be the winning entry in a competition run for Crawley school children, the finalists' entries were displayed in the Society's hall for them to be judged by the VIPs and staff.

The event was attended by press and TV and will be shown on BBC.. It is likely to be included in a Gardeners World programme.

Thank you all the CHS members who came along on the day to help at the hall and in the Interfaith Garden . Special wishes for a speedy recovery to Charlie Large and our warmest wishes to his family. Good luck Charlie.

CHRISSIE SMITH

IT WASN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL THE TREASURER'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

Well, someone had to take it on when Bill Gunning retired as Treasurer after 18 years in the job. There wasn't exactly a queue lining up to take over so reluctantly I stuck my head above the parapet.

I had no experience of bookkeeping other than many years ago running a couple of small accounts for a camera club and model railway society - a far cry from a concern with assets around £50,000 and trading around £20-£30,000 each year.. Not surprisingly I approached the job in fear and trepidation. However, with excellent tuition from Bill I soon settled down to the routine collating of the trading returns and paying the bills as and when they arose. One blessing as far as I was concerned was having no need to handle actual cash (except on the three Show days.)

Despite being comfortable with the day to day running of the account, there remained a constant dread of the eventual end of the year annual accounts. I had sat with Bill when he prepared the 2007 accounts and my head was in a spin trying to take it all in. In the event the 2008 accounts went through fairly well apart from a hiccup on depreciation of the assets but Bill came to my rescue.

So here we are in 2009 with the first year behind me. With guidance from Peter Nash I am getting to grips with putting the accounts onto the computer which should ease the workload. How long I will continue will depend on health and a continuing ability to cope. If and when I give up I can assure any potential successor it is not as terrifying a job as it might appear.

PETER ARMSTRONG

SHOW SECRETARY'S REPORT

SPRING SHOW 2009

We were delighted with the response we had for the Spring show. Once again exhibitor numbers were up as was the number of people coming to see the show. We do hope this trend is going to continue into the Summer and Autumn shows.

The daffodils were excellent despite concerns that there would not be many, but the stars of the show were the camellias. They were wonderful!- I do not think we have had so many in previous shows. However, we must not forget all the entries in the other classes, many of which were beautiful in their own right.

Our new judge for the Domestic classes was very impressed with the standard of the entries and could not believe that we actually had four entries in the Simnel Cake class. However, I was disappointed that we are not attracting more children into their classes. Perhaps next year we will see more of them.

Thank you to everyone who exhibited and to those who came to see the show. I do hope that you all enjoyed it.

Christine Martin
SHOW SECRETARY

SHOW DATES

The dates for the Shows in 2009 are as follows:

Cactus Group Annual Show	Saturday, 30 May
CHS Summer Show including the Geranium Show	Saturday 13 June.
Fuchsia Show	Saturday 1 August
CHS Autumn Shows	Saturdays 12 and 19 September.
Orchid Autumn Show	Sunday 15 November

As we plan to run a Tombola at the second week of the Autumn Show we are requesting donations of suitable items please. These can be dropped off at the shop or can be collected if necessary by Show Secretary, Christine Martin, telephone 01293 882871

All the shows are held in the hall and are open to members and general public from 1.30pm except the Cactus Show which is open from 10.00am.

September (cont)

Wednesday 16	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
Saturday 19	CHS 2nd Autumn Show	1.30pm
Sunday 20	Orchid Group	8.00pm
Monday 21	Alpine Group	8.00pm
Thursday 24	Bonsai Group	8.00pm

October

Saturday 26	Saturday shop last day	
Monday 5	Cactus Group	7.30pm
Wednesday 7	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
Monday 12	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
Wednesday 21	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
Sunday 18	Orchid Group	2.30pm
Monday 19	Alpine Group	8.00pm
Thursday 29	Bonsai Group	8.00pm

November

Monday 2	Cactus Group	7.30pm
Wednesday 4	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
Monday 9	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
Sunday 15	Orchid Autumn Show	1.30pm
Monday 16	Alpine Group	8.00pm
Wednesday 18	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
Thursday 26	Bonsai Group	8.00pm

Some of the Groups do not meet in December. Check with the Group Secretaries

CHS CALENDAR 2009 - ADDENDUM

This is an updated Calendar for 2009 incorporating a number of amendments to the Calendar contained in the January Newsletter:

May	Monday 4	Cactus Group	7.30 pm	
	Wednesday 6	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm	
	Sunday 10	Orchid Group	2.30pm	
	Monday 11	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Saturday & Sunday 16 & 17 Plant Sale In Shop hours			
	Monday 18	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 20	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 28	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	Saturday 30	Cactus Group Show	10.00am	
	June	Monday 1	Cactus Group	7.30pm
Wednesday 3		Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm	
Monday 8		Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
Saturday 13		Summer and Pelargonium Show	1.30pm	
Sunday 14		Orchid Group	2.30pm	
Monday 15		Alpine Group	8.00pm	
Wednesday 17		Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
Wednesday 24		Wednesday shop last day		
Thursday 25		Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
July		Wednesday 1	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 6	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
	Monday 13	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 15	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	Sunday 19	Orchid Group	2.30pm	
	Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 30	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	Saturday 1	Fuchsia Show	1.30pm	
	Wednesday 5	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm	
	August	Monday 10	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
Sunday 16		Orchid Group	2.30pm	
Monday 17		Alpine Group	8.00pm	
Saturday & Sunday 29 & 30 Bulb Sale in Shop hours				
Thursday 27		Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
Wednesday 2		Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm	
Sat & Sun 5 & 6		Bulb Sale—shop hours	9.00 am	
Monday 7		Cactus Group	7.30pm	
Saturday 12		1st CHS Autumn Show	1.30pm	
Monday 14		Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
September				



2009 BULB SALE

The annual bulb sale will be held in the hall over the weekend of 29 and 30 August between the hours of 9.0am and 12 noon

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY -

Gardening Workshop
Saturday 6th June All day. -

An allotment workshop is being held at the Crawley Library, **times to be confirmed**), to encourage people to grow their own veg. If you are a keen veggie grower, even if you don't have an allotment, I would appreciate your help. Please call me as soon as possible. When we have special community events like this, it is always nice when Society members come along to help out. It gives you a chance to get involved. I already have one helper.

Some members seem to think that it is only the Committee who are allowed to do these events, but that's not true. As Secretary I want to get as many members involved as possible, to give you all the chance to be part of our growing club.

These community projects are a great way to not only give you, the members, a chance to join in, but also get even more people to join the society, and get the society known around town.

If you'd like to help out please call me on 01293 539221 (leave a message with your contact number if I'm not in) or email me at

groovygranny572002@yahoo.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks
CHRISSIE SMITH



WANTED—VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of more helpers in the shop.

If you can spare 3 hours on either a Saturday or Sunday morning at about 6 week intervals your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Besides the company and the free flowing tea and biscuits, you will be entitled to a 10% discount on your own purchases.

The shop is the life blood of the Society and without it the Society would not be able to function. If you can help, please contact Chrissie Smith on 01293 539221 or have a word with the duty committee member in the shop.

PREPARING YOUR FUCHSIAS FOR SHOW

Sort your plants now for the classes in the show schedule. Please read the schedule carefully.

Keep feeding your plants and spray for pests if necessary. Watch the watering.

When the fear of frost has gone, stand your plants outside as the heat may be too fierce for them inside. If possible provide a bit of shade.

For stopping your plants, please see the schedule on the opposite page.

Good growing! Let us see your plants on the show table. You can do it.

IVAN BUDGEN

Show Business - a useful chart from Camborne and Redruth Fuchsia Society Newsletter

Sunday	Wks To Go	Activity	Pinch
2 Jan	31	Prepare or buy fresh plants.	
9 Jan	30		
16 Jan	29	Mist dormant plants and clean pots and equipment ready for new season.	
23 Jan	28		
30 Jan	27		
6 Feb	26	If buds are visible, start pruning.	
13 Feb	25	Over-wintered plants can be potted back.	Species
20 Feb	24	Pinch out doubles and semi-doubles.	Doubles
27 Feb	23	Start nitrogen feed to all (%< strength all feeds).	
6 Mar	22	Pinch out singles.	Singles
13 Mar	21		Triphyllas
20 Mar	20		
27 Mar	19		
3 Apr	18	Pinch out species (final pinch).	Species (final pinch)
10 Apr	17	Pinch out 1st or 2nd pair of leaves on doubles and semi-doubles to shape (penultimate pinch).	Doubles
17 Apr	16		
24 Apr	15	Pinch out every growing point on singles to shape (penultimate pinch).	Singles
1 May	14	Pinch out every growing point on triphyllas (final pinch).	Triphyllas (final pinch)
8 May	13		
15 May	12		
22 May	11	Pinch out every growing point on doubles and semi-doubles (final pinch).	Doubles (final pinch)
29 May	10		
5 Jun	9	Pinch out every growing point on singles (final pinch).	Singles (final pinch)
12 Jun			
19 Jun		Start double and semi-doubles on high potash feed.	
26 Jun		Start singles on high potash feed.	
3 Jul	5		
10 Jul	4		
17 Jul			
24 Jul	2		
31 Jul	1		
7 Aug	0		SHOW DAY