

Hon Secretary

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

Hon Asst. Secretary

Ms D. Telfer, 17 Park Side, Epping, Essex, CM16 6SS

Hon Show Secretary

Mr R. Cleveland, 1 Jubilee Villas, The Green, Chingford, E4 7EN

020 8524 0761

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

020 8529 6311

Hon Membership Secretary

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

020 8529 6998

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs G. Killian

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2024

The society membership is 298 which is 14 less than last year. This reduction is because fewer members were recruited this year. Thanks are due to all those who collected subscriptions.

The two shows held at Mornington Hall were successful with both being very well attended. However entries were slightly down on 2023 and as has been said before without exhibitors there will be no shows. It is very much up to members to make an effort and put a few entries in.

The trading store again produced good results and thanks are due to all those members who contributed plants and other items for sale. The new suppliers we were dealing with this year proved to be satisfactory. Aiden Steed must be thanked for once again assisting with all the deliveries.

The hall continued to be used regularly during the year.

In June notification was received that Gerald Goddard, our much missed late member had bequeathed a sum of money to the society. The committee are considering how to use this in memory and in a way he would have wished.

RHS GARDEN ENTRY CARD

The society holds a card offering 50% discount for up to two members visiting RHS gardens at times other than when a show is being staged. Any member wishing to use this facility should contact Alan Gillingwater.

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 2025 PHLOX PANICULATA BLUE PARADISE

Fragrant deep violet-blue on black stems. A stunning colour and prolific flowerer 3' 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 2025.

PRUNNING SHRUBS

Many gardens contain some shrubs but it can be difficult to know when and how to prune them without doing more harm than good. Generally the aim should be to have a shrub that has an open vase-like shape, slenderer at the bottom than the top. Damaged, dead or diseased growth should be removed together with thin branches. It is also a good idea to take out some older stems from the centre to improve light. Deciduous shrubs flowering from mid-summer produce blooms on new shoots developed in spring and should be pruned in late winter. Those that flower earlier usually flower earlier usually flower on stems produced the previous year and should be pruned soon after flowering. All evergreen shrubs should be pruned in April to ensure that new growth stimulated by the pruning is not damaged by frost. For those shrubs noted for their colourful, naked stems in winter such as Cornus and Salix, a thinning of the older stems by a third will result in plenty of young shoots for the next year.

LILY BEATLES

Lily beetles first arrived in Britain in the early 1990's and have proved to be a most unwelcome guest. As the name would suggest all members of the lily family are vulnerable to attack from these scarlet pests with black heads. A plant can be stripped of leaves and sometimes flowers eaten as well. Daily checks should be made for the beetles, their cluster of red eggs and larvae which are encased in a black jelly-like excrement. All should be removed and destroyed. Suitable insecticides may also be used.

COURGETTES

Courgettes are very easy to grow and a most productive vegetable. Put two seeds on their sides in a 3" pot in John Innes seed compost and place in a warm, light spot to germinate. When about 1" tall remove the weaker seedling allowing the stronger one to grow on. Plant out when the pot is filled with root. They also make attractive plants when grown in a large container or two to a growbag. When the first flowers appear feed with high potash fertiliser. Courgettes must not be allowed to dry out and must be watered regularly. AS a single plant is capable of producing at least 30 fruit during the growing season you should not need many plants.

LIME

The use of lime seems to have gone out of fashion in recent years which is unfortunate because it has an important part to play in the garden and allotment. Lime is valuable in plant nutrition as a source of calcium as well as neutralising soil acidity. It is particularly useful in improving the structure of clay soil and increases the availability of important plant nutrients. The beneficial activities of earthworms and nitrogen fixing bacteria are encouraged with some soil inhabiting pests discouraged. Lime is best applied in autumn and winter as a top dressing or to a depth of 6". If manure is being applied as well lime should not be used until a few weeks have passed.

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?

Some bamboos in the wild grow 16" each day.

The first cylinder lawn mower was invented in Gloucestershire in 1830.

The largest hedge in the world is in Meikleour, Perthshire. It is 60ft tall.

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