



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### THE CHS SHOP

The Crawley Horticultural Shop in Ifield Avenue, West Green, Crawley (tel. 01293 535585) is open in 2014 from;

SUNDAY - From 13th January until 28 September 9.00 am until 12.00 noon

SUNDAY—From 5 October until 14 December 9.30 am—12 noon

SATURDAY - From 2nd March until 28th September 9.00 am until 12.00 noon

### 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 posted to members in the early spring enclosing the price list for 2015. A copy will be posted on the Society's website soon after.

Contact Helen Bergin, email [editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

Enquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Society Secretary, email [secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions, and four year subscriptions which expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, should be renewed as soon as possible. Renewals can be made in the Shop or direct to the Membership Secretary, Ray Bell, 26 Bancroft Road, Maidenbower, Crawley, RH10 7WS, email [membership@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk). Renewals can also be made online on the CHS website.



# Crawley Horticultural Society

Summer 2014

## Newsletter

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### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello to you all.

Sadly, Fred Smith has retired as Chairman so as your new Chairman, I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the previous years.

Also, a big thank you to all the hard working helpers in the shop, and the committee members who work tirelessly, giving up their valuable time to keep the Society going. Their help behind the scenes unloading lorries, setting up the hall for various shows, functions etc, is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to volunteer and help. (You'll even get a 10% discount off all your purchases)

Please come along and support our shows. See inside for details

**BARRY MORTON**

### IMPORTANT

**See page 4 for details of the change in shop hours during the winter months**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi Everyone, and welcome to another newsletter. It seems only five minutes ago I was asked to do a piece for the last one.

One minute everything is being crammed into the greenhouse for better protection and preparation for seed sowing is underway. The next everything is ready for planting out and space being made for tomatoes, cucumbers etc.

Things are still rolling on with the Society, although membership numbers are slowly decreasing, but it is good to see new members joining to replace those who have left us for whatever reason. Loss of members is not uncommon. Many societies, not necessarily horticultural groups, are in a worse situation, some having to close down completely never to be seen again. The demise of these organisations is a shame as they offer free advice, and specialist knowledge whatever their subject,

Sadly our groups are struggling to increase numbers for their specialist subject and this has an impact in financing speakers to talk to groups. The executive committee sub Management Committee provides some funding facilities for groups who ask for it, especially if it means a much larger audience, and helps towards the group remaining self-financing.

The Cottage Garden group has held several lovely talks this year, some nothing to do with cottage gardening but which have been highly informative and enjoyable to all those who attended. They have also arranged free visits to gardens using car sharing. This included the chance to see the renovation work that is transforming Worth Park which has not yet been shown to the general public.

In addition to Wisley, this year the Society has organised a trip to Hampton Court Flower Show which was quickly booked up. We even considered hiring another coach but decided to see how this trip went first. As usual, if anyone has got any ideas regarding outings or things that may be of particular interest to members, please let us know. We strive to keep the society alive and it is your contributions that can help to do this.

Our hall booking is going quite well, and we have several organisations making the most of our very competitive rates. We also hire to members for private parties, anniversaries etc. It is this income that helps to keep us going.

Our Quiz nights are still as popular as ever, and bring in welcome income which is used in various ways. Some of this money has greatly contributed to our

## CARNIVOROUS PLANTS (CONT)

Sarracenia have modified leaves which are known as pitchers. The method used by these plants is their pitfall for insects. They are attracted to the pitchers by an addictive nectar. This gets stronger nearer to the pitcher entrance. The prey often succumbs and rarely escapes. When trapped the enzymes in the pitcher break down the meal.

Sarracenia Purpurea which is the variety I grow can be grown outdoors in the U.K. and this I do using the tray method which involves the pot standing in rainwater. They can also be grown in an outside bog, cold greenhouse or cold frame. Sarracenia grow well in conservatories and sunny windowsills, preferably south facing. I grow my Sarracenia in an unheated but sunny positioned greenhouse. The needs of Sarracenia are a sterile compost mix, rainwater and as much sun as they can get. I use a compost mix of 50/50 moss peat and perlite with a little bit of sharp sand. Rainwater is the best watering medium, collected in a water butt it is free of additives and costs nothing. Tap water will eventually damage the roots and kill the plant.

I start the cultural year in the early spring, March onwards. The plants start to show signs of regrowth, and if mature enough will flower at this time. I usually let the flowers develop, and then cut them down to the rhizome unless needed for seed, this channels the plants energy into pitcher production and at this time I increase the rainwater level in the trays to 10-20 mm to make the plants wet. After the flowers have appeared, the pitcher production starts in earnest. This heralds the start of late spring/early summer. Water can be increased as the temperature rises and sunlight lasts longer to 25-60mm dependent on depth of tray. Keep an eye out for pests such as greenfly and scale insects.

As the summer progresses, pitcher production, colour and plant vigour is at its best. Pitchers should now start to attract flying insects.

In the autumn the pitchers will start to die or be damaged by rotting flies and when this happens then the clean-up of the plant begins! Cut the damage off the pitchers with a pair of scissors. As the days shorten and temperatures fall, you can reduce the rainwater in the trays. Carry on cutting back the dying pitchers in late autumn/early winter , eventually down to the rhizome. Also keep the plants less wet.

Winter is the natural time of year for the plants to rest. Sarracenia should be kept just damp, and allowed to have a cool period. During this time plants can produce non carnivorous leaves and small pitchers.

Late winter/early spring when the plants are dormant propagation and repotting can be done. Also removal of the top layer of compost to clear any unwanted moss and slime mould that might be present. Then the cycle begins again

SHAUN DALTON

## **GROUP PROGRAMMES FOR 2014**

Except where otherwise stated, the Groups meet throughout the year in the Hall on weekday evenings at 8 pm.

### **THE ALPINE GROUP**

The Group meets on the third Monday of each month at 8 pm. See Calendar for details.

### **THE BRIDGE GROUP**

New members will be very welcome; do come and join us.

We meet every Monday at 1.30 pm for beginners and every Friday at 7.15 pm for regular players. For further information contact the Secretary Miss Beryl Makinson 01293 402868

### **THE BONSAI GROUP**

The Group meet on the third Thursday of each month at 8.00pm

August	Restyle Demonstration
September	To be arranged
October	Workshop
November	Annual General meeting and Social evening

### **THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT GROUP**

The Cactus Group meets on the first Monday of the month; please note that the start time is—doors open at 7 pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm

### **COTTAGE GARDEN GROUP**

The Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Everyone Welcome

August 6th	Nature garden visit to Horsham Park
September 3rd	"Yesterday , today and tomorrow" by Helen Poole, Crawley Museum Society
October 1st –	Flowers of New Zealand by Jean Griffin
November 5th –	Flowers and Holiday pictures by Peter Nash
December 3rd	Xmas get together

### **CARNIVOROUS PLANTS**

**General care and cultivation guide for one of the varieties I grow.**

These plants have evolved from nutrient poor habitats such as seeps and sphagnum bogs. They have adapted methods of catching prey to supply themselves with the nutrients needed to flourish. Some of the prey can also pollinate their flowers to set seed.

being able to replace the impractical single glazed windows which have been in existence from the start of the Society. This will help reduce noise and also save on heating costs.

So there you are, still lots going on. I hope you have all had a good gardening year so far. Just going round the allotment now for my first dig of new potatoes, a few bits of salad, to go with a fresh caught trout from yesterday. Supermarkets eat your heart out !!

TREVOR FIGG

### **2014 SHOW DATES**

The dates for the Society's Shows are as follows:

2 August	Fuchsia Show—open 2.00—4.30pm
6 September	Autumn part 1
13 September	Autumn part 2

All the shows are held in the hall and are open to members and general public from 12:30 pm unless otherwise stated

### **BULB SALE**



The annual bulb sale will be held in the Hall over the weekend of 30 and 31 August between the shop opening hours of 9.0am and 12 noon.

## TRADING REPORT

We had a poor start to the year with disastrous potato sales, which ultimately resulted in lost stock through the need to throw sprouting tubers away

The Spring Plant Sale went well except for the shortage of vegetable plants due to our supplier being unable to meet our request. We shall ensure that there are more veg for sale next year.

Sales were generally slow in the early part of the season but have been satisfactory once the weather improved. However, we have had a problem with the 100 L bales of J Arthur Bowers Multipurpose compost being of very poor quality. Fortunately the 56 L bags from a different depot have been fine. J Arthur Bowers is part of Sinclair group and following discussions with the the Sinclair rep about this and their other composts I believe that their quality in 2015 will be satisfactory. The depot from where the 100 L bag was produced has now closed and in future all composts will be from a different site with new machinery and management. Our current Sinclair compost is described as a 'growers' compost.

The 2014 Bulb Sale will be held during shop hours on 30 and 31 August. Autumn onion sets, daffodil and all other Spring bulbs will be on sale in the Hall.

The Fruit and Vegetable group meet on the second Monday of each month. A small number of hardcore members attend for lively chat despite our lack of speakers because unfortunately it is very hard to find speakers. There are few available and they are getting more expensive. However, we do hope to book some speakers this year.

JOHN GREEN

## VERY IMPORTANT!!!

### CHANGE IN SHOP OPENING HOURS



Earlier in the year it was agreed that with effect from October until the end of December, Sunday shop opening hours will be 9.30 am - 12 noon. All other trading arrangements remain the same.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES AND ON YOUR CALENDARS!!

## HIRE OF CHS HALL 2014

As you know, the Crawley Horticultural Hall is available for hire on an agreed basis. The following booking may be of interest:

### Cats Protection, Cats Homing Show, and goods for sale:

Sunday – open to the public 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 5th

### Crawley Museum Society Members' meetings

(a local charity supporting Crawley Museum Centre and Ifield Watermill): Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm Monthly meetings include a lecture on a local subject as well as tea and coffee. All events, unless otherwise stated, are open to members of the Crawley Museum Society and non-members. There is a charge of £1 for members and £2 for non-members. Lectures begin at 7:30pm.

### Crawley Museum Society Lectures for Summer and Autumn 2014

Tuesday 30th September : AGM + Talk by Helen Poole

Tuesday 28th October : "Three Bridges and Worth Slides" (By permission of Peter Allen.) Presented by Stella Berrisford and Bill Puttick

Tuesday 25th November : "The Fascinating Lives of an Empress and a Queen" (Two very different women who became good friends) By Angela Sexton

Tuesday 16th December: Christmas Social Evening (Museum Members only)

Tuesday 27th January 2015 "Great War 1914 - 1918" (The West Sussex Home Front: Civilians at War) By Martin Hayes, the County Studies Librarian

## SHOW SECRETARY'S REPORT

### CHS CALENDAR 2014

	Monday 21	Alpine Group	8.00pm
August	<b>Saturday 2</b>	<b>Fuchsia Show</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>
	Wednesday 6	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 11	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Sunday 17	The Orchid Group	2.30pm
	Monday 18	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 21	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	<b>Sat/Sunday 30 &amp; 31 Bulb Sale in Shop hours</b>		
September	Monday 1	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Wednesday 3	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	<b>Saturday 6</b>	<b>1st CHS Autumn Show</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	Monday 8	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	<b>Saturday 13</b>	<b>2nd Autumn Show</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	Monday 15	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 17	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 18	Bonsai Group AGM	8.00pm
	Sunday 21	The Orchid Group	2.30pm
	<b>Saturday 27</b>	<b>Saturday shop last day</b>	
October	Monday 6	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 13	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 15	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 16	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 18	Quiz Night, Cancer Research	7.30pm
	Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm
November	Monday 3	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Wednesday 5	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 11	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Sunday 16	Orchid Group	2.30pm
	Monday 17	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 19	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 20	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
December	Monday 1	Cactus Group AGM	7.30pm
	Wednesday 3	Cottage Garden Group	9.00pm
	Sunday 15	Shop last day trading 2013	9.00am

### SPRING SHOW 2014

Considering the early spring start the daffodil entries were very good and other classes were well supported. Unfortunately, alpine exhibits were disappointing and the flower classes were down on previous years, probably because of the weather.

The staging of our seasonal shows is an important part of the Society and involves commitment of time and hard work in setting up for the show day. Support from members in setting up or visiting on Show day would be much appreciated and enable our volunteers to feel their hard work was worthwhile.

We are not Chelsea or Hampton Court, but come along and enjoy our local Autumn Shows on 6 and 13 September. There will be plenty to see, plants to buy and homemade refreshments.

### SUMMER SHOW

It was a lovely summery day for our show this year and I was very pleased with the good turnout.

Well done to all our exhibitors who did their best to produce good quality plants despite the difficult weather which started everything growing too early in the garden and allotment. I was very pleased with the appearance in the Hall when all the classes were ready for judging. There was some very colourful exhibits, especially, the sweet peas and roses.

One of the features of the show was an excellent display of Carnivorous Plants provided by Shaun Dalton., some of which were for sale; said to be useful in greenhouse or conservatory.

### Our prize winners were

The Franklin Rose Bowl - Patsy Greenland :

Ted Cook Rose Cup - Janet Brazier

CHRISTINE MARTIN

### ARCHIVES

I would like to thank Derek Mountain for his very generous contribution to our archives. This was a very large box crammed full of various items, including some old film slides of our C.H.S hall being built in 1964. These slides have now also been made into photographs. A great addition to the collection. If anyone else has anything please contact me or bring it along to the shop.

BARRY MORTON

## BONSAI GROUP

The bonsai section is growing and our meetings are buzzing.

Several members helped at the Federation of Bonsai Societies (FoBBS) stand at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, where yet another Gold Medal was gained. Group Chairman, Ray Ward, is having a very busy and exciting year. In March he was added to the FoBBS Roll of Honour for his work in promoting bonsai. Ray is currently restoring a large bonsai (Chinese Elm) for HRH Princess Michael of Kent. The tree was 80% dead when Ray collected the tree, but it is now flourishing and being restyled.

Ray has been invited to visit Shanghai (China) in September for a series of bonsai events. These will include the opening of a new section at the Shanghai Botanical Gardens for the Chinese National Bonsai Collection, and visits to some of China's best bonsai centres. Ray will be giving a talk with slides, on his visit in October or November (watch the CHS notice boards for details).

The group recently put on a display at a bonsai show in Chichester and one of the trees received an award for being the best group planting.

The group also had an evening of members' displays which showed the excellent quality of trees now owned by our members. The award winners were Mark Phillips, Dave Tate and Ray Ward.

All CHS members with any interest in bonsai are always welcome at our meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8.00pm.

RAY WARD

## CRAWLEY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP

Group meets at the CHS Hall on the second Thursday each month (except November and December). Doors open 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm. *Visitors and new members most welcome – phone Jean Smith 01293 402905 for information*

14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST Demonstration by Carolynne Meer - "IT'S IN THE BAG"  
Bags of fun and flowers to enjoy

11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER Demonstration by Lucinda Knapman - "WHAT'S NEW"  
Striking new designs and unusual containers

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP (cont)

9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AGM - Doors open 7 for 7.30pm start  
Demonstration by Gill Homer - "BRIGHT IDEAS"  
Vibrant and colourful creations

20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER OPEN MEETING \* NB not usual club night  
Demonstration by Jacqui Arnold - CHRISTMAS CRACKERS  
Tickets available from September onwards. Venue to be confirmed

11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER MEMBERS' WORKSHOP

## PRIZE WINNERS— GERANIUM SHOW 2014

The winners of the Geranium Show held on 22nd June 2014

Class 1	Ivan Budgen	Best in Show Ted Lyon for Class 11
2	Ted Lyon	Gold Award Ted Lyon for Class 21
3	Peter Mazillius	Silver Award Peter Mazillius for Class 3
4	Peter Mazillius	
5	Jane Brazier	
6	Peter Mazillius	
7	Peter Mazillius	
8	Peter Mazillius	
9	Peter Mazillius	
10	Ted Lyon	
11	Ted Lyon	
12	Ivan Budgen	
14	Anne Scutt	
17	John Green	
18	Ted Lyon	
19	Ted Lyon	
21	Ted Lyon	
22	Peter Mazillius	

The Fuchsia & Pelargonium Group are affiliated to both BFS and PAGS  
British Fuchsia Society and Pelargonium and Geranium Society