

HAMPSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



www.hampsteadhorticulturalsociety.yolasite.com hampsteadhortsoc@ymail.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A happy new gardening year to everyone, once again your committee is organizing ways to keep you busier than busy.

There are Spring & Autumn Shows to look forward to, one day coach tours and week-end coach/train tours, there are local gardens to visit and always interesting personalities that give us an insight into their lives and gardening.

Beginning the New Year with the A.G.M on Sunday 10th March, 2013 at Burgh House at 2.30 p.m.

This will be followed by an illustrated talk by a member of the HHS Rosie Hunt on The Secret Garden in Regents Park.

The 2012 Prize giving day at Burgh House was interesting with plenty of humor and questions flying encouraged by our Chairman Ken Ellis. The deputy Mayor arrived a little late but soon took his place and the prize giving began in alphabetical order. We promise next year to do our home work and know what each prize is related to.

Philippa O'Brien's talk was fun and we learnt to respect all types of bees, my big lesson is to remove the flowers of ivy (an impossible task) in the autumn as the bees collect the nectar which hardens (crystalises) and is therefore not available for their

use especially if there has been a shortage of nectar from other plants and an over load from ivy (and the other culprit is us, we steal the honey for a tea time treat)

During question time we learnt that our Deputy Mayor holds a works position at the North London Waste Centre where our recycling goes, giving us an insight into the benefits.

Something to think about for the 2013 AGM – we hope you agree to the committee increasing the subscription by £1.00 in 2014 and 5p more for entries at show tables

Mary Betts Editor
gladyswood1@talktalk.net

Deputy Mayor Councillor Jonathan Simpson came to present the 2013 prizes. Cllr Chris Knight, who has overall responsibility for environmental issues in Camden, talked about recycling and said that the NW London Waste Authority are giving away loads of compost recycled from green waste collections in the borough, in loads equivalent to four wheelie bins. It is also possible to arrange visits to the recycling centre to see the process, which he can arrange.

Happy New Year to all **Anne Rowe**

Talk at Burgh House, 4 November 2012

Gardening expert Philippa O'Brien gave a talk on gardening for bees and wildlife. She has been a beekeeper for seven years and has five beehives on her West London allotment and garden.

There are 26 varieties of bumblebees in this country and two are under threat. They are the earliest bees to come out in the spring, whereas the honey bee will not come out until at least 12C. Try to leave a natural corner in the garden for wild flowers and leave lawns long in the early part of the year for the queen bumblebees which come out first. Perfect lawns and mulching with gravel, bark and so on, are no good for bumblebees because they can't get through to nest under the soil. They flourish in their wild state, but honey bees will only survive about 18 months in the wild.

Bees need early blossom in the spring to flourish and they need late flowering flowers in August when there is a dearth of pollen and they can starve. At this time they need to build up their strength for the winter.

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London honey is actually better than country honey as there are so many garden plants and flowers, whereas a lot of the countryside has only monoculture crops which do not necessarily have blossom (pollen). London honey is expensive but very good.

Philippa volunteered at the Olympic Park in order to see the many wildflower meadows that were planted and flowered until October. At first there were no insects at all and then a mass of them. Bees can fly three miles to find a good source of nectar. The Bio Trail in the drainage area became a home for frogs, dragonflies and so on.

We learnt that for other wildlife, chilli powder is a good deterrent, i.e. foxes, cats, squirrels. Squirrels are very fond of eating bulbs, especially tulips and daffodils, so grate some old fashioned household soap on top of the bulbs when planting and cover with earth, the smell seems to deter them. Berries are good for birds, after plants have blossomed. Ponds are good for frogs, and bees too need to drink.

Anne Rowe

Chairman's Year Report

Horticultural Hours **Two times tables problem**

IT WAS a problem of tables. Not multiplication, but tables for exhibits.

At the 2012 Spring Show, preparing the night before at the hall new to us in Childs Hill, it looked like we wouldn't have enough tables for the exhibits, but in the end we squeezed them in. It was the opposite at the Autumn 2012 Show in Gospel Oak, a familiar hall. Too many tables, it seemed.

But eventually the stands filled up with plants and food big and small, and prize photographs, and the Autumn Show was a success, too, despite the heavy summer rains.

To go back to the beginning of the year, we came in at Burgh House, Hampstead, with a spirit of both optimism and concern that a new Committee can exhibit (to use a Show word). But here you are reading this with nearly one year gone and we are still in one piece and producing the goods.

Back to the Spring 2012 Show at All Saints Hall in Childs Hill, this included the plant sale at the entrance overlooking the parking spaces. With a good turn out of members

Our annual Plant Sale was in its usual large and lovely location in our former Chairman Margaret Scanlon's garden. Yet again Margaret gave in and opened her garden, after too many years of hosting, because we could not find another location at which to hold the sale.

The summer rains I mentioned showed their proud form at our Annual Garden Party. However, the generosity of our host, Committee Member Gerlinde Kathuria, and the spaciousness of her house proved that a successful garden party could be held indoors as well as out. However, her garden is so impressive that some guests went out to look at it, even in the rain.

For the Annual Prize-giving at Burgh House thank goodness a member of the old Committee helped us through the highly technical bits.

Jonathan Simpson, Camden's deputy Mayor, and Cllr Chris Knight arrived. Mr Simpson presented the prizes, and Mr Knight gave us a handy contact to get more compost than we could possibly need!

The talk that day, on gardening for wildlife, started that great low-flyer in and about the undergrowth, the bumblebee. But, as the speaker Phillippa O'Brien, pointed out, there is not just one type of bumblebee, there are many.

An Annual General Meeting ought to be an exciting event, and this year it will be, for the election of a new chairman. Yes, I'm standing down, and I explain all in my farewell message in this edition of the Newsletter.

See you at Burgh House, Hampstead, on Sunday 10th March, 2013, at 2.30 pm.

--KEN ELLIS
Chairman 2012-13

We look forward to members stories, any hints to help new gardeners, places you want to visit and what you would like to see in your Newsletter. Email Mary gladyswood1@talktalk.net or Tel. 020 7625 9726

Deadline for the April Newsletter is 20th March.

Chairman's Farewell Message

SAVING the Society is rarely mentioned any more.

The previous Committee were astute and put out a call for help in the Press, which was answered by me and others.

Margaret Scanlon, Joan Payne and others of the old Committee stayed on and made our baptism of fire less hot.

In this first year of us newcomers, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Distributors, and important others, including non-Committee helpers, we have achieved much through energy and application.

I thank my fellow Committee-members for their praise and constructive criticism. Our achievements are obvious and there for you to judge.

As outgoing Chairman, I have the right to campaign. At least, I hope I do.

We do need more volunteers, those not wishing to be part of the Committee, but contributing to a specific task. People like Pat and Lisa Webb, distributors of our newsletter, and Ann Jones, who organized coach trips. More Members need to learn email, despite their reluctance.

My decision is a friendly one, the previous committee or at least key figures asked me to do a year in office, I also intend to stand down as a committee member so as not to cramp the style of the succeeding chairperson.

Thank you for the honour of heading a venerable and renowned organization.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Meeting for the elections on Sunday 10th March 2013, when I will officially end my chairmanship.

--KEN ELLIS
Chairman 2012-13

Cheer up all is not lost, this is an opportunity to look at yourself and say, "Perhaps I can have a go at being Chairman for one year, and if the role fits me, stay for another two, or more?"

Editor

AGM Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead. Sunday 10 March 2013 at 2.30pm

WE WANT MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR VOLUNTEER HELPERS, GIVE IT A TRY, WE PROMISE NOT TO OVERLOAD YOU – half an hour at Shows (toilet or tea break) (help setting up or clearing up) your choice.

At the end of the AGM there is an opportunity to treat yourself to tea & cakes.

After the hard work of selecting your committee and questions, we sit back and hear Rosie Hunt give her talk on the Secret Garden in Regent's Park.

Burgh House is within easy reach of Hampstead tube station and the 210, 268 and 46 bus routes.

HHS members forum section

Sad news, Ken Nutt of the Enfield and District Fuchsia Society passed away last summer.

Last year at the AGM Ken Nutt gave us a talk and demonstration of how to grow Fuchsias from cuttings, and showed us photos of his garden blooming full of Fuchsias. His talk was made more interesting by his cheerful personality, and he is missed by Enfield & District as I have heard from a keen Fuchsia grower in our own Society.

LONG WEEK-END TRIP to FLORIADE and FOUR GARDENS

It was with some trepidation that I booked a gardening trip with The Hampstead Horticultural Society for Floriade. I had not been on a specialist group tour since an 18-30's holiday many years ago and even that was with a friend. Would I be regarded as an outsider to this (in my imagination) high powered and experienced gardening group? Would I be cold shouldered as not being a "proper" gardener?

I need not have worried. Thankfully there were some very knowledgeable people amongst the group who in my eagerness to learn and enjoy the experience I plied with questions and who were unfailingly patient and helpful. A big thanks in particular to Ann Jones and Moira Latham. Even if I cannot spell the names properly I think I now know the difference between a Personica and a Euphanatum. I understand that this was the first trip that Ann had organised apart from perhaps some day trips. All I can say is well done Ann Jones.

There is always compromise (as Michael our tour guide kept telling us about the relationship of the Dutch people to its neighbours, occupiers and the sea) when planning a trip like this. Some may say

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that some of what we saw did not have enough actual plants or flowers.

What I thought was that everything that we saw added to my general knowledge. The highlight was of course Floriade itself – a huge exhibition and celebration of gardens and horticulture. At first I thought "Where are the flowers?" but after reflection I realised that apart from the gardens themselves every section you walked around was filled with landscaped plantings.

The educational aspects of the expo were also interesting. The exhibition as a whole was well laid out.

As to the other gardens, we got to know what an architect would do to garden; we learnt the history of a country estate and how illusions can be created; we saw the "daddy" of the prairie garden effect; and finally we saw the home of a hundred gardens – or was it two hundred? A lot to see and reflect upon in a short period of time.

Add to that a couple of good nights out in Arnhem and good company throughout – who could ask for more? A big thanks goes to Michael our guide and Roland our driver. However I think I shall groan if I hear about "the Bridge too far" one more time! Ann asked would I go again. Time and circumstance permitting, yes.

Keep gardening !

Chris Hall

Programme of events to date 2013

Sunday 10 th March AGM & talk 2.30 – 4.30pm	at Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead	Friday 21 st –24 th June 2013 Gardens of the Loire & Chaumont France	New contact: Rosie Hunt 020 7586 4979 rosiehunt@blueyonder.co.uk
Sunday 7 th April 10am Kensington Roof Garden	Kensington Palace & Princess Diana's Children's Playground	Thursday 27 th June HHS Garden Party (evening)	116 Hamilton Terrace, NW8 6.30 – 8pm
Saturday 13 th April Spring Show 2–30 to 4–30pm	All Saints Church Hall, Church Walk, NW2 2TJ Teas and cakes available, plants for sale	Sunday 7 th July Coach day trip to Copped Hall & Beth Chatto's Gardens	Rosie Hunt As above
Thursday 16 th May Coach day trip Batsford Arboretum & Sezincote House	Rosie Hunt 020 7586 4979 rosiehunt@blueyonder.co.uk	Saturday 21 st September Autumn Show 2–30 to 4–30pm	All Saints Church Hall Church Walk, NW2 2TJ Teas and cakes available, plants for sale
Saturday 11 th or 18 th May Plant Sale	At location to be announced In April Newsletter	Sunday 3 rd November 2.30 – 4.30pm	Prize giving and Talk Burgh House, Hampstead
Half term in June Holland Park garden	Walk & picnic, date and information in April NL	Full information for the above programmes follows	

Kensington Roof Garden and Palace garden walk 7th April 9.55am at Barkers for 10 am start – Derry St. off Kensington High St. W8 High St. Kensington Tube & Buses

Where we will meet with the Head Gardener David Lewis and enjoy his special garden

There are three themed gardens sprawling over 1.5 acres including fully grown oaks and fruit trees, growing in just 1.5m of soil, and a flowing stream stocked with fish and wild life. A Spanish garden, Tudor garden and English woodland.

From here we can walk across and through Kensington Palace garden to Bayswater seeing Princess Diana's Children's Playground, or make our way home for Lunch, "the choice is yours".

Spring Show Saturday 13th April

All Saints Church Hall, Church Walk, Childs Hill NW2

As last year, we have booked this cosy hall for our Spring and Autumn Show, it is easy to reach by bus and there is easy parking. You can reach the Church Hall via Cricklewood Lane or Finchley Road (between Lyndale Avenue, Finchley Road and Cricklewood Lane). **Buses:** Finchley Rd. Child Hill area – 13/82 – 328 – 245/460 – 260

There are classes for horticulture, flower arranging, photography and cookery. Please try to enter at least one class if you possibly can, but if not come along and support those who do enter. This is a good opportunity to buy plants, have tea with friends or meet new ones.

The show schedule is included in this Newsletter – do have a look and see what you could enter. It would help if you complete the entry form on the back page and bring with you to the show to help the deputy Show Secretary. Taking part is fun and who knows, you might win a prize! For more information please contact the Show Secretary:– Mary Betts (020) 7625 9726.

There might be a small charge or donation box on entry and raffle.

Saturday 12th or 19th May Hampstead Horticultural Society Plant Sale

Our annual plant sale is in May, but now is the time to think about propagating plants for the sale – whether splitting plants, tending cuttings, or growing from seed.

We need a new venue for the sale, if possible – could any member volunteer their garden? Requirements are easy access to the front or rear garden, space for tables with plants, tea making facilities and area for sitting for tea and cake (if you don't have chairs we will provide).

Date and possible new venue in the April Newsletter.

Please contact the Booking Secretary Anne Rowe on 020 7722 0059 or email annerowe2@aol.co.uk.

TRIPS BY TRAIN and COACH Non members welcome so bring a friend.

Friday 21st – 24th June: Gardens of the Loire & Chaumont, France with – Brightwater Holidays £540.00 per person

(price deduction if more than 20 people booked). Return standard class rail between London & Angers. Services of Brightwater tour manager. Coach visits to Petit-Bordeaux, Parc du Maulevrier, International Garden Festival Chaumont and Chateau de Valmer including wine tasting. Deposit date due Friday 22nd March.

**Contact Rosie Hunt for information: rosiehunt@blueyonder.co.uk Tel. 020 7586 4979
or send SAE to Rosie Hunt, 56E King Henry's Road, London, NW3 3RP.**

One day coach trips

Thursday 16th May Batsford Arboretum & Sezincote House £32.00 per person

Morning visit to Batsford Arboretum, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos. to see the large private collection of trees and shrubs, lunch available at the Terrace Café.

Afternoon visit to Sezincote House to view the romantic water gardens, with pools, streams, & waterfalls. Tour of the unique Indian-style house and afternoon tea available. **For further information contact Rosie Hunt.**

Sunday 7th July Copped Hall & Beth Chatto's Garden in Essex £32.00 per person

Morning visit to see the recently restored walled garden of Copped Hall and afternoon visit to Beth Chatto's, to see gardens of drought, water and woodland situations and buy plants. Light lunch available in the Tea Shop.

For further information contact Rosie Hunt.

Other Interests

Saturday 4th May 2013 10am–4.30pm : London Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair is being held at St Michael's School, North Road, Highgate N6 4BG. The school is on the same side just past the petrol station.

London Plant Heritage www.nccpg.com **There is a small fee.**

Royal Horticultural Society News

Shows at the Horticultural Halls, Vincent Square London SW1 Tel: 020 7649 1885 Dates & Tickets

19 – 20 Feb Flower Show. Theme: Plants & design. First day 10a.m – 7 p.m Second day 10 am – 5 pm

26 – 27 Mar Great London Plant Fair

12 – 13 April RHS London Orchid Show and Botanic Art show, both days 10 am – 5 pm

RHS members £5.00 non members £8.00. Preview 11th £12.00.

SCHEDULE FOR SPRING SHOW: Saturday 13th April 2013

at

All Saints Church Hall, Church Walk, Childs Hill

Staging exhibits 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Judging 12 noon

Open to visitors 2.30 – 4.30

p.m.

Tea and cakes available, plants for sale and raffle

- Class 1 **Narcissi(daffodils) large trumpet** (Lyndhurst Cup) up to 5 cut long trumpet narcissi, any variety can be mixed. (Trumpet as long as, or longer than, perianth)
- Class 2 **Narcissi (daffodils) excluding large trumpet** (Bertram Cup) up to 5 cut narcissi, any variety, can be mixed.
- Class 3 **Tulips**, 5 cut tulips, can be all one variety, or mixed varieties
- Class 4 **Small bulbous flowers** 3 cut flowers of any one variety
- Class 5 **Flowering bulbs** a bowl or pot of flowering bulbs)
- Class 6 **Hellebores** 3 stems, any variety, can be mixed)
- Class 7 **Pot plant(s) flowering** (Society Trophy)
- Class 8 **Pot plant(s) foliage** (Diploma in Horticulture)
- Class 9 **Pot plant(s) succulent or cactus**
- Class 10 **Pot plant(s) grown indoors from seed or cutting**
- Class 11 **Outdoor cut flowers from the exhibitor's garden** Up to 6 stems, each of
a different variety in a plain glass jar (e.g. a jam jar) Names on a card.
- Class 12 **Outdoor cut shrubs or trees in flower** (Arnold Trophy) Up to 6 stems, each of a different variety in a plain glass jar (e.g. a jam jar). Names on a card.
- Class 13 **Flowering shrub from the exhibitor's garden** 1 stem, could be a single flower.
- Class 14 **Camellia** (Horwood Bowl) 1 flower with leaves, no buds
- Class 15 **"My garden in spring"** A basket or trug of spring gleanings from your garden. The diversity and quality of plant material are of most importance. Material may be placed on moss or have ends wrapped to conserve moisture, oasis and jars of water are not permitted.

Floral art classes

Alcoves will be provided for classes 17, 18 and 19. These arrangements should be in proportion to the alcoves, which are 76cm (2' 6") high. Bases are allowed in all classes unless otherwise stated.

NAFAS rules state that the following will lead to disqualification:

- 1) Failure to comply with any specific requirements for a class as stated in the show schedule, i.e. the measurements or components
 - 2) Inclusion of any fresh plant material that does not have its roots or the cut ends of its stems in water or water retaining material. Air plants, cacti, fruits, grass turf, lichen, moss, succulents and vegetables need not conform to this ruling.
 - 3) Inclusion of artificial plant material (unless specifically allowed by a show schedule).
- Class 16 **A miniature flower arrangement** (Ackworth Bowl) Not more than 10cm (4") in any dimension.
- Class 17 **A petite arrangement** (Brearley Cup) Not more than 23cm(9") in any dimension.
- Class 18 **A modern arrangement (freestyle) arrangement** (Ena Cup) Height and width In proportion to alcove (see above).
- Class 19 **"Easter Parade" An interpretive arrangement** Size in proportion to alcove (see above)
Accessories allowed.
- Class 20a **Children's class: A decoration for Easter** 6 – 12 years
Example coloured egg or table display
- Class 20b **Children's Class: A decoration for Easter** 5 or under
Example coloured egg or table display

Domestic Classes

- Class 21 **Grapefruit Marmalade** (Rosette) 1 jar
- Class 22 **Orange Marmalade any variety** (Rosette) 1 jar
- Class 23 **Easter sponge** (Rosette)
- Class 24 **Easter Loaf** (Rosette)

- Class 25 **Vegetarian or chicken pâté (Rosette)**
 Class 26a **Children's class Birds nest with Marzipan eggs in Easter colours 6 – 12 years**
 Class 26b **Children's class Birds nest with Marzipan eggs in Easter colours 5 or under**

*Jars should be clean and labelled with date and variety. Size 340 – 475g with jam pot cover, no screw tops.

Photographic classes

- Class 27 **"Getting ready for Spring"**
 Class 28 **"Fun at Easter"**

Size of photographs to be between postcard and up to but no greater than A4.

Photos can be submitted to the Show Secretary before 10th April

Rules for the Spring Show

1. All classes are open to members and residents of Camden and neighbouring districts.
2. In any class, only one entry per person.
3. Entry fees – members 25p, non-members 30p per exhibit.
4. **Please have entry forms ready for the Show Secretary to save time in the morning when preparing for the Show. There are no entries once the judging has started.** Late entries will be accepted at Secretary's discretion.
5. All exhibits in classes 1 to 6 and 10 to 15 must have been grown by the exhibitor. Exhibits in Classes 7 to 10 must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least 3 months, entries for classes 16 to 26 must have been made by the exhibitor.
6. Exhibits in Classes 7 to 10 and 27 –28 must not have been shown before at any HHS Show.
7. Exhibitors to supply their own containers, dishes, plates etc.
8. **All exhibits to be staged between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on the day of the show.** At noon the hall will be cleared for judging to begin.
9. An exhibitor who has won first prize in any of classes 1 to 15 for three years in succession is eligible only for "Highly Commended" if his/her exhibit comes first in that class in the following year.
10. Any award or prize may be withheld or modified at the discretion of the judges if the exhibits in particular classes are considered unworthy of the award or prize offered.
11. On the relative merits of the exhibits the decision of the judges will be final.
12. Pictures and photography classes are judged by the general public, photographs to be postcard size, colourings and paintings no more than A4 size.
13. All other matters are the responsibility of the Show Secretary.
14. The Society cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage, but reasonable care will be taken.

Show Secretary:

Mary Betts

13 Sandbourne, Abbey Road Estate, London NW8 0BH (020) 7625 9726

SPRING SHOW ENTRY FORM

Please bring to the show to the Show Secretary Mary Betts & Deputy Secretary Kalyani Pal

I wish to enter classes.....

Name..... Tel. no.....

Address.....

Children only: age.....

Pay at show £.....25p per entry, 30p non members

Please bring this completed entry form with you to help us.

Dear Member

If you have not renewed your subscription for 2013, please can you let us have this as soon as possible? A subscription form is below.

If you have paid and sent your self addressed & stamped envelope for your membership card, and have not received it, please telephone Hilda Gill 020) 7435 4733.

If we do not hear from you, we may assume you no longer wish to be a member and stop sending you information.

Hampstead Horticultural Society: Membership renewal form

The annual subscription for 2013 is £7 / £6 for pensioners & under 16s.

Note: a number of members pay for more than one year at a time. You can do this, if it suits you.

Cheques should be made payable to **Hampstead Horticultural Society**.

I enclose a cheque for £..... (or pay cash at the AGM/or Spring show) for my subscription for the year 2013 to 20.....

Title First name..... Last name.....

Street address

..... post code.....

Telephone no Email address.....

It reduces our overheads, saves volunteers time, and speeds up communications if members see the newsletter and annual programme on our website – <http://hampsteadhorticulturalsociety.yolasite.com> – rather than receive it through the post. We let members know about updates by sending an email with a link to the website (not by sending a very long email).

Are you willing to be emailed, so we can let you know when the next newsletter and annual programme is on the website, and occasionally send you other news? **Yes / No**

Are you willing to see the newsletter and annual programme on the website, and not receive a printed paper copy through the post? (You can always change your mind later.) **Yes / No**

Important! I enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for my membership card **Yes / No**

Signed **Date**.....

Please post your completed slip, with your cheque and stamped, self-addressed envelope, to:
HHS Membership Secretary, 11 Briardale Gardens, Hampstead, London NW3 7PN

Confidentiality: The personal information you provide on this slip will be used only in connection with Hampstead Horticultural Society membership and the provision of information to you by us. It will be respected as confidential and safeguarded in accordance with data protection legislation and good practice. It will not be passed on to any other organisation.