



# SUNFLOWER NEWS

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## HORSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

[www.horshamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.horshamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk)



### EVENING GARDEN VISITS 2023

Our three evening garden visits for this year are detailed below. As usual, all visits are on Tuesday evenings, to start at 6.00pm, and sunflower signs will be displayed where appropriate.

#### **Tuesday 23rd May 2023**

##### **33 THE PLANTATION, WORTHING, WEST SUSSEX BN13 2AE. Mrs Judy Gordon**

This is a medium sized town garden with something of interest all year round. The garden has several mature trees creating a feeling of seclusion. The informal beds contain a mixture of shrubs, perennials, cottage garden plants and spring bulbs. There are little hidden areas to enjoy, a small fish pond and other water features. There is also a pretty log cabin overlooking the garden.

Directions: Take the A24 to Worthing which meets the A27 at the Offington Roundabout. Turn into Offington Lane and then first right into The Plantation.

The donation is £8.50 which includes the refreshments and goes to the NGS. Judy will accompany us in a tour of the garden.

#### **Tuesday 13th June 2023**

##### **IRONWOOD HOUSE, CLAPGATE LANE, SLINFOLD, HORSHAM, RH13 0QU. Mrs Louise Sims**

One acre country garden around former rectory which has been designed, built, planted, and maintained by the present owners over the past thirty years. Formal near the house, becoming less manicured further away. There is a naturalistic pond with boathouse, a formal pool and, in the autumn, a large area devoted to late summer flowering plants and grasses – a haven for many pollinating insects. There are some interesting trees, shrubs, and climbers and many pots with tender perennials. There are also some unusual plants for sale.

Directions: Take the road to Newbridge Nursery, then the A264 towards Billingshurst. Turn right at the Toyota Garage for Slinfold. Follow the road to the Village and turn right before the Primary School, into Clapgate Lane. Ironwood House is first on the left just past the Church.

There is a donation of £8 going to St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley and Louise will take us on a tour of the garden. Hopefully, we will have refreshments outside.

#### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (subject to change—please check on our website nearer the time)**

##### **70 SMITHBARN, HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX, RH13 6DU. Mrs Sue Brundish**

Looking to view a perfect, tidy garden? What you will see is a working garden that offers colour at all times of the year, developed over 20 years by self-confessed plantaholic and past Chair of Horsham in Bloom! Sue's endeavours skilfully cloak the labours of concrete junkie husband Derek who, as a retired scientist, endlessly experiments with structures and edibles!

Directions: From the Comptons Lane roundabout, take the Comptons Lane exit then first left into Millais and follow the road, keeping right into Smithbarn. Sue's house is just along on the left hand side.

The donation is £5 which includes refreshments and Sue will take us on a tour of the garden.

The cost of hiring a coach is still extremely high, and we have again decided not to run an outing until this becomes more affordable for all. We will instead aim to organise a local trip during the summer where members can make their own way there.

Following our interesting talk by Colin McFarlin, a volunteer with WSCC Waste & Recycling, it has been suggested we visit the flagship waste facility at Brookhurst Wood, just outside of Horsham.

This is a chance to see what happens to our household waste once it leaves our homes. The cutting edge Mechanical and Biological Treatment plant has the capacity to process over 310,000 tonnes of waste per year and is capable of shredding, sorting and treating waste, as well as exporting power to the national grid.

Group numbers are restricted, and once we have confirmation of a date we will e-mail you to book your place to this fascinating facility.

Our blue lidded bins and other materials for recycling are taken to Ford MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) who also allow group visits, however this site is slightly more inaccessible to visitors who are less mobile. They do, however, provide a short presentation in their Education Centre (wheelchair accessible) and provide an opportunity to see the MRFs state-of-the-art technology from viewing platforms (no wheelchair access). Those reliant on a walking stick or less mobile can watch live CCTV footage from the Education Centre. Visits last for approx. 2 hours.

If the visit to Brookhurst Wood proves popular, we can then organise a visit to Ford in the future.

At the AGM on 10th January 2023 the following Committee members were re-elected:

Chairman— Vacant  
Vice-Chairman—Mrs Carolyn Smith  
Treasurer—Mrs Sally Birchmore  
Show Secretary—Mrs Sue Hammond  
Outings Secretary—Mrs Carol Treharne  
Secretary—Mrs Lynda Cheeseman  
Committee Members—Mr James Lee  
Mrs Jenny Lee

We would welcome new members, so please contact one of the Committee if you would like further information (contact details can be found on our website).

It was with great sadness that we lost a long-standing member of the Society last November.

Ray served on the Committee for many years and was instrumental in setting up the Society's website, and bringing us into the 21st Century by creating an impressive spreadsheet for working out the scores at our shows.

The Committee had prepared a letter to send to Ray to offer him Honorary Membership as a thank you for his services to the Society, however he sadly passed away before receiving it.

Our condolences are sent to his wife Diana and the family.

**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.**

Thank you for your kind donations to our raffles this year. As you know, we do not charge entry to our shows or evening meetings, or charge for refreshments, and we therefore rely heavily on our raffle to fund these meetings and provide good quality speakers and entertainment.

Your support is very much appreciated.

## 2022 SHOW REPORTS

Our **spring show** last year was held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April – the first one since 2019, and the first to be held on a Sunday. There were a lot of lovely exhibits including a number of daffodils that luckily had survived the rain, wind and the recent cold weather. At one point it was doubtful that any daffodils would survive the conditions at all!

The Show organisers were very pleased with the number of exhibits put in the show by 21 society members. A good number of people attended in the afternoon for viewing, and enjoyed a cup of tea and cake.

We were delighted with the number of raffle prizes and plants donated, and were grateful to the home bakers who provided the cakes.

Judging was carried out by Ron and Brenda Thomas from Pulborough, and Gillian and Vic Mansell from South Holmwood. A full list of prize winners can be found on our website.

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The Show Secretary, Sue Hammond, was very pleased with the number of exhibits put in by Society members at the **summer show** which was held on Saturday, 6th August. The standard of entries was very high, considering the recent very hot weather.

One notable cup winner was Paul Dalby who won several awards including the Festival cup, the Shelley cup for a lovely display of sweet peas, the Nora Pool cup for three Gladioli, the Founders Salver, the Garden News Shield, and the Presidents cup for the most points for flowers fruit and vegetables. He also won the Ron Mitchell cup, the Padwick Floral Bowl and the Banksian medal awarded by the RHS for the most points in the show.

This year we had lots of guests, friends and families who came to the show. Our raffle and plant sales added to the entertainment as well as helping to pay for the hall hire, and we are very grateful to members for their donations. We are lucky to have such a pleasant venue with easy access and parking.

We would like to see more members entering the shows to give Paul a run for his money! The full list of prize winners and photographs can be found on the Society's website, along with the Show Schedules for this year. Some new categories have been added to our Schedule for 2023, so please take a look and consider entering something.



The dates for our shows in 2023 are as follows (please note the Spring show will be on a Sunday again this year), and all the information and schedules can be found on our website.

Sunday, 2nd April 2023

Saturday, 12th August 2023

### 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.



## Fill your home with flowers

There is nothing more rewarding than filling your home with freshly picked flowers from your garden or allotment. There was an interesting article in a recent Gardeners' World magazine with tips for preparing and prolonging your displays that we thought would be worth sharing with you.



Pick stems when it's cool, using sharp, clean secateurs to prevent damage to the stems and to avoid the build-up of bacteria, which will shorten their vase life.

To maximise the longevity, cut the flowers when the buds are starting to unfurl – pick earlier and they may not open at all, pick later and they just won't last. There are exceptions; for instance dahlias should be picked when three-quarters open.

Cut just above a leaf joint, as this is where new growth will form for later picking. Cut the stem at an angle to maximise the exposed cut surface area and therefore increase water uptake.

Get your stems into a bucket or container of water as quickly as possible.

Before arranging, re-cut the stems and remove any leaves that will sit below the water, as these will rot. Make a 2.5cm cut through the base of woody stems to increase water absorption.

Refresh the water every day to prevent the build-up of bacteria.

Position the foliage first and insert the stems so that it criss-crosses, providing a framework in which the rest of the material can be placed. If you want to go for a more naturalistic feel, avoid placing flowers symmetrically.

You don't need to stick to vases – you can re-purpose all manner of vessels such as buckets, tin cans or glass jam jars (we have a new category for just such a display in our Spring Show Schedule!). For larger vessels you may need chicken wire or sticky floral tape to hold the material in place.

Finally, keep the arrangement away from fruit, which gives off a hormone that will hasten the demise of your blooms!

Flowers perfect for picking include Sunflowers, Scabiosa, Nasturtium, Cosmos, Rudbeckia, Dahlia, Antirrhinum, Xerochrysum (strawflowers) and Ammi majus with its frothy foliage and small delicate white flowers.

### 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:

A Gate

Water

A Butterfly

A Winter's Tale

Saving Energy

A View of Horsham

Entries should be submitted to Carolyn Smith, Little Oaks, Kentwyns Drive, Horsham, RH13 6EU by **Sunday, 12th March 2023**. Further details can be found in the show schedule and on our website.