



Chingford Horticultural Society

FOUNDED 1889

Handbook 2020



CHINGFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Is affiliated to:

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
THE NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY
THE NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
THE NATIONAL SWEET PEA SOCIETY
THE NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY
THE BRITISH FUCHSIA SOCIETY
THE BRITISH DELPHINIUM SOCIETY

THE AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

**To further the cause of, and interest in horticulture
throughout its sphere of influence**

President

Honorary Vice Presidents

Mr G.R. Baker

Mrs A. Potts

CHAIRMAN

Mr M. A. Whiteley
62, Beresford Road,
Chingford, E4 6EF
020 8524 2737

Vice Chairman

Mr G. W. Goddard, 25 Mornington Road, Chingford E4 5DT 020 8529 7736

Hon Secretary

Mr A. J. Gillingwater, 91 Beresford Road, Chingford, E4 6EF 020 8529 2910

Hon Asst. Secretary

Mr G. W. Goddard, 25 Mornington Road, Chingford, E4 5DT 020 8529 7736

Hon Show Secretary

Mrs L. Smethurst, 28 Buxton Road, Chingford, E4 7DP. 020 8529 2277

Hon Trading Manager

Mr T Steed, 97 Manor Farm Drive, Chingford, E4 6HJ 020 8529 6311

Hon Membership Secretary

Mrs L. McLellan, 82 Mornington Road, Chingford, E4 7DT 020 8529 6998

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr R. Cleveland, Mrs G. Killian, Ms D. Telfer

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020

Society membership is now 339, a reduction of 15 on last year. Thanks are due to those members who collect subscriptions , some of whom have been doing the job for many years. Inevitably some retire each year and we always need other members to step forward to take over.

The trading store has enjoyed a good year with sales up by 18% on the previous year. Tom Steed, trading manager makes every effort to keep prices competitive. An increasing number of members now appreciate that whilst our composts are not the cheapest around, they are of the highest quality.

As is normal we stage four shows in the Mornington Hall and it is pleasing to report increased attendances this year as well as a significant number of new exhibitors. The plant sales remain a big attraction thanks to those members who donate plants in particular Dorothy Telfer who produces large numbers of quality specimens for each show. Organising and running the shows is a team effort and at a time when many have closed because people could not be found to stage them acknowledgement must be given to Lesley Smethurst, Show Secretary, the committee, Ray McLellan and family, Roddy Maclennan, Michael and Joyce Whiteley and Mr and Mrs Terry Vallis together with all those members who help clear up afterwards. Without all their efforts the show would not occur.

Ten community groups use the hall on a regular basis and they all seem satisfied with the facilities available. The hire fees have never been increased.

SURPLUS SEEDS

Members with seed surplus to their requirements are invited to bring them to the trading store where other members may find them useful.

HORTICULTURAL SUNDRIES

MANURE

The Society has a supply of horse manure available at the Trading Store. No charge is made but members are requested to make a donation of their choice instead.

POTS, SAUCERS AND SEED TRAYS

The Society has a number of these which, although used, are in good condition. In most cases no specific charge is made but a donation is requested.

PLANTS

Plants are sold at bargain prices at the Store throughout the year and at all the Shows. Members with surplus plants are kindly asked to bring them to the Store or to the Shows.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society always needs more volunteers to collect Membership Subscriptions. This is a once a year task and any member able to help should contact the Membership Secretary Mrs L. McLellan (020 8529 6998)

PLANT OF THE YEAR 2020 SEDUM MARCHANT'S BEST RED

Smaller flowers than the usual sedum but plenty of them. Dark red with red foliage good for cutting. 2' tall.

NEW EXHIBITORS

The society always has a ready welcome for new exhibitors and it is essential that fresh faces come forward to maintain the shows. Help and advice is readily available and a friendly atmosphere prevails. There is a particular need for new vegetable exhibitors as entries in this category have fallen recently. Have a go in 2020.

MULCHING

Mulching is adding a layer of material to the soil surface to conserve moisture and to suppress weeds. Decayed manure, leaf mould or compost will also add nutrients to the soil. Grass cuttings may also be used but they need to be dried out first by spreading them out in warm weather or they will rot. Shredded newspaper also makes good mulch. By mulching around root vegetable such as parsnips in the winter the soil is kept workable. Black plastic may be used to keep weeds down but it does not admit moisture and can create a luxury home for slugs and snails. It is best used as a long term mulch to kill off perennial weeds when preparing a new bed.

HYDRANGEAS

Hydrangeas should not be pruned until spring as the shoots that are going to produce flowers need first to overwinter without being destroyed by frost. The fact they are surrounded by other branches which will eventually be pruned and last year's crop of dead blooms will help to see them through. In spring the branches that contain the old flower heads should be cut back to the first strong shoot and if there are none, cut to the ground. Plants that have not been pruned regularly can become enormous and out of shape. They may be cut to the ground in spring and whilst a year's flowering will be lost the bush will have been rejuvenated to give a wonderful display the following year. All hydrangeas should be given a generous feed with a general fertiliser in spring.

ROSE REPLANT DISEASE

If roses are planted in ground where they were previously grown they will often fail to grow properly remaining small and stunted with underdeveloped roots. Something similar can occur with apples, pears, plums and cherries. The cause of this remains a mystery and not something that the experts have been able to solve. One theory is that it is caused by the soil dwelling fungus Pythium which is known to attack roots of young plants Eelworms that carry viruses is also a possibility as is the depletion of nutrients by previous plants. If there is no alternative but to plant in the same position the soil in the planting area should be removed to a depth of one foot and replaced by digging in rotted manure and a dressing of bonemeal.

TOP TIPS

The best time for planting bare rooted plants is from November to March but ideally before Christmas.

Do not water a plant that is wilting in the sun, wait until it has become cooler.

Raspberries and strawberries benefit from a top dressing of sulphates of potash in February.

Keep a full watering can or bucket in the greenhouse. It helps humidity and means that it is always at the correct temperature for watering.

Powdered seaweed is a very good soil conditioner to dig in containing plenty of nutrients including valuable trace elements.

SELECTING and PREPARING VEGETABLES FOR THE SHOW

Uniformity is important for all exhibits which should be clean and free from pests.

BEETROOT. Smooth skins are desirable and retain full length of the tap root. Foliage should be trimmed to approx. 75mm long.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS. Do not remove too many outer leaves.

CABBAGE. Select good shape with fresh, solid heart. Remove outer discoloured leaves. Stage with 50mm of stalk.

CARROTS. Good shape and colour. Foliage trimmed to approx. 75mm long

CAULIFLOWER. Solid white curds free from stain. Stage with 50mm of stalk.

COURGETTE. Young and tender fruits required approx. 150mm in length with flower still attached, if possible.

CUCUMBER. Straight and retain waxy bloom.

FRENCH/ RUNNER BEANS. Straight pods of even length and good colour with no sign of seeds. Exhibit with stalk intact.

LEEKS. Skins as free from blemishes as possible with no bulbing. Avoid excessive tripping of outer leaves.

MARROWS. Young tender fruits which should be less than 350mm long.

ONIONS. Well ripened with good colour. Necks should be firm and thin. Do not remove too many skins. Tops should be tied and roots trimmed to the base.

POTATOES. Medium size and as free from skin blemishes as possible

RHUBARB. Fresh, straight and long stalks.

SHALLOTS. Well ripened with thin necks. Remove loose skins and roots. Tie tops. Stage in dry sand in a saucer.

TOMATOES. Ripe firm fruits of good colour with fresh calyces.

ALLOTMENTS and GARDEN COMPETITIONS

THE GARDEN LOVERS CUP

Awarded for the best garden. Size is not important and the competition is about ordinary gardens, not show places.

MCGLADDERY CUP

Awarded for the best allotment. Vegetables only will be judged.

LOVEGROVE CUP

Awarded for the second best allotment.

FRANCIS and FRANCES HALL CUP

Awarded for the best bed of onions in allotment or garden.
Not exceeding 100' run.

**ENTRIES FOR THESE COMPETITIONS TO BE MADE
BY 18TH JULY TO MRS L SMETHURST – 020 8529 227**

DID YOU KNOW?

According to a nationwide poll, the onion is Britain's favourite vegetable.

The National Fruit Collection at Brogdale in Kent contains 2040 varieties of apples.

Mulberry trees have been known to live for up to 600 years. Syon House in Brentford has two, both planted in 1548.

TRADING STORE

**Larkshall Road
(opposite Dale View Crescent)**

Open Sundays 9.00a.m. – 12 Noon

**A WIDE RANGE OF FERTILIZERS,
COMPOSTS and SUNDRIES ARE STOCKED AT COMPETITIVE
PRICES, INCLUDING:**

SOLID FERTILISERS

**Weighed to the amount you require.
No expensive packaging.**

JOHN INNES and MULTI PURPOSE COMPOST

**Purchase exactly what you require.
Any amount, however small.**

VEGETABLE SEEDS

POTATOES, ONIONS AND BULBS

Available at the appropriate times.

CANES and STAKES, INSECTICIDES and LIQUID FERTILISERS

Most top brands available.

PLANTS

Often available especially in Spring at bargain prices.

Manager: Mr T. Steed (020 8529 6311)

Closed for three weeks around Christmas

OTHER LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SHOWS

BUCKHURST HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spring Show 4th April

Summer Show 11th July

Autumn Show 12th September

St John's Church, High Road, Buckhurst Hill

Details: Mrs J. Jones 020 8257 8996

HIGHAMS PARK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Monthly Gardening Club 2nd Tuesday Monthly

Methodist Church, Winchester Road, Highams Park

Details: Mr D Spicer 020 8531 3178

**Some Benefits of Membership of
*CHINGFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY***

TRADING STORES
4 ANNUAL SHOWS
SOCIAL EVENTS
HORTICULTURAL ADVICE
FREE TICKETS TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES SHOWS

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £4.00

**To join, contact any Officer of the Society,
call at any Trading Stores or visit our Shows.**

**THE SOCIETY'S WEB SITE
WWW.CHINGHORTSOC.ORG.UK**

Regularly updated containing information about the Society including goods available at the Store as well as a full report and pictures from each show plus Show Schedules.