



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE CHS SHOP

The Crawley Horticultural Shop in Ifield Avenue, West Green, Crawley (tel. 01293 535585) is open in 2016 from;

SUNDAY	10 January until 25 September	9.00am—12 noon
SUNDAY	2 October until 4 December	9.30am—12 noon
SATURDAY	5 March until 24 September	9.00am - 12.00 noon
WEDNESDAY	6 April until 29 June	6.30pm - 8.00pm

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 in May with printed copies made available for Group Meetings and in the Shop.

Contact Helen Bergin, email editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Enquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Society Secretary, email secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions, and four year subscriptions which expired on 31st December 2015, 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. Renewals can also be made online on the CHS website.

www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk



Crawley Horticultural Society

Spring 2016

Newsletter

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Chairman's Message	Hello and welcome to 2016
Secretary's Report	I hope you are all fit and ready to start another year's gardening. The years seem to be going by faster than ever.
Trading Report	
Show Dates	This is the time of year when the people who run your Society deserve our recognition and thanks.
Plant & Bulb Sales	
Seeds for Sale	John Green, the Trading Secretary, has had another difficult year. Some suppliers are no longer trading; and new contacts have had to be found. He does a fantastic job and without him we would not have a shop. So many thanks to John for his continued excellent work.
Annual General Meeting	
Show Info & Dates	
Arkwright's Archive	
Volunteers	Pauline Chiappori has completed her first year as Show Secretary, and has done a good job in sometimes trying circumstances. So please support the shows!
How We Keep in Touch	
2016 Calendar	
2016 Group Programmes	Our secretary Trevor Figg is retiring in 2016 at the AGM. He has done a fantastic job and he will be greatly missed. Many thanks Trevor, for an excellent job. Well done!!
Chitting Potatoes	
Hall Hire	
Essential Information	Finally, a big thank you to the committee members and non committee members who work behind the scenes and who give up their valuable time.

Best wishes to you all for 2016.
Barry Morton

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello members. Welcome to another year and another newsletter. At the moment in early January its 15 degrees outside and has been in double figures for most of November and December. Daffodil bulbs have been in flower since early December at some locations in Crawley and I have primroses and snowdrops starting to bloom in my own garden. Whilst taking my dog for a walk early in the mornings the dawn chorus is clearly audible, and its early January, how our winters are changing.

It seems more than ever that we as gardeners especially have to adapt, and this is also something the society needs to do to survive and keep our members. As previously mentioned in newsletters and at our AGM we are starting to see a definite decline in people exhibiting and viewing at our shows and our group meetings are becoming difficult to self-finance, especially with the cost of a good speaker etc. There has been a decline in some shop sales. Once upon a time people used to queue for seed potatoes in the second week in January but over the last few years this has not been the case. Also our plant and bulb sales have struggled to meet costs.

So we have to adapt. Some thought has gone into how we can do this by looking at ways we can still provide a good service to our members, without sacrificing too much. Some of these changes will take place at our shows, but more of this from our Show Secretary.

Our groups are still trying to entertain those that come to meetings but we would still like to see more people attending. Not all meetings are on a specific horticultural topics; sometimes a guest speaker is giving a highly interesting talk on another entertaining subject.

Did you know that the Crawley Museum Society use our hall to give talks to its members which we as CHS members can attend for a small fee. They certainly had some very good speakers last year.

So that's where we are now. Make the most of your society and your gardening year. I hope that we have some really cold weather otherwise I can see the shop running out of slug pellets very quickly!!!

Happy Gardening
TREVOR

HALL HIRE

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

CRAWLEY MUSEUM SOCIETY (CMS) TALKS PROGRAMME 7.30pm at Crawley Horticultural Hall Spring 2016

Tuesday February 23 The story of Ifield from the Doomsday Book
to the New Town by Gillian Pitt

Tuesday March 29 Landscape. The Making of the High Weald
by Matthew Pitts

Tuesday April 26 A History of A.P.V by Reg Thirkettle

Tuesday May 31 A local history walk (*to be arranged*)

Entry price is £2 for Crawley Museum Society Members, and £3 to non-Members, with Tea and Coffee (with biscuits) priced at 50p.

CATS PROTECTION HOMING SHOWS And goods for sale

Sunday	21 February
Sunday	12 June
Sunday	9 October

Open to the public 11:00 am to 3:00 pm



CHITTING POTATOES

From 24 January seed potatoes will be in the CHS Shop and a list of the varieties it is hoped to be stocked is now available. For the benefit of new vegetable growers, here's how you get them going.

Chitting is simply another name for 'sprouting' or giving your spuds a kick-start. Some growers say this process should be done in the dark, e.g. in a cupboard or under the stairs while others advocate leaving them in a light but frost-free place. Personally, I prefer the latter because with the "in the dark" method if they are not checked regularly they could quickly develop long straggly shoots which may easily break off when planting out. I usually stand mine on a windowsill.

Whichever method you choose, stand the tubers with the buds or "eyes" upright in a seed tray or similar container – egg boxes are ideal. If there are eyes all over the tuber, choose the end with the most. Sprouting will take about six weeks during which time you should check them regularly rubbing out all but the 3 or 4 strongest shoots. I tend to give the tubers a light spray with water from time to time but they should be kept dryer rather than wet. They should be ready for planting out when the shoots are about one inch (2.5cm) long.

Planting time will vary according to the weather and soil conditions, especially for the first earlies. Folk lore suggests that you should not plant potatoes before Good Friday but as this can vary any time between mid March and the end of April, it is not a very practical guide. I would suggest that here in the South of England and subject to weather and soil conditions, mid to late March is about right for first earlies with other varieties spread throughout April for second earlies and May for your main crop.

When you go to the Shop you will see the different varieties for first early, second early and main crop listed for you to make your choice.

PETER ARMSTRONG

TRADING REPORT

Happy New Year to you all.

Last year trading was a little down on the previous year, although I do my best to make sure our stock is competitively priced.

Last year Sinclair our compost supplier went into administration and Westland acquired Sinclair. Following a meeting with Westland regarding what they would supply, some Arthur Bowers stock will still be available, such as JAB Multipurpose, JAB with John Innes, JAB Ericaceous, JAB Top Soil, plus any stock we have in the compound. Westland don't supply JAB with John Innes, so we may have to find another supplier. The Sinclair products still available are Sinclair All Purpose and Sinclair Potting composts.

On a brighter note, some prices are down but, unfortunately, a few will be slightly more.

Regarding insecticides and fungicides. The ongoing battle with the availability of reducing products will continue, but of course we will soldier on.

The onion sets and shallots will be in the shop on 17 January and seed potatoes will be in on 24 January.

Let us all be hopeful and look forward to a good gardening year.
JOHN GREEN

SEEDS FOR SALE

The new seeds are now in the shop. There are as usual a lot of your old favourites and also some new seeds to try.

We still have some of the Victoria Cross poppy seeds which are raising money for the Royal Hospital Chelsea. £40,000 has already been raised so far and 25p from every packet sold will add to the fund, so please try some.

Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us in 2016 and we can all have a garden full of colourful flowers and plenty of lovely vegetables.

2016 SHOW DATES

Spring Show 2 April 2016

Pelargonium & Geranium Show 18 June 2016

Summer Show 18 June 2016

Fuchsia Show 23 July 2016

Floral Group show 23 July 2016

Autumn Show 3 September 2016



2016 PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale will be held in the hall over the weekend of 21 and 22 May between the hours of 9.0am and 12 noon. Plants Include annual bedding, perennials and vegetables.



BULB SALE

The annual bulb sale will be held in the hall over the weekend 27 & 28 August between the hours of 9.0 am and 12 noon

CRAWLEY FLOWER CLUB 2016

We meet on the second THURSDAY of the month at CRAWLEY HORTICULTURAL HALL, Ifield Avenue, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex

Doors open 7.30 pm. Start 8 pm.

New members and visitors very welcome. Call 01293 402905 for full information

11th FEBRUARY JEAN PLASKETT
demonstration entitled FLORAL IMAGINATION

10th MARCH LINDA TRAVIS
demonstration entitled SPRING FEVER

14th APRIL CAROLYNNE MEER
demonstration entitled IN THE SHADE

12th MAY SACHIKO PEARCE
demonstration entitled FLORAL THEATRE

9th JUNE WORKSHOP for Members

14th JULY STEPHANIE LAING
demonstration entitled A WOOD AFFAIR

11th AUGUST GILL HOMER
demonstration entitled CREATIVE THINKING

8th SEPTEMBER CLAIRE BRYANT
demonstration entitled—THAT'II COME IN HANDY ONE DAY

13th OCTOBER PAT MacDONALD
demonstration entitled TEBE DEE

10th NOVEMBER MARGARET WILLIAMS
demonstration entitled CHRISTMAS TIME

8th DECEMBER WORKSHOP for Members

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We had a trip out to Beedinglee which is part of the original Leonardslee Estate. Our real highlight for the year was when Jean Griffin the local radio personality came and gave us a very interesting talk on New Zealand flowers.

PETER NASH
Treasurer

THE FUCHSIA AND PELARGONIUM GROUP

The Group meetings start at 8.00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month except August and December, and unless otherwise stated are held at the Society's Hall. New members are always welcome.

We are a small friendly group of people who are interested in growing and showing fuchsias and geraniums, We hold our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month except January, August and December. We have allocated cuttings for Geraniums and Fuchsias which are sold to members in February and March meetings and members are expected to show them at the shows in June and August.

We hold a Geranium show on the 3rd Saturday of June each year in conjunction with the CHS Summer Show, and on the last Saturday in July we hold a Fuchsia Show. Rosettes, Cups and Trophies are awarded to the winners and held for one year. There are 22 Classes in the Geranium Show and 25 Classes in the Fuchsia Show. Points are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd awards in both shows which are added together and the winner with the most points receives a silver salver at the AGM which is held in November each year.

Chairperson	Dee Gardener
Secretary	Doreen Budgen
Show Secretary	Ted Lyon
Treasurer	Sheila Lyon
Plus three other Group members	

Speakers arranged by Ted Lyon 01293 402867

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Sixty-third Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Society Hall on Thursday 25th February 2016 at 7.45 pm prompt.

Refreshments will be served after close of business. Please stay and have an informal chat with your committee. Your views are gratefully appreciated for the benefit of all.

TREVOR FIGG
Secretary

SHOW INFORMATION AND DATES 2016

The show committee has decided on some changes to the Spring, Summer and Autumn Shows for 2016

1. Entries will now only be accepted up to 8pm on the Thursday prior to the show.
2. You will no longer be able to stage entries on the Friday evening prior to the show.
3. The two Autumn shows are to be merged into one.
4. The Floral Art group are now joining the Fuchsia show.

These changes are due to lower numbers of people entering the shows and the increasing ages of our helpers, making it more difficult to manage the preparation of the hall as well as they used to.

We hope these changes will not detract from your enjoyment of the Shows and would love to see more of our members coming along to admire the exhibits, enjoy a cup of tea, and a slice of homemade cake, and most of all have a chat with friends.

Please remember the Floral Art group will still require support when they join forces with the Fuchsia group on the 23 July.

If you are interested in helping out in any way, especially with Teas, on our Show dates, please get in touch with me.

2 April	Spring Show,
18 June	Summer Show and Pelargonium & Geranium Show,
23 July	Fuchsia and Floral Art Show,
3 September	Autumn Show,

Please help make 2016 a good year.

ARKWRIGHT'S ARCHIVE

1986—Those were the days

Membership for 1 year	£1
Membership for 4 years	£3.50
Membership for life	£20

Shop prices 3 kilos of	
Ammonia	70p
Growmore	70p
Potash	£1.15p
Rose fertiliser	£1

The spring show was very disappointing with only 19 exhibitors. The summer show however, was quite well supported, despite a terrible growing season.

The shop and hall were redecorated.

Peter Cole trading secretary, had a delivery of 1100 grow bags and 800 bags of Levington compost, which was unloaded in record time by his small band of helpers."

(Note: All these bags were loose in 1986 and not on pallets, like now)!

BARRY MORTON
Archivist

VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank very sincerely all our loyal shop helpers who, with their help, keep the shop operating.



We have 754 members, but only 43 volunteers. Please could you help out? If only for 3 hours a month. It is your Society and your support of the shows, bulb sales and plant sales seems to be lacking. Lets not leave it for someone else to do.

Come and join us behind the scenes and take advantage of the 10% discount off shop purchases for volunteers.

BARRY MORTON

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Our club is flourishing with mainly practical evenings where each member can gain help from experts. Beginners especially welcome. We meet on the third Thursday evening from 8pm.

CHS Bonsai Group contact: Barbara Elliott
Tel: 01293 542312 email bfpelliott@yahoo.co.uk

COTTAGE GARDEN GROUP

The Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month . See Calendar for details

February 3rd	Matchbox filler.
March 2nd	Tabletop sale ?
April 6th	Talk on Daffodils & Narcissi by Mr Goddard
May 4th	TBA
June 1st	Garden visit. The Priest House @ West Hoathly
July 6th	Strawberry Tea
August 3rd	Visit to Worth Park
Sept 7th	Miniature Garden on a small tray
Oct 5th	Talk on "Waddesdon". (A Victorian Garden)
Nov 2nd	TBA
Dec 7th	Xmas get together

During the last year the Cottage Garden Group has had a very successful time.

We are a very friendly group who share a common love of anything to do with gardening in general. This is very useful because despite the difficulty of obtaining suitable speakers, our very creative Secretary, Brian, manages to conjure up a very interesting itinerary throughout the year. He is able to mix a few speakers with a few evening garden visits. We try to share cars as much as possible. These evenings are then mixed with other subjects back at the CHS Hall e.g. quiz nights and digital picture shows etc. We would welcome any new members digital picture shows etc. We would welcome any new members

Last year we had a very interesting talk on how the National Garden Scheme runs.

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GROUP PROGRAMMES FOR 2016

ALPINE GROUP

We are a dedicated group meeting monthly to discuss our plants and pots. Workshops add extra interest and are much enjoyed.

We welcome anyone who is interested in these delightful plants to come along to our meetings. With the trend to small gardens, alpiners are great plants available for all year colour.

At our meetings plants are sometimes available for free or at a small cost.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

A friendly group of fruit and vegetable growers meet and discuss what went wrong and if possible find a solution to the problem. Of course, we also delight in what we did right!

On the whole last year was not a bad year for growing with plenty of success as well as disappointments.

We welcome members from all CHS groups to our meetings as well as new members joining the Horticultural Society.

JOHN GREEN

BONSAI GROUP

Meetings are held every third Thursday of each month in the hall at 8pm, except December.

Once again Crawley had the privilege of hosting Bonsai World in K2. The show was open to all societies, individuals and traders coming from all over Europe, the furthest having travelled from Valencia in Spain. And what a show!

Magnificent trees, perfect miniatures, yet often up to 100 years old. Healthy specimens growing happily in their specially designed pots, carefully nurtured by enthusiastic owners and exquisitely displayed. Crawley Horticultural Society Bonsai group were honoured to take part and we produced a much admired stand.

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HOW WE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU

The Newsletter

We try to issue two Newsletters a year; one in early Spring, which is accompanied by the annual price guide and also acts as notification of the Annual General Meeting, and the other in the Summer. The January edition is sent to all members. The Spring edition is posted on the CHS website, emailed to our mailing list and can be collected from the Shop, Group meetings, and Society events. The Summer edition, if issued, is only available in the shop. Every Newsletter is uploaded to our website.

The CHS Website and CHS Facebook pages

www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk,

Our online presence is where we try to keep you up to date with all the news and events throughout the year.

These are notice boards which gives you details of forthcoming talks, meetings, trips and shows. You will find everything you want to know about shop opening times, show results, photographs, and public events in the hall.

All Newsletters since 2007 are available to be read or downloaded on the website.

Email Addresses

Everyone is aware of the crippling cost of postage. Our small Society is trying to reduce costs and we feel we can save money and offer an improved service of interesting information by using your email address.

When you first join and when you renew your membership, we will ask for your current preferred email address which will enable us to send your Newsletter directly to you as well as news of current activities and events. If you change your email address, please remember to include us in your mailing notification of your new address.

Your inbox is a great way to keep up to date and help us save money!

Thank you.

CHS CALENDAR 2016

Bridge Club every Monday at 1.30pm
For Quiz night Dates see notice boards

February	Monday 8	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 10	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 15	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 17	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 18	Bonsai Group Workshop	8.00pm
	Thursday 25	Society A.G.M.	7.45pm
March	Wednesday 2	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 5	Saturday shop opens	9.00am –12 noon
	Wednesday 9	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 14	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 16	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 17	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Monday 21	Alpine Group	8.00pm
April	Saturday 2	Spring Show	1.30pm
	Wednesday 6	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 6	Shop opens	6.30pm—8.00pm
	Monday 11	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 13	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Wednesday 20	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 21	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Tuesday 18	Alpine Group Show	8.00pm
May	Wednesday 4	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 9	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 11	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 16	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 18	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 19	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Saturday & Sunday 21 & 22	Plant Sale	In Shop hours
June	Wednesday 1	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 8	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	Summer& Pelargonium Shows	1.30pm
	Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 29	Last day shop open	

Calendar (cont)

July	Wednesday 6	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 11	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 13	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 18	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 20	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 21	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 23	Fuchsia Show	1.30pm
	Saturday 23	Floral Group Show	1.30pm
August	Wednesday 3	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 8	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Monday 15	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 18	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Sat/Sun 27 & 28	Bulb Sale	In Shop hours
September	Saturday 3	CHS Autumn Show	1.30pm
	Wednesday 7	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 12	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 14	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Thursday 15	Bonsai Group AGM	8.00pm
	Monday 19	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 21	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 24	Saturday shop last day	
October	Sunday 2	Winter Trading hours	9.30pm
	Wednesday 5	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 10	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 12	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 17	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 19	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 20	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
November	Wednesday 2	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 14	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 9	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 21	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 17	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 16	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
December	Sunday 4	Shop last day trading 2016.	
2017	January	Shop hours 9.00am—12.00	