

Hon Secretary

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Hon

Asst. Show Secretary

Ms R. Proud, Carbis Cottage, The Green, Chingford, E4 7EN

Hon Trading Manager

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

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Hon Membership Secretary

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

020 8529 6998

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs G. Killian

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023

Membership of the society is stable at 312 as compared to 310 last year. Thanks are due to all those who collected subscriptions and as ever more volunteers are required.

The trading store has enjoyed a good year but there are challenges ahead as our very efficient suppliers for many years have retired from business and we will be dealing with a new firm. We should thank Aiden Steed who assisted with all the deliveries this year.

The hall continued to be used on a regular basis by various organisations. One new group has recently commenced a weekly hiring.

This report would not be complete without remembering our President, Gerald Goddard who died in February. He was one of the most successful exhibitors in the society's history and also served on the committee in various roles for many years. He is much missed.

The two shows held at the Mornington Hall were successful with good attendances at both. It is pleasing to record that entries were nearly 100 up on last year and we hope that this welcome trend will continue in 2024.

QUOTATION

I have read much and found nothing but uncertainty, lies and fantacism. I know as much today of the essential things as I knew as an infant. I prefer to plant, to sow and be free.

Voltaire.

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 2024 SALVIA FARINACEA VICTORY BLUE

An annual salvia easily grown from seed which produces masses of dark blue flower spikes for a long period. Loved by bees and 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 keep the shows going. Help and advice is readily available and a friendly atmosphere prevails. It is obvious that without exhibitors there can be no shows, so step forward and have a go in 2024.

RHUBARB

The origins of rhubarb are unknown but it was grown as far back as 2700 BC. It did not reach Europe until the 14th century and is first known to have been eaten in Britain in the late 1700's when it was considered a medicinal plant. It became popular in the 18th century as a dessert when sugar became more widely available. Rhubarb should be grown in a sunny open space and plenty of well rotted manure should be worked into the soil. Stems should not be picked during the first year of planting to enable a strong root system to develop. Once established pick up to half of the stems leaving others intact to ensure the plant continues to grow. Feed with a balanced fertiliser and remove flower stems. Clean up the foliage in the autumn to expose the crown to frosts which encourages good crops.

WISTERIA

A member of the pea family, Wisteria is a strong growing climbing shrub noted for magnificent displays of lilac, purple and white flowers. Suitable for walls or pergolas, the main difficulty in growing wisteria is that it grows rampantly producing masses of leaves at the expense of flowers. Pruning is therefore vital to ensure a good crop of blooms. Prune in July to reduce all shoots produced on older stems to five leaves. In February shorten all the sideshoots pruned before to leave two or three buds each.

PRUNING HYDRANGEAS

The pruning of hydrangeas is far from straight forward as it varies according to the type grown. The flowers of the mophead varieties of hydrangea macrophylla should be left on the plant over winter and trimmed off in early spring, cutting back to a pair of strong buds. However, the lace cap varieties of the same hydrangea should be dealt with in a similar way, only in the autumn. Varieties of hydrangea paniculate should be cut back close to ground level in early spring. The attractive oak leaved varieties of hydrangea quercifolia should be cut back to a strong pair of buds immediately after flowering,

FROM THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES

- 1921 The autumn show was cancelled because of extreme drought.
- 1932 Only summer show held in autumn, show not held because of lack of funds.
- 1953 Ten shows staged during the year.
- 1959 B.B.C. Gardeners Question Time programme recorded in Chingford.

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 with foliage trimmed back to the level of the curd.

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 & 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 & 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 & 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
17th JULY TO MR A. J. GILLINGWATER – 020 8529 2910**

DID YOU KNOW?

Mulberry trees have been known to live for up to 600 years.

Strawberries belong to the same family as roses.

A ladybird can eat up to 150 aphids in a day.

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 & STAKES, INSECTICIDES & 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