



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### THE CHS SHOP

The Crawley Horticultural Shop in Ifield Avenue, West Green, Crawley (tel. 01293 535585) is open in 2017 from;

SUNDAY	8 January until 24 September	9.00am—12 noon
SUNDAY	1 October until 10 December	9.30am—12 noon
SATURDAY	4 March until 30 September	9.00am - 12.00 noon
WEDNESDAY	5 April until 28 June	6.30pm - 8.00pm

### NEW MEMBERS

The CHS policy for recruiting new members is by word of mouth by you the members. Why not pass the word about the benefits of membership to like-minded friends and relations. A perfect present for a birthday or special occasion would be CHS gift voucher/token to be spent in the shop, or a membership enrolment for one or four years.

### NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter will be on the Society's website in May with printed copies made available for Group Meetings and in the Shop.

Contact Webmaster, email [editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

Enquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Society Secretary, email [secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions, and four year subscriptions which expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, should be renewed as soon as possible. Renewals can be made in the Shop or direct to the Membership Secretary, Ray Bell, 26 Bancroft Road, Maidenbower, Crawley, RH10 7WS, email [membership@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk).

Renewals can also be made online on the CHS website.



# Crawley Horticultural Society

Spring 2017

## Newsletter

### Contents

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Chairman's Message

Hello to all our members. I hope you had a very merry Christmas and wish you all a happy new year.

Secretary's Report

Another 12 months has shot by in no time at all. We had 3 good shows again last year. Well done to our show secretary, Pauline Chiappori.

Show Reports

Trading Secretary

Potato Varieties for Sale

John Green has had another trying year with obtaining supplies for the shop, and does a remarkable job, most of which is unseen by most of our members.

Show Dates

Plant & Bulb Sales

We have just over 750 members, but only 40 volunteers for shop duties. PLEASE help if you can. 10% off purchases for helpers. It's your society, so please help the few that serve you in the shop if you can. Three hours a month would make a vast difference.

Seeds for Sale

Annual General Meeting

Show Info

Unfortunately, the Cottage Garden group has had to close this year and I would like to thank Peter Nash for all his commitment in running it for many years.

Arkwright's Archive

Volunteers

Keeping in Touch

On a sad note, there was a sudden passing of Sheila Jones in July. She was a committee member with her husband Graham and in charge of hall hire and ran the quiz with Graham. She was a truly lovely lady whom I had the privilege to know. She was a true friend to all, and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

2016 Calendar

2017 Group Information

Chitting Potatoes

Hall Hire

I will end by thanking all our shop helpers and committee members for their time and commitment

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have now been in my role as Secretary of the Society for nine months and am still finding my feet. Everyone has been very supportive and helpful as I find out about my duties as a member of the Committee and as Secretary.

Life this year, like the growing season, has had its ups and downs but as every year if we work hard and keep cheerful the rewards are many. Better health and well being from our hard work in the fresh air and with any luck some tasty treats to be harvested all through the season - rabbits, deer and the weather permitting.

Like the garden we can now rest and recuperate, plan next year's crops and order our seeds. Here's to a happy and fruitful 2017

JEANNETTE ALLAN

### SHOW REPORTS

Once again the weather has tried to get the better of us gardeners with long spells of hot weather followed by long spells of heavy rain. Each show has been better than we could have expected with the number of items exhibited but the low number of exhibitors is still very disappointing.

The Spring show started us off with its usual sea of colour that heralds the year ahead and makes us all get excited about what we are going to achieve in the garden or allotment. In the Domestic class it would have been nice to have seen a few more cakes exhibited.

The Summer show bore the brunt of the bad weather with exhibitors not knowing until the day if flowers were going to make it onto the show benches. But as always we managed to produce a show to be proud of.

This year was the first time we have attempted to combine the two Autumn shows but it all worked out well with the hall absolutely full of lovely flowers, vegetables and cakes. The Floral displays joined forces with the Fuschia show this year and both Ted Lyons and Jean Smith were very happy with the result and reported a good attendance of visitors. Our advertising of the shows this year has helped to get a lot more visitors through the doors, which means a lot more teas and cakes being sold.

Once again I would like to thank everyone who helped to set up the hall for each show, all the paperwork involved with the judging, the raffles and finally the ladies who made and sold the cakes with all those cups of tea.

Thank you for your support this year.

Pauline Chiappori Show Secretary

November 2016

### HALL HIRE

As you know, the Crawley Horticultural Hall is available for hire on an agreed basis. The following bookings may be of interest:

### CRAWLEY MUSEUM SOCIETY (CMS)

#### TALKS PROGRAMME

7.30pm at Crawley Horticultural Hall Spring 2016

All meetings start at 7:30 pm. £2.00 for Museum Members, £3.00 for non-members.

*The meeting dates reserved thus far for next year are:*

*Tues Jan 31st Amy Johnson - " Queen of the Skies" by Tony Turner*

*Tues Feb 28th*

*Tues Mar 28th*

*Tues Apr 25th*

*Hopefully finalise the rest of the speakers before the next [Museum] Newsletter.*

Entry price is £2 for Crawley Museum Society Members, and £3 to non-Members, with Tea and Coffee (with biscuits) priced at 50p.

### CATS PROTECTION HOMING SHOWS 2017

And goods for sale

Sunday 8 January

Sunday 11 June

Sunday 8 October

Open to the public 11:00 am to 3:00 pm



## CHITTING POTATOES

From 22 January seed potatoes will be in the CHS Shop and a list of the varieties it is hoped to be stocked is now available. For the benefit of new vegetable growers, here's how you get them going.

Chitting is simply another name for 'sprouting' or giving your spuds a kick-start. Some growers say this process should be done in the dark, e.g. in a cupboard or under the stairs while others advocate leaving them in a light but frost-free place. Personally, I prefer the latter because with the "in the dark" method if they are not checked regularly they could quickly develop long straggly shoots which may easily break off when planting out. I usually stand mine on a windowsill.

Whichever method you choose, stand the tubers with the buds or "eyes" upright in a seed tray or similar container – egg boxes are ideal. If there are eyes all over the tuber, choose the end with the most. Sprouting will take about six weeks during which time you should check them regularly rubbing out all but the 3 or 4 strongest shoots. I tend to give the tubers a light spray with water from time to time but they should be kept dryer rather than wet. They should be ready for planting out when the shoots are about one inch (2.5cm) long.

Planting time will vary according to the weather and soil conditions, especially for the first earlies. Folk lore suggests that you should not plant potatoes before Good Friday but as this can vary any time between mid March and the end of April, it is not a very practical guide. I would suggest that here in the South of England and subject to weather and soil conditions, mid to late March is about right for first earlies with other varieties spread throughout April for second earlies and May for your main crop.

When you go to the Shop you will see the different varieties for first early, second early and main crop listed for you to make your choice.

PETER ARMSTRONG

## TRADING SECRETARY

Hello folks!

2016 was a very inconsistent year for trade. Slow to start, busy late spring and summer, very quiet autumn into winter.

The shop will be well stocked again for January. Some composts are slightly up in price, some still as last year. There are pesticides and weedkillers no longer available but there are new ones on the market to replace them.

Seed potatoes should be available from 22 January at the same price as last year £1.20 per kilo. Dahlias, onion sets and shallots available from February.

**DONT FORGET THE BENEFIT THAT THE SOCIETY OFFERS, IN THAT COMPOSTS AND FERTILISERS ARE MOSTLY CHEAPER IN THE SOCIETY SHOP COMPARED TO ELSEWHERE.**

Happy new year to all.

JOHN GREEN

### **POTATOES - IN STOCK FROM SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2017 (SUBJECT TO WEATHER)**

FIRST EARLY	Aran Pilot Casablanca Lady Cristl Pentland Javelin Swift
SECOND EARLY	Charlotte Kestrel Carlingford
MAINCROP	Cara Desiree Picasso Sarpomira (blight resistant)

## 2017 SHOW DATES

- 1 April Spring show
- 17 April Alpine show (\*show held on a Monday evening)
- 24 June Pelargonium & Geranium show
- 24 June Summer show
- 22 July Fuchsia and Floral Art Show
- 2 September Autumn show



### 2017 PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale will be held in the hall over the weekend of 20 and 21 May between the hours of 9.0am and 12 noon. Plants include annual bedding, perennials and vegetables.



### BULB SALE

The annual bulb sale will be held in the hall over the weekend 26 and 27 August between the hours of 9.0 am and 12 noon

JULY 13th	ROOTS demonstration by ALISON GILLOTT
AUGUST 10th	WISKETS demonstration by CHRISTINA PAYNE
SEPTEMBER 14th	OFF THE WALL demonstration by GILLY GRIFFIN
OCTOBER 12th	BLOOMING MARVELLOUS demonstration by CHRISTINA NASH
NOVEMBER 9th	MEMBERS WORKSHOP – Willow
DECEMBER 14th	XMAS DELIGHTS demonstration by JANICE MASON

### 2017 SEEDS

Some of our seeds are already in the shop and we have some new introductions as well as the old favourites.



Why not try the new Runner Bean “Guinness Record” which has long beans of 45cm and would be ideal for exhibition, or purple Radishes called Viola for your salad.

Among the loose seeds we are trying a new Pea called “Alderman”. Alderman grows to 6 feet tall and can be grown up canes, so if space is limited it could be for you.

The **Country Value** seeds are now **95p per pack** (the first price rise for 3 years) but **ALL** seeds still have 20% off the price.

More seeds will be added soon so please come and browse.

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We hold a Fuchsia show at end of July in conjunction with the Crawley Flower Club and their Floral Art Show Speakers arranged by Ted Lyon 01293 402867

Chairperson Dee Gardener  
Secretary Doreen Budgen  
Show Secretary Ted Lyon  
Treasurer Sheila Lyon  
Plus three other Group members

**CRAWLEY FLOWER CLUB 2017**

VENUE : Crawley Horticultural Hall  
Address: Ifield Avenue, West Green,  
Crawley RH11 7AJ  
Monthly Meeting : 2nd THURSDAY of the month  
Doors open 7.30 pm. Meeting starts 8 pm  
Further Information Call 01293 402905  
(Visitors and New Members welcome)



JANUARY 12th	SOCIAL EVENING FOR MEMBERS
FEBRUARY 9th	BURSTING FULL OF COLOUR demonstration by GRAHAM KING
MARCH 9th	OUT OF MY SHED demonstration by ANGIE HYDE
APRIL 13th	SPRING INTO SUMMER demonstration by STEPHANIE MAYNARD
MAY 11th	POTS & BASKETS demonstration by BURSTOW NURSERY
JUNE 8th	MEMBERS WORKSHOP

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Sixty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Society Hall on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7.45 pm prompt.

Refreshments will be served after close of business. Please stay and have an informal chat with your committee. Your views are gratefully appreciated for the benefit of all.

JEANETTE ALLEN  
Secretary

**SHOW INFORMATION**

To remind you of changes carried over from their introduction in 2016

1. Entries will now only be accepted up to 8pm on the Thursday prior to the show.
2. You will no longer be able to stage entries on the Friday evening prior to the show.
3. The two Autumn shows are to be merged into one.
4. The Floral Art group are now joining the Fuchsia show.

These changes are due to lower numbers of people entering the shows and the increasing ages of our helpers, making it more difficult to manage the preparation of the hall as well as they used to.

We hope these changes will not detract from your enjoyment of the Shows and would love to see more of our members coming along to admire the exhibits, enjoy a cup of tea, and a slice of homemade cake, and most of all have a chat with friends.

Please remember the Floral Art group will still require support when they join forces with the Fuchsia group on the 22 July.

If you are interested in helping out in any way, especially with Teas, on our Show dates, please get in touch with me.

Please help make 2017 a good year.  
PAULINE CHIAPPORI Show Secretary -  
Tel. 01293 517258

## ARKWRIGHT'S ARCHIVE

1991

100 Litres peat £4.90  
John innes £2.60  
Bonemeal 3 kilo £1.70

Blood/fish/bone 3 kilo £1.15  
Growmore 3 kilo 80p  
Superphosphate 3 kilo £1.00

July 14th. A trip to Hampton court flower show was organised for £12.50  
(coach and admission)

May 22nd. Fuchsia group visited Crawley councils Goffs park nursery

July 7th, Visited the Whitbred hop farm at Paddock wood.

BARRY MORTON  
Archivist



## VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank very sincerely all our loyal shop helpers who, with their help, keep the shop operating.

We have 754 members, but only 43 volunteers. Please could you help out? If only for 3 hours a month. It is your Society and your support of the shows, bulb sales and plant sales seems to

be lacking. Lets not leave it for someone else to do.

Come and join us behind the scenes and take advantage of the 10% discount off shop purchases for volunteers.

BARRY MORTON

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

Why do we grow our own fruit & veg? Is it for financial gain? Who can compete with the big supermarkets?



Is it a worry about the chemicals sprayed over the crops penetrating the food we eat and killing off the wildlife?

That is always a consideration. No more Bees no more food. Is it the hedonistic pleasure of a First prize win in our little competitions with a whopping £1.50p prize money? ( possibly!!!)

Or is it going out into the garden or allotment pulling a carrot, washing it under the tap and eating it then and there. Peas straight from the pod, the tangy crunch of a fresh radish, that first plump sun ripened strawberry, sweet juicy raspberry or blackcurrants hard to find in the shops now. Lifting the first new potatoes, harvesting some carrots, french beans a cabbage and then rushing of to the local butcher to buy a joint of lamb as an accompaniment to this vegetable feast.

Is it the company of other like minded people, learning new things trying new varieties, fresh air and exercise the mental challenge of pitting your wits against an insect that runs on instinct not brain power and yet still manages to have a share of your crop?

If this is what you think you would like to do come along to our meetings, talk & tea no digging. See you there..

ALAN HOLBROOKE



## THE FUCHSIA AND PELARGONIUM GROUP

The Group meetings start at 8.00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month except August and December, and unless otherwise stated are held at the Society's Hall. New members are always welcome.

We are a small friendly group of people who are interested in growing and showing fuchsias and geraniums, We have allocated cuttings for Geraniums and Fuchsias which are sold to members in February and March meetings and members are expected to show them at the shows.

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## GROUP PROGRAMMES FOR 2017

### ALPINE GROUP

We are a small friendly group of keen alpine and other plant lovers . We meet once a month for discussions, slide shows and workshops. Every one is welcome. Now that new houses have rather small gardens alpines and associated **plants are ideal. Pay us a visit – we look forward to seeing you**



### BONSAI GROUP

Meetings are held every third Thursday of each month in the hall at 8pm, except December. Our club is flourishing with mainly practical evenings where each member can gain help from experts. Beginners especially welcome. Contact: Barbara Elliott Tel: 01293 542312 email bfpelliott@yahoo.co.uk



### THE BRIDGE GROUP

We meet every Monday at 1.30 pm, and new members are very welcome. Do come and join us. For further information contact the Secretary Miss Beryl Makinson 01293 402868



### THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT GROUP

The Cactus Group meets on the first Monday of the month; please note that the doors open at 7 pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm



## HOW WE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU

### The Newsletter

We try to issue two Newsletters a year; one in early Spring, which is accompanied by the annual price guide and also acts as notification of the Annual General Meeting, and the other in the Summer. The January edition is sent to all members. The Spring edition is posted on the CHS website, emailed to our mailing list and can be collected from the Shop, Group meetings, and Society events. The Summer edition, if issued, is only available in the shop. Every Newsletter is uploaded to our website.

### The CHS Website and CHS Facebook pages

[www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk),

Our online presence is where we try to keep you up to date with all the news and events throughout the year.

These are notice boards which gives you details of forthcoming talks, meetings , trips and shows. You will find everything you want to know about shop opening times, show results, photographs, and public events in the hall.

All Newsletters since 2007 are available to be read or downloaded on the website.

### Email Addresses

Everyone is aware of the crippling cost of postage. Our small Society is trying to reduce costs and we feel we can save money and offer an improved service of interesting information by using your email address.

When you first join and when you renew your membership, we will ask for your current preferred email address which will enable us to send your Newsletter directly to you as well as news of current activities and events. If you change your email address, please remember to include us in your mailing notification of your new address.

Your inbox is a great way to keep up to date and help us save money!

Thank you.

## CHS CALENDAR 2017

**Bridge Club every Monday at 1.30pm**  
**For Quiz night Dates see notice boards**

February	Wednesday 8	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
	Monday 13	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 15	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 16	Bonsai Group Workshop	8.00pm	
	Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 23	Society A.G.M.	7.45pm	
March	<b>Saturday 4</b>	<b>Saturday shop opens</b>	<b>9.00am –12 noon</b>	
	Wednesday 8	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
	Monday 13	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 15	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 16	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
April	<b>Saturday 1</b>	<b>Spring Show</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	
	<b>Wednesday 6</b>	<b>Shop opens</b>	<b>6.30pm—8.00pm</b>	
	Monday 10	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 12	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
	Wednesday 19	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	<b>Monday 17</b>	<b>Alpine Group Show</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	
	Thursday 20	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	May	Monday 8	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
Wednesday 10		Cactus Group	7.30pm	
Monday 15		Alpine Group	8.00pm	
Wednesday 17		Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
Thursday 18		Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday 20 &amp; 21 Plant Sale</b>			<b>In Shop hours</b>	
June	Wednesday 7	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
	Monday 12	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 15	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	Monday 19	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 21	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	<b>Saturday 24</b>	<b>Summer&amp; Pelargonium Shows</b>		<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Wednesday 28</b>	<b>Last day shop open</b>	<b>6.30—8.00 pm</b>	

## Calendar (cont)

July	Monday 10	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 12	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 17	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 19	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 20	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	<b>Saturday 22</b>	<b>Fuchsia Show</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday 22</b>	<b>Floral Group Show</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	
August	Monday 7	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Monday 14	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 17	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	<b>Sat/Sun 26 &amp; 27</b>	<b>Bulb Sale</b>	<b>In Shop hours</b>
	September	<b>Saturday 2</b>	<b>CHS Autumn Show</b>
Monday 11		Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
Wednesday 3		Cactus Group	7.30pm
Thursday 21		Bonsai Group AGM	8.00pm
Monday 18		Alpine Group	8.00pm
Wednesday 20		Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
<b>Saturday 28</b>		<b>Saturday shop last day</b>	
October	<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>Winter Trading hours</b>	<b>9.30pm</b>
	Monday 9	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 11	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 16	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 18	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 19	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
November	Monday 13	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 8	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 16	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 15	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	December	<b>Sunday 10</b>	<b>Shop last day trading 2016.</b>
<b>2018</b>		<b>January 14 Shop re-opens</b>	<b>9.00am</b>