



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE CHS SHOP

The Crawley Horticultural Shop in Ifield Avenue, West Green, Crawley (tel. 01293 535585) is open in 2015 from;

SUNDAY - From 9th January until 6th December 9.00 am
until 12.00 noon

SATURDAY - From 7th March until 26th September 9.00 am
until 12.00 noon

WEDNESDAY - From 1st April until 25th June— 6.30 pm until 8.00 pm

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 2013, 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 2015

Newsletter

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to 2015

It doesn't seem 5 minutes ago since we were celebrating the new Millennium. Where have 15 years gone?

I have been in the chair for one year already, and have survived so far. Unfortunately, 2014 ended with the loss of two stalwarts of the Society. The sudden passing of Ray Ward and Peter Cole, will both be missed. Ray for all his hard work with the Bonsai group and Peter for the 24 years he was our Trading Secretary.

As always, a very big thank you to all our loyal shop volunteers - without their generous contribution of time it would not be possible to open the shop. Of course, there is always room for a few more new faces. Also, another big thank you to the Thursday gang, who always turn up every week to stock the shelves, maintain and tidy up the place, and generally keep it running smoothly. And lastly, a big thank you to all the committee members for their tireless contributions behind the scenes.

Sadly, our show Secretary, Christine Martin has retired from her position. I would like to thank her so much for all the time and effort she gave to organising all the shows over the last nine years. I hope we will still be seeing her frequently. The new Show secretary will be Mrs Pauline Chiappori and I wish her well in her new role. Happy Gardening!

BARRY MORTON

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi all. Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2015.

So how did your last year's gardening go? We certainly have been challenged by our ever-changing climate, which has been the main topic of our customers' talk in the shop and of members who were hoping to show exhibits at shows over the past year. Now, more than ever, we need to adapt to meet the various challenges that are thrown at us by the weather. The Society, and the committee are also having to adapt to meet the demands of trying to provide a good service to our members, as well as keep our heads above water in meeting our running costs etc. Some of you may have noticed that the hall has now had all the windows replaced with double glazed units greatly reducing traffic noise and cutting our heating costs. Saving this expense has significant importance in running a member donating Society trying to survive in this challenging financial climate.

We try to provide a good service for our members and to meet most people's needs. The visit to the Hampton Court flower show was an outstanding success and it is hoped to provide this opportunity to members again in 2015. The hiring out of our hall and its facilities provides a beneficial income for the society, so if you have a family or social event please contact our hall bookings department who will provide you with a very competitive quote.

Our shop trading is still going well, and our trading committee tries to provide you with the usual good service, despite the very competitive market, AND who else loads your car with the heavy goods?

The various groups are still trying to keep you entertained and interested with various speakers, but trying to get new people interested in the groups with their various aspects of horticulture is a challenging task in competition with sport and other hobbies. As usual we welcome all comments and suggestions of any benefits that might be introduced so we can provide a better service in 2015.

May all your gardening projects, whether planting, sowing, showing or eating, be a great success in 2015, look forward to meeting you all over the next year.
TREVOR FIGG

ACKWRIGHT'S ARCHIVE

Here are some facts from the CHS archives for the year 1981.

Membership cost £1.00 for a year, £4.50 for 4 years and life membership was £20.

We had a total of 1800 members.

1981 was recorded as the year of the slugs? Some things don't change!

The year started very cold, with a hot dry middle and finished with a very wet end. Fred Lowton, the Trading Secretary, reported a successful trading year.

Meanwhile, for sale in the shop;

Growmore	8p a lb.
Potash	11p a lb.
Sulphate of ammonia	8p a lb.
Super phosphate	8p a lb.
Seed trays	3 for £10.

In 1981 the Society organised to trips -

10 May was the trip to Spalding to see the bulb fields.

12 September was the trip to East Malling research station

BARRY MORTON
Archivist

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Everyone is aware of the crippling cost of postage. Our small Society is trying to reduce costs and 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.

HALL HIRE and SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2014

This year our Hall has been in use on 264 occasions: 180 CHS Group meetings, 13 charity events / meetings, 27 private hirings, 17 Management Committee or sub-committee meetings, 19 show and sale uses (including set-up days), 3 Quizzes, 1 Strawberry Tea for our Helpers and 4 other uses, which include the use of our facilities for 'comfort stops' before and after our coach outings to Hampton Court Flower Show and to Wisley.

Crawley Museum Society and Crawley & Reigate Cats Protection have been the main charity users and have encouraged their visitors to be aware of our existence and facilities; all very useful publicity for us.

Private hires have included various family and religious celebrations, provision of training for care-home staff and an annual pensioners' reunion lunch. Of the Groups, the Bridge Group top the list with 89 meetings in the year with most other groups meeting once a month.

We have held three very successful Quizzes this year, the last one, as is our tradition being in support of Cancer Research UK. A Strawberry Tea for the many helpers of the Society was held in July to thank them for all their work over the year.

After much discussion considering the capital costs involved, the Management Committee approved the replacement of the hall's seven years old steel single-glazed 'Crittall' windows with modern sealed double-glazed units. The work was carried out within one hectic day in July in order to minimise the disruption to our hall bookings' programme. The benefits were soon noticed with much-reduced traffic noise in the hall and a discernible reduction in our heating costs.

Other works in hand are: the refurbishment of the hall floor; the provision of a picket fence and access gate to the garden from the car park, in order to visually restrict opportunists taking a short cut across our garden over to the Ambulance Station. Also, we shall be undertaking remedial work to the fire door next to the stage at the end of the hall.

SHEILA AND GRAHAM JONES

TRADING REPORT

Happy New Year to you all.

The shop and compound are now fully stocked and the good news is that some compost prices are down!!! Multipurpose with JI and New Horizon are reduced and we have introduced two new composts this year, - Sinclair Potting and also J A Bowers new Masterblend compost, a mix of peat and loam.

Unfortunately, the bad news is that Bordeaux mixture has been taken off the market (thanks to new EU regulations) - and there is nothing to replace it yet.

I am pleased to say that seed potatoes, onions etc are now in stock.

Throughout the year we hope to offer some bargains - but then after all everything is a bargain in our shop!!

JOHN GREEN

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society's Treasury team has been successful in balancing the annual accounts for 2014 and at the time of writing awaits the auditor's approval..

Readers will be pleased to note that from a £2500 deficit at the end of 2013 can now show a surplus of £800. The trading profit is up but the annual subscriptions are well down. For the full details come along to the AGM and all will be revealed"

2015 SHOW DATES

Spring Show 28th March

Alpine Show 20th April

Cactus Show 23rd May

(For schedule please contact Ian Nelsey 01293 520442)

Pelargonium & Geranium Show 20th June

Summer Show 20th June

Fuchsia Show 1st August

Autumn Show Week One 5th September

Autumn Show Week Two 12th September

PETER COLE In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of another Society stalwart, Peter Cole.

Peter joined the Crawley Horticultural Society in 1977 and within a short time was elected on to the Committee to serve in the trading section. In 1986 he took on the highly responsible job of Trading Secretary, a position he held until retiring in 2010.

Many of you may remember the tall quietly spoken man, always smartly dressed, and always ready to go the extra mile to obtain your gardening needs. He also had a dry sense of humour. I remember each time the bags of composts arrived, I was always late with the unloading, so he made sure the last bag to be unloaded was mine!! That tradition remained for many years. As I say, he had a dry sense of humour, but his heart was in the right place.

Also, he was a very good friend and helped me a great deal when I first took on the post of Secretary. In all the years I knew him I cannot recall one person who had a bad word to say about him.

Peter was of the old school, a real gentleman and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

RON SPRAGET
Deputy President



2015 PLANT SALE

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

RAY WARD - 23:March:1943 - 15:October:2014 In Memoriam -

Mrs Peta Ward

Some club members may be aware of the sudden and unexpected death of Ray on 15 October 2014.

At the time of his passing Ray was chairman of the CHS Bonsai Group and vice chairman of the Federation of British Bonsai Societies. It was in the latter capacity that he had recently returned from Shanghai, having represented them and given a televised speech on behalf of the European delegates. I hasten to add that it was translated into Chinese as Ray always insisted he could only speak English and rubbish.

Ray discovered Bonsai when some friends gave him an indoor bonsai as a birthday gift but like most owners of indoor bonsai it died! Ray wasn't to be beaten so he bought some outdoor plants and joined the Sussex Bonsai group - Sadly his larger plants will now need to be re-homed.

Looking back on Ray's life, it is obvious he enjoyed being involved. As a teenager he entered cycle races (his favourite training run was from Croydon to Brighton and back before Sunday lunch!!); became a football referee; and a scout leader helping to run training courses. He took up golf and was 1988 Captain at Cottesmore Golf Club. When he retired, he discovered Bonsai but also took up bowls; growing (and showing) vegetables and volunteered to work in Broadfield Park. He was their first Chairman and we hope to unveil a memorial bench there for him in April.

PETA WARD

Mr Alan Holbrook

Ray Ward has been the person who has most influenced my life most since I moved to Sussex. Before I met Ray I was a bit of a couch potato - work, home, TV, bed. He was a near neighbour but I met him whilst explaining the benefits of a Green Johanna compost bin to Ray's wife Peta. She said her husband was a member of Crawley Horticultural Society and that the Vegetable group might like to hear about the bin. It was Ray who organised the talk. I started going to the Veg group on a Monday. Then I started to go to the Bonsai meetings with Ray and Peta on Thursdays,

After that things changed for me. I joined CHS, worked in the shop and became a committee member, all the time talking to Ray, and, I hope, encouraging him to grow and show more vegetables. So meeting a whirlwind like Ray changed me from a couch potato to a busy bee.

There is one other thing that I think Ray should be remembered for. It is only a little thing but it has improved a lot of people's lives. He played a bit part in persuading the Council finally to mark out the car parking spaces in our road which has made everyone's life much easier. Thank you Ray.

ALAN HOLBROOKE

THE FUCHSIA & PELARGONIUM GROUP

The Fuchsia and Pelargonium Group meet on the third Wednesday of each month except August and December. See Calendar for dates.

ORCHID GROUP

I regret to announce that the Orchid Group will no longer meet due to lack of numbers. The slot of 14.00 to 17.00 on the 3rd Sunday of the month will remain available should any CHS members wish to start this group up again. Please look at the website for any news of a future Orchid Group.

SALLY MILL —

Orchid Group Chairman (retiring)

CRAWLEY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP

We meet on the second Thursday of the month. Doors open 7.30 pm

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 12th March | Demonstration by Angie Hyde – Songs from the Woods - Woodland spring flowers and musical interpretations |
| 9th April | Demonstration by Christine Payne– Simple Pleasures - Pleasure come from many sources – where this time? |
| 14th May | Demonstration by Christine Nash – Travelling Light - Flowers from around the world and travel....a few tales to tell |
| 11th June | Members' Workshop – information to follow |
| 9th July | Demonstration by Stephen McDonnell – Out of this World - Lots of fun....in fact - an out of this world experience ...no doubt |
| 13th August | Demonstration by Gaenor Circus – Ancient and Modern - Beautiful flowers in both traditional and modern designs |
| 10th September | Open Meeting (Venue and tickets to be advised)
Demonstration by Sandy Bailey – Seasonal Splendour
This is to celebrate the Club's Emerald Anniversary |
| 8th October | AGM - Doors open 7 for 7.30pm start. To be advised |
| 12th November | Demonstration by Hazel McGregor – Floral Fusion - Colours, foliage and unusual containers gives fusion |
| 10th DECEMBER | Member's Workshop – information to follow |

For further details of the Club, please contact Jean Smith on 01293 402905, or email : crawleyfloralarrangementgroup@gmail.com

SEEDS at CHS

We have a selection of popular flower and vegetable seeds on display in the shop including Runner Bean 'BENCHMASTER' a good exhibition bean, with more varieties to be added soon.

The 'VICTORIA CROSS' Poppy was launched last year to mark the centenary of the First World War and is available from a display on the counter in the shop and 25p from every packet sold is pledged to the Royal Hospital Chelsea. They have proved so popular that last August Fothergills Seeds presented a cheque for more than £24,000.00 to the Royal Hospital. Country Value seeds are still only 90p per pack and represent very good value for money.

Our display of loose seeds includes a new variety of Runner Bean called 'EQUATOR' which has good drought tolerance. As Equator is a trial bean for this year we would appreciate your feedback on this variety.

Don't forget that there is 20% off all seeds. Happy Gardening"
PAULINE CHIAPPORI

IVAN BUDGEN

We have the sad news that Ivan Budgen died on Tuesday 17th February 2015.

He was a member of the Crawley Horticultural Society for 40 years and Chairman of the Pelargonium and Fuchsia Group for over 30 years; a very active member of the Society he enjoyed the competitive challenge when entering his plants in the Shows.

A fuller tribute will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.



LOOK NO FURTHER!!Volunteers are needed!!

Especially, but not exclusively ,to help move our heavier shop stock! To find out more, visit the shop or contact the Secretary Trevor Figg

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Sixty-second Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Society Hall on Thursday 26th February 2014 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

AUTUMN SHOWS REPORT

WEEK 1

This was a good show, well supported by exhibitors. Unfortunately the numbers of visiting members was very disappointing. The Shows are staged for the benefit of the Society. A competitive challenge to members with cash rewards and trophies for winning in some classes. A lot of hard work goes into putting on these shows and it is disheartening that so many members fail to take an interest

Happily, visitors who did attend enjoyed the exhibits and a big thank you to all the exhibitors for the efforts and expertise.

WEEK 2

This was exceptionally well supported by the fruit and vegetable growers in 2014. A big thank you to them for putting on such a display and working hard during the growing season.

The domestic classes again were very well supported and our thanks to the members who produced such a high, mouth-watering standard.. Also, we thank the Flower Arranging Group for the exceptional quality of their displays (very difficult to judge such excellence). So a very big vote of thanks to Jean Smith and her members.

We look to see more members at the shows; dates of which can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Details also in the 2015 show schedule, available soon.

JOHN GREEN

THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT GROUP

The Cactus Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; please note that doors open at 7 pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm

8th April Paul Klassen What I saw last Winter - California/Australia
Melocactus Group, Gasteria Group, P.I.F.

13th May Terry Smale Cape Bulbs
Strombocactus Group, Adromischus, P.I.F.

23rd May Cactus and Succulent Show, Plant staging Friday evening

10th June Chris Eyers, Around the Shows
Rebutia group, Echeveria group, P.I.F.

8th July Cliff Thompson Patagonia
Neoporteria Group, Haworthia Group, P.I.F

August No meeting

9th September Tony Roberts S. Africa 2011 Part 1
Mammillaria Group, Mesembs, P.I.F

14th October David Minnion Colorful Colorado - Wild Flowers and Cacti
Espostoa Group, Stapeliad, P.I.F

11th November John Hughes Oaxaca
Echinocereus Group, Caudiciform Succulent, P.I.F

9th December CHS AGM/Social

Contact – Julie Carey - Phone No: 01293 783866 Email the [Group Secretary](#)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROUP

Our diehard group still meet on the second Monday of the month, but we need more members so we can invite speakers. These are getting more expensive to engage and currently we cannot afford to them. We need more members to enable us to make it a worthwhile visit for both group and speaker.

Hope to see you soon.

JOHN GREEN

GROUP PROGRAMMES FOR 2014

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

ALPINE GROUP

A small group still meeting on the third Monday each month for discussions and workshops. All newcomers or anyone interested in finding out more is very welcome to come along to the meetings.

JOHN GREEN

BONSAI GROUP

Ray Ward was an exceptional Chairman and his sad loss has shaken us all. Fortunately members have rallied round and volunteered to take over so we can keep the group going. The Bonsai Club is the most active of all the CHS groups. We always welcome new members. Most of our meetings are practical with experts on hand to give advice or demonstrate. The top event for this year will be the K2 International Bonsai Exhibition on 8th and 9th of August.

We meet every third Thursday of the month. Just turn up with your trees or come to watch and learn. In the raffle we always have trees donated that need tender loving care. Secretary—Barbara Elliott Tel: 01293 542312 Email:

bfelliott@yahoo.co.uk

BERYL ARMSTRONG

COTTAGE GARDEN GROUP

March 4th	Indoor pot plant competition. One pot per member, Judge Bob Taylor - One prize
April 1st	Talk on the NGS - Lesley Chamberlin
May 6th	Plant swap
June 3rd	Garden visit to "Beedinglee" Brighton Road, Lower Beeding Tel Lower Beeding 01403 891251
July 1st	Strawberry tea. Group members invited to tea and biscuits in Pete and Barbs garden.
August 5 th	Garden visit—TBA
Sept 2nd	Speaker TBA
October 7th	Jean Griffin talking about Flowers of New Zealand
November 4th	Quiz
December 2nd	Xmas get together,

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



BULB SALE

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

CRAWLEY MUSEUM SOCIETY (CMS) - TALKS PROGRAMME

SPRING 2015

Last Tuesday of the month - 7.30pm at Crawley Horticultural Society's Hall

February 24 th	50 years of change in Britain. 'From the splitting of the Atom to the coming of the Internet' by Gillian Pitt (CMS Chairman)
March 31 st	Sussex during the Napoleonic Wars, by Helen Poole (CMS Curator)
April 28 th T	The Road to Crawley – a social history, by Carolyn Murpy (Crawley Borough Council Arts Development Manager)
Tues May 26	A History Walk (to be arranged)

CATS PROTECTION HOMING SHOWS

Cats Protection, Cats Homing Show, and goods for sale:
Sundays – open to the public 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on

26th July
4th October.

CHS CALENDAR 2015

Month	Day	Event	Time
February	For Quiz night Dates see notice boards		
	Wednesday 18	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 19	Bonsai Group Workshop	8.00pm
	Thursday 26	Society A.G.M.	7.45pm
March	Wednesday 4	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 7	Saturday shop opens	9.00am –12 noon
	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 28	Spring Show	1.30pm	
April	Wednesday 1	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 8	Shop opens	6.30pm—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
	Tuesday 20	Alpine Group Show	8.00pm
May	Wednesday 6	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 11	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 13	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Saturday & Sunday 16 & 17 Plant Sale		In Shop hours
	Monday 18	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 20	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 21	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
Saturday 23	Cactus Group Show	10.00am	
June	Wednesday 3	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	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	8.00pm
	Saturday 20	Summer & Pelargonium Shows	1.30pm
Wednesday 25	Last day shop open		

Calendar (cont)

Month	Day	Event	Time
July	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
Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
August	Saturday 1	Fuchsia Show	1.30pm
	Wednesday 5	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 10	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Monday 17	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 20	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Sat/Sun 29 & 30	Bulb Sale	In Shop hours
September	Wednesday 2	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 5	1st CHS Autumn Show	1.30pm
	Wednesday 9	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Saturday 12	2nd Autumn Show	1.30pm
	Monday 14	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 16	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 17	Bonsai Group AGM	8.00pm
Monday 21	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
Saturday 26	Saturday shop last day		
October	Wednesday 7	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 12	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 14	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Thursday 15	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Monday 19	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 21	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
November	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
	Thursday 17	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 18	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
Wednesday 2	Cottage Garden Group	9.00pm	
December	Sunday 6	Shop last day trading 2015	9.00am
	Wednesday 9	Cactus Group AGM/Social	7.30pm