



SUNFLOWER NEWS

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HORSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.horshamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk



EVENING GARDEN VISITS 2024

Carol Treharne has now retired from the Committee, and we are delighted that Lynda Eaton will be organising our evening visits this year. She has arranged three lovely visits, as detailed below and, as usual, all visits are on Tuesday evenings, to start at 6.00pm. Sunflower signs will be displayed where appropriate.

Tuesday 21st May 2024

East Clayton Farm, Storrington Road, Washington, RH20 4AG

A little different from our usual garden visits, East Clayton is a 120 acre farm which, during the day, offers young people a safe space where they can learn new life skills in both horticulture and working with small animals. The site was previously a derelict farm owned by the National Trust, and is now leased to the Lonica Trust. Katy will show us the raised beds and tell us about their 'pot to plate' initiative. There is a sensory garden and also a separate pond which has been recently created. There is also a 'therapeutic' smallholding with chickens, turkeys, sheep, pigs, donkeys and goats.

Directions: Take the A24 to Worthing. Turn right at the Storrington roundabout (3rd exit), and soon after the roundabout turn right at the sign post for NT Warren Hill. The car park is up the lane on the left hand side.

The donation is £8, which goes to the Lonica Trust, and includes refreshments.

Tuesday 18th June 2024

Colwood House, Cuckfield Lane, Warninglid, RH17 5SP. Mrs Rosy Brenan

12 acres of garden with mature and specimen trees and lawns. There is a long herbaceous border which overlooks the flower rimmed croquet lawn, plus a cut turf labyrinth and forsythia tunnel. The garden includes water features, statues and gazebos. There is a giant chessboard and a lake with an island and temple.

Directions: From Horsham take the Brighton Road (A281). After 3 miles turn left onto Sandygate Lane at Lower Beeding (B2115), bear slight left towards Handcross. After 1 mile turn right onto Warninglid Lane (B2115) and follow the road for 2 miles, past the Half Moon pub, and Colwood House is on the right.

The donation is £10 for the NGS and includes refreshments.

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Mill Hall Farm, Whitemans Green, Cuckfield (Post code not included as this will take you to the Rugby Club!) Kate & Jonathan Berry

A 2.5 acre 10 year old garden with long maturing view sloping down to a pond and beyond. Long borders with herbaceous planting and ornamental trees. The garden contains a Victorian underground water system, guarded by a nymph, which is used to water the garden. There is a bumpy lawn and no hard paths (no wheelchair access to WC).

Go through Warninglid on the B2115 (as above). Follow the road to the end and then turn right at the T Junction onto the B2114 towards Cuckfield. Go past Cuckfield Golf Club and Garden Centre on the left. After the Cuckfield road sign and Webster Cottages on the right, turn left opposite the playing field and then left into the drive. Parking is on the right at the end.

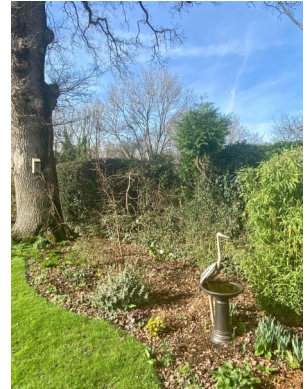
The donation is £10 for the NGS and includes refreshments.

Share your garden photos....

We thought it would be nice for members to have the opportunity to share with other members some photographs of their gardens throughout the year, and so have set up a WhatsApp group called 'The Garden Photo Gang'.

If you would like to join in please text or send a WhatsApp message (with your name) to Jimmy Lee on 07511 212008 and he will add you to the group. We will then compile a selection of photographs for a slide show at one of our future meetings. We look forward to seeing your photos.

February in Silverhayes



2023 INTER-SOCIETY QUIZ REPORT

Bolney Horticultural Society hosted last year's inter-society quiz at the Rawson Hall. This was the first year that Bolney had joined us, and they made every effort to ensure that the evening was a success – the quiz was expertly presented and there was a splendid half time feast to keep the teams and supporters energised.

After a lively evening the scores were totalled and we were delighted that our team had won the quiz! Bolney came a close second followed by Southwater and Mannings Heath.

Well done to our team of quizzers. (L-R Carol Hayton, Lynda Cheeseman, Liz Baguley, Linda Clinton, David Hide and Barrie Clinton). We hope to repeat this success in 2024, when Southwater host the competition on 21st February.



AGM

At the AGM on 9th January the Committee members listed below were elected. The position of President will now be an annual role, selected each year by the Committee from our membership.

President (for the year) - Mrs Diana Hartley
 Chairman— Mr James Lee
 Vice-Chairman—Mrs Carolyn Smith
 Treasurer—Mrs Sally Birchmore
 Show Secretary—Mrs Sue Hammond
 Secretary—Mrs Lynda Cheeseman
 Outings Secretary—Mrs Lynda Eaton
 Committee Members—Mrs Jenny Lee

Carole Treharne has now stepped down from the Committee, and she was thanked for her time on the Committee and for organising our outings over the last few years.

OBITUARY

We were sad to learn that Barbara "Anne" Ankers passed away last May after a short illness.. Anne was a long-standing member of the Society, and condolences were sent to her family on behalf of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, please send your £15 per person (£25 per couple) to the Membership Secretary at Little Oaks, Kentwyns Drive, Horsham, RH13 6EU or pay by bank transfer to: Horsham Horticultural Society, Account No. 00053900, Sort Code 30-94-41.

Please use your name as the reference.

2023 SHOW REPORTS

Our **spring show** last year was held on Sunday 2nd April at North Heath Hall.

The Sunday morning started cool, overcast and gloomy, but by mid afternoon the sun had appeared to welcome visitors to our spring show.

Members produced some high quality exhibits although the cold weather had held back the blooming of tulips.

There was a raffle, a home grown plant and produce stall, and a huge selection of cakes to add to the interest of the main event - the floral displays, cookery and handicraft.

At the end of the day judges had judged, points awarded and cups presented. We had a most successful day!

A full list of winners can be found on our website.



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We held our **summer show** on Saturday 12th August. Over 200 exhibits were entered, so there was a lot of preparation before the doors opened at 2.30 pm. There was a great display for our visitors to see, the hall was packed with the scent and sight of flowers and vegetables in their splendour.

Our two RHS judges had a difficult job deciding which exhibits were winners. They always take their job very seriously and we are grateful for their experience and dedication. For two hours our visitors admired the exhibits, bought raffle tickets and plants on sale as well as enjoying cakes and drinks.



We had a journalist and photographer from [All About Horsham](http://AllAboutHorsham.com) come to give us the once over and interviewed several members of the committee. The show was then featured in a full editorial in the September edition of AAH.



Two of our judges—Vic and Gill Mansell



A hall full of floral splendour

We would welcome new exhibitors in every category to boost the interest for show visitors, so please don't be shy, give it a try. The dates for our shows in 2024 are as follows, and all the information and schedules can be found on our website, horshamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.

Spring Show - Saturday, 6th April 2024
 Summer Show - Saturday, 10th August 2024

RHS GARDEN ENTRY DISCOUNT CARD

The Society is affiliated to the RHS, and as part of this affiliation we have received an RHS Garden Entry Discount Card. This card offers two adults a 50% discount off entry to any RHS Garden (Bridgewater, Harlow Carr, Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley), with the exception of Flower Shows and Glow illumination events. If you would like to borrow this card please contact one of the Committee.

Seed Viability—waste not, want not

Just like packaged fruit and veg, do not assume that seeds past their “use by” date are ready for the bin. The viability will decrease over time, and different seeds have different storage times, but it’s a shame (and can be expensive) to bin them without seeing if they are still viable. Below is a simple test to see if they are still worth using:

1. Lay a piece of damp kitchen towel on a plate, then sprinkle a sample of your old seed in individual rows to aid identification.
2. Cover the plate with cling film and keep it in a warm place indoors. Make sure the towel stays damp and check regularly for signs of germination (noting the date when shoots appear).
3. Germination times vary between veg, but after 2 weeks most viable seeds should have sprouted. Count how many have germinated – if it’s about half, then you’ve got 50 per cent viability. The lower the percentage the more seed you’ll need to sow to get a decent crop.



Here is a general guide to some of the more popular seeds, and how long after their “use by” date they are likely to be viable for (although different sources will vary slightly):

Vegetables	Years		Flowers	Years
Beans & Peas	2-3 years		Anthemis	2-3 years
Beetroot	3-5 years		Antirrhinum	3-4 years
Brassicas	3-5 years		Cosmos	3-4 years
Carrot	3-4 years		Dianthus	2-3 years
Celery	2-3 years		Gaillardia	3-4 years
Chard	3-5 years		Impatiens	2-3 years
Cucumber	5-10 years		Lavender	4-5 years
Lettuce	2-3 years		Marigold	5-6 years
Radish	3-5 years		Petunia	3-4 years
Squash	2-5 years		Sunflower	5-7 years
Tomato	5-10 years		Zinnia	6 years

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The photographic competition will be judged at the Spring Show. If you’re out and about with your camera please consider entering one of the categories this year. The six subjects are as follows:

- Through the Arch
- A Bridge
- Rising Sun
- Setting Sun
- Wheels
- Something beginning with ‘H’

Entries should be submitted to Carolyn Smith, Little Oaks, Kentwyns Drive, Horsham, RH13 6EU by **Sunday, 24th March 2024**. Further details can be found in the show schedule and on our website.