



SUNFLOWER NEWS

ISSUE 18

CHRISTMAS 2020

HORSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.horshamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk



Hello everyone

We have decided to issue our annual Newsletter early this year in light of the events of the past year and the uncertainty going forward. It was certainly a year we could never have predicted, and one that we will never forget!

We would normally use this Newsletter to update you on what has happened over the last year, and what outings and events we can look forward to in the coming year. However, not only were we unable to complete our winter meetings programme last spring, we also had to cancel our shows, outings and evening garden visits. Our planned trip to Wisley also had to be postponed, and we hope to re-schedule this for the Specialist Plant Show in June 2021.

Until we know what the future holds we are not able to advise you of next year's events, so instead we have included a few photographs from members, along with other items which we hope you may find interesting.

We have been fortunate in our area to have had a reasonably low incidence of the virus, however we have all suffered the effects of two lockdowns and limited occasions to be able to meet with each other, or to have any resemblance of a social life. On a brighter note, we were lucky to have enjoyed a spring and summer of lovely weather (despite the constant watering involved!). Hopefully we are now over the worst and can look forward to some sort of normality in the year ahead, particularly if the vaccination programme proves successful.

We will continue to e-mail you with any updates on future meetings and events, including a re-scheduled date for our AGM when this becomes achievable. Please also keep an eye on our website and Facebook page where several members have posted some lovely pictures of their gardens and allotments this year.

In the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



SOCIETY NEWS

INTER-SOCIETY QUIZ 2020

This year's quiz was hosted by Mannings Heath on 5th March at their Village Hall.

Sadly, a few weeks prior to the evening their quizmaster for many years, Dave Hilliam, passed away unexpectedly. Dave, being as organised as ever, had already prepared the quiz and Marion Neden stepped into the breach at the last moment to host the evening, supported by their Committee and other members of the Society. They did a fantastic job at such short notice and provided a wonderful buffet.

It was a close fought match, and Horsham won the cup! Many thanks to our quiz team members, David Hide, Liz Baguley, Linda & Barrie Clinton and Julia & Daryl Muncey.



YOUR COMMITTEE

Lynda Ashby will be stepping down as Chairman of the Society in January 2021. We are sure you will join with us in thanking Lynda for all the time, effort and enthusiasm she has put into the role of Chairman (and previously Vice-Chairman) over many years.

Lynda will continue to support the Committee where she can, and will still be an active member of the Society.

The hunt will now be on for a new Chairman!

2021 SPRING & SUMMER SHOWS

If we are able to hold our shows next year we will use the same show schedule from our cancelled 2020 shows so please keep your current schedules. These will also be available on the Society's website if you have lost your copy.

The dates for next year's shows are:

Spring Show

Saturday, 10th April 2021

Summer Show

Saturday, 7th August 2021

MEMBERSHIP FEES

We will obviously not be asking for annual fees this year (which would normally have been due in October, and which cover the cost of putting on shows, speakers' fees, hall hire, etc).

It may be that we ask for donations for any events and shows that we are able to hold next year.

We will e-mail any updates to the schedule in good time prior to the shows (such as deadlines for submitting entries to the photographic competition) and will also advise on any current safety guidelines regarding use of the hall.

HORTICULTURAL QUIZ

As we won't be able to hold our annual Christmas Social evening and quiz, we have included one below for you to have a try at. Good luck.

1. Bears' breeches is a common name for which plant?
2. Are there 3, 30 or 300 different types of slugs in our gardens?
3. The plant, *Vinca major*, shares its common name with a marine snail. What are they called?
4. When was the first RHS Chelsea Flower Show held?
5. Bodnant Gardens in North Wales are well known for which kinds of plants?
6. What is the common name for the early-flowering plant *Eranthis hyemalis*?
7. What is the name of the late Geoff Hamilton's garden?
8. What word links decomposed leaves and the source of an antibiotic?
9. Where was the oak tree under which Princess Elizabeth was sitting when she heard she had been proclaimed Queen Elizabeth I?
10. Which name links a British truck maker and a conifer?
11. A loganberry is a product of a cross between which two fruit bushes?
12. What is the most comfortable kind of grass to sit on?!

Answers at the bottom of Page 4

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SPOTTING OUR LADYBIRDS...

Do you remember some years ago being warned that there was an invasion of foreign ladybirds which would decimate our native species?

The foreigners were "harlequin" ladybirds, and in 2004 arrived from Russia, China and Japan. They were an assortment of colours, sizes and had different numbers of spots. They carried a sexually transmitted disease and scientists were concerned that the fungus, which is passed on through mating, would infect our native species, potentially wiping them out.

In the autumn people were constantly complaining that swarms of them were invading their houses. Apparently these bugs had to hibernate to escape our British winters or they would perish.



Our native ladybird



"Harlequin" ladybirds

Showing true British spirit, the native bugs fought off the marauders and survived. Luckily they appear to have had limited impact on some native species, although they are now quite well established and most likely here to stay.

SUMMER 2020

A few members' photographs....



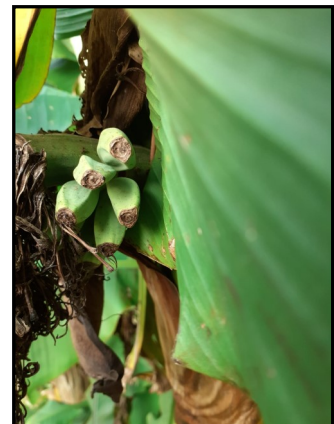
Geoffrey Kirk—Decorating the garden for VE day



Lynda Cheeseman—a welcome garden visitor



Geoffrey Kirk—Iris basking in the sun



Carolyn Smith— Flowers and fruit appeared for the first time on her 15 year old banana plant

And a prize-winning one....

The Countryfile Calendar competition, in aid of Children in Need and which attracted some 60,000 entries, was selected by public vote. The winner was Brian Stokoe for "A Scent of Spring". We think you will agree that his photograph was a worthy winner and has pride of place on the cover of the 2021 calendar.



QUIZ ANSWERS

- (1) Acanthus (2) 30 (3) Periwinkle (4) 1913 (5) Camellias & rhododendrons (6) Winter aconite
(7) Barnsdale (8) Mould (9) Hatfield House in Herts (10) Leyland (11) Blackberry & raspberry (12) Couch