

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE CHS SHOP

The Crawley Horticultural Shop in Ifield Avenue, West Green, Crawley (tel. 01293 535585) is open in 2010 from;

10am until 12 noon every Thursday from January to 9 December
9.00am until 12 noon every Sunday until 12 December,
9.00am until 12 noon every Saturday from 6 March
until 25 September, and
6.30pm until 8.00pm every Wednesday from 7 April
until 30 June.

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 by early February with printed copies made available for Group Meetings and in the Shop. Contact Helen Bergin, Telephone 01293 535972
Email—bergreen2003@yahoo.co.uk
Enquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Chrissie Smith—telephone 01293 539221

If you would like to receive your Newsletter by email, please contact the Membership Secretary, Peter Nash on 01293 511919

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions, and four year subscriptions taken out in 2005 expired on 31st December 2009, should be renewed as soon as possible. Renewals can be made in the Shop or direct to the Membership Secretary, Peter Nash, 65 Millbank, Ifield, Crawley. RH11 0JQ.

www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk



January 2010

Crawley Horticultural Society

Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

I would like to start this message by saying thanks to all the Officers, the committee and shop helpers who do so much to keep the Society running smoothly. There is a tremendous amount of work which goes in to keeping the shop stocked and of purchasing stock, an ever more difficult job. There are greater headaches each year as we cope with increasing prices and stock availability.

The job of Group Secretary is also becoming harder with fewer speakers available and costs to cover expenses always rising - please support the Groups as much as possible.

Attention all you vegetable growers! Keep up the good work in 2010. We have plenty of seeds in many varieties of vegetables, salads and flowers as well as a large range of potatoes and onions to buy in season. Why not come along to the spring and summer shows and enter what you have grown to show what you can do and perhaps win a prize.

Details about the Plant and Bulb sales are at the bottom of the page.

Best wishes to you all.

JOHN GREEN

Plant Sale 15 AND 16 MAY

Bulb Sale 28 AND 29 AUGUST

www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

SECRETARY'S REPORT

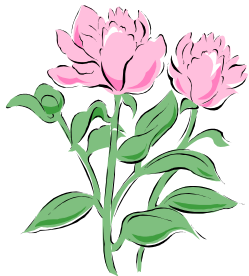
Here we are again starting another year. Last year was very good for the society - Our membership numbers grew, our stock flew out of the compound and we attended a number of interesting community projects.

For instance, we had celebrities here when Charlie Dimmock and Chris Collins from TV visited for the Interfaith Garden project organised by the RHS. Christine Martin and I ran a container garden workshop for London Quadrant in Broadfield which was very well attended and enjoyed by all who came, including the two of us.

The town of Crawley did very well in the South and Southeast in Bloom competition, with two Gold awards, beating Horsham. I attended the Award ceremony at the Hawth on Tuesday, 17 November with Christine Martin and was surprised and delighted to receive a Certificate of Excellence for the outstanding work and support given to the community by the Crawley Horticultural Society. It just goes to show how getting involved can get the Society noticed. This Certificate is hanging on display in the main hall.

Let us hope the weather in this forthcoming year will be kinder to us gardeners, with a little more sun and a little less rain! Happy gardening to everyone and I hope you are all successful in your ventures.

CHRISSIE SMITH



2010 PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale will be held in the hall over weekend 15 and 16 May between the hours of 9.0am and 12 noon. Includes bedding, perennials and vegetables.

WISLEY TRIP

Friday 11th September saw a group of members and friends gathered in the West Green car park for a coach outing organised by Mabel Clackson to the Mecca for gardeners, the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. To some it was an annual pilgrimage but for Beryl and I it would be a first visit for over 30 years. We were keen to see if we remembered anything of that previous occasion.

Initial impressions were not promising with so much traffic it took over an hour for our coach to get in, but once through the entrance stile and armed with a most comprehensive guide of what's to see and where to see it, the day promised to be a most enjoyable one.

Straight away we recollected the main building and the rectangular pond as you set off on your journey of exploration. Later in the day we remembered the regimental rows of trial grounds seen from the hill. On this particular day there was an extensive craft fair in the grounds (thus the traffic jam) which was comprised of a number of small tents rather than one large marquee. The crafts on offer were exquisite but largely beyond our pocket and anyway we had come to see the gardens.

There is an awful lot to see at Wisley and several miles of foot-paths. Without the map one would be doubling back on oneself many times. However we planned our route and by the time we had to return to the coach we HAD managed to cover pretty well everything although a bit sore of foot. We had taken sandwiches to save time but I understand the restaurant facilities were excellent but with long queues.

Of all the features seen, we were most impressed with the huge multilevel glasshouse and spent quite a while exploring it. We were also taken with the several sculptures dotted around the gardens and the view from the viewing platform on a little hill but with so much to see it is not possible to pick out all the interesting items. Sufficient to say, Wisley is a must for anyone with even only the slightest interest in gardening. Thank you Mabel for organising the trip.

PETER ARMSTRONG

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2009 (cont)

We are very grateful for all the prizes that have been donated over the year; the biscuits and chocolates are always very popular. Our special thanks go to Mabel for setting the questions and for her general organisation, making the quiz nights so popular. The first Quiz booked for 2010 is on January 23rd - our annual charity quiz for Cancer Research UK.

GRAHAM AND SHEILA JONES

ARE YOU AN ALLOTMENT HOLDER?

As an active allotment holder, you will almost certainly be making the most of your CHS membership and the shop, but do your fellow plot holders?

Have you told them about all the benefits of belonging to CHS?

The Fruit & Vegetable Group, the various shows and the excitement of winning a class or cup.

Where do they buy all their gardening commodities? Tell them about the CHS Shop; the wide range of items on offer and the savings that can be made; Seed Potatoes, Onion Sets, Vegetable Seeds, Fertilisers, Composts, Insecticides, Weed killers, Canes, Netting and much, much more!!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



We are always in need of more helpers in the shop.

If you can spare 3 hours on either a Saturday or Sunday morning at about 6 week intervals your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Besides the company and the free flowing tea and biscuits, you will be entitled to a 10% discount on your own purchases.

The shop is the life blood of the Society and without it the Society would not be able to function. If you can help, please contact Chrissie Smith on 01293 539221 or have a word with the duty committee member in the shop.

TRADING REPORT

Seed potatoes have been ordered for delivery during week commencing Monday, 18 January. varieties will be much the same as usual although Accent and Anya are not available this year, so Accord and Lady Christl, both earlies, have been added. Delivery subject to weather conditions.

New items to our shelves are: Bayer Long Lasting Ground Clear which is claimed to be an alternative to sodium chlorate which is a banned substance. Bayer Moss Killer ready to use for hard surfaces. Bayer Supergreen Feed, Weed and Mosskiller 50 sq m for the smaller lawn. and also Maxicrop Moss Killer and Lawn Tonic for even smaller areas.

Sinclair All Purpose Compost 80 litres, which is a professional product was obtained by accident but some people found it to be an improvement to the usual multipurpose retail product. Needless to say it is also more expensive, but nevertheless, a quantity has been ordered for 2010 which should be less expensive, so we hope more people will give it a try.

We understand that Bayer are intending to introduce Fruit and Vegetable Disease Control to replace Dithane which will be discontinued.

This will be the last time that I shall be writing to you as I am stepping down from the Committee in February and there will be a new Trading Secretary. I trust you will support my successor by using the shop as you have done for me. Which leaves me to wish you all success with your gardening and very good health in the future.

PETER COLE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Hall on Thursday, 25 February, commencing at 7.45 pm. Nominations for the posts of Chairman or Officers must be with the Hon. Secretary two weeks prior to the AGM.

SHOW REPORTS

SUMMER SHOW

Once again our luck held out with the weather and so many of the entries were of a very high standard. This also meant that the entries overall were slightly higher than last year. I was pleased to see an entry in the Franklin Rose Bowl, this was won by Peter Haffrey from Eastbourne, but I would like to see more exhibitors from the Crawley area entering this class.

The Sweet Peas were wonderful this year and the Bradshaw Cup was won by Dennis Collins, well done Dennis.

The floral classes were also very good and, once again, Joan Thrift won the C.D. Wales Cup. I am puzzled as to why more of you don't enter this class so perhaps you could think about it in 2010. Again, I was pleased to see a slight increase in the number of people entering the show and I hope this continues next year.

AUTUMN SHOW WEEK 1

It was wonderful to see so many entries in the Vegetable and Fruit Classes and even though they did cause some problems trying to fit in everything, it was worth it. Again I was pleased to see two entries in the John Bass Cup, which was won by Dennis Collins. Some of you may have seen the photograph printed by the Crawley News as they visited the show and took several photos.

AUTUMN SHOW WEEK 2

Sadly exhibitor numbers were down as were the number of entries. This was possibly due to the fact that the show was a week later than we normally hold it and hopefully things will improve next year.

CHRISTINE MARTIN.



2010 BULB SALE

The annual bulb sale will be held in the hall over the weekend of 28 and 29 August between the hours of 9.0am and 12 noon

THE ORCHID GROUP

All meetings are on the third Sunday of the month from 2.30 to 4.30 pm unless otherwise listed.

January 17	AGM with Cheese & Wine
February 21	Outing to McBean's Orchids
March 21	No meeting (London Orchid Show)
April 18	Spring Show
May 9	T.B.D.
June 13	T.B.D.
July 18	T.B.D.
August 15	Open meeting & Quiz
September 19	T.B.D.
October 17	T.B.D.
November 21	Autumn Show
December 19	Christmas get together

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2009

During 2009 we have run six quizzes. The first was for the Scouts, who hired the hall and did all the catering, etc. They asked us if we would do the questions and scoring for them, as we had more expertise! The next quiz was for the Horley Evening Townswomen's Guild, who again hired the hall and did the food, and we provided the questions and know-how. After these two quizzes, it was agreed that all quizzes that we run would only be for the benefit of the Society, apart from our Annual Charity Quiz for Cancer Research UK.

All the events have been well attended and much enjoyed. We raised the ticket price for quizzes from £5 to £6 to cover the significant increase in the cost of food.

Thank you to all those who have helped with the catering - producing ten large loaves of sandwiches to a consistent standard is no mean feat, not to mention approximately 150 cakes, biscuits and other comestibles for each quiz!

Thank you also to the team who turn up early on the Saturday morning to set out and lay up the tables and chairs; to Albert for doing the printing; to the washers-up and to those who, on Sunday morning, clear the tables away and clean up the floor after the events.

CACTUS GROUP 2010

The Cactus Group meets on the first Monday of the month; please note that the start time is—doors open at 7 pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm. See Calendar for dates.

Date	Speaker	Topic	Table Show
1 Feb	Tony Roberts	My world of Mammilarias	Parodia Gp Euphorbia Plant in Flower
1 Mar	Terry Smale	Succulents from the winter rains	Neoporteria Gp Haworthia Gp Plant in flower
5 Apr	TBA	Grafting	Melocactus Gp Gasteria Gp Plant in flower
11 Apr	Paul Hoxey	Derek Desborough Memorial Lecture Contact Secretary on 01293 862422 for details	
3 May	Paul Klaassen	What I saw last winter	Rebutia Gp Sansevieria Gp Plant in flower
29 May 7 June	Annual Show David Slade	Venue CHS Hall, Ifield Avenue Crawley Cacti in South Africa	Echinocereous Gp Caudiform succulent Plant in flower
5 July	Cliff Thompson	Southern Peru	Cristate/ Variegated cactus Cristate/Variegated succulent
August	No meeting		
6 Sept	Angie Money	Chile now & then	Strombocactus Gp Adromischus Gp Plant in flower
4 Oct	Jonathan Clark	Lithops in captivity East to West!	Gymnocalycium Gp Lithops Plant in Flower
1 Nov	David Neville	Cactus hunting in the South of France	Espostoa Gp Stapeliad Plant in flower
6 Dec		A.G.M Sales table & Social	

2010 SHOW DATES

The dates for the Shows in 2010 are as follows:

CHS Spring Show	Saturday, 27 March
Orchard Spring Show	April 18
Cactus Group Annual Show	Saturday, 29 May
CHS Summer Show including the Geranium Show	Saturday 12 June.
Fuchsia Show	Saturday 7 August
CHS Autumn Shows	Saturdays 4 and 11 September.
Orchid Autumn Show	Sunday 21 November

All the shows are held in the hall and are open to members and general public from 1.30pm except the Cactus Show which is open from 10.00am

THE NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

Bonsai growing is part of an International Federation. Last summer the Sussex Bonsai Group of Wivelsfield Green hosted the national exhibition at Hove Town Hall. Crawley was honoured to be invited to take part along with other chosen clubs.

The Sussex Group organised and put on a magnificent two-day event, but then, they do have a member who has won seven golds at Chelsea! Bonsai is an art, a craft that needs the right setting for display. Our club did Crawley proud with an excellent presentation showing a variety of trees grown by many of our members.

Miniature trees are so beautiful, enhanced by the right setting and background. We have our own base material and stands in various heights but whereas the winning club had their own background, we had to rely on a given position which was fortunately against the town hall wooden panelling. Even so, our members had some creditable trees worthy of showing and we were highly commended.

If you wish to join our happy band of bonsai growers you will be most welcome. We have the experts to help beginners to grow healthy and artistic miniature trees. Do come along.

BERYL ARMSTRONG

WEBSITE TRAFFIC OVER 3 YEARS

Three years ago the Main Committee decided to launch a website to investigate the benefits that might be gleaned. I volunteered to see what I could do, although at that time I had absolutely no knowledge of setting-up a website. I had, like many others, used websites for information especially about horticultural matters.

I set to work by contacting three companies offering facilities to set-up websites and eventually plumped for a company called 'Moonfruit'. They offered 50 megabytes of web space at an affordable rate. At the time I never thought I would use anywhere near this amount of space but over the last six months the space has been continuously full.

The 'Home' page was where I started with the name and postal address of the Society and the shop opening hours. I then added a comprehensive list of horticultural supplies available from the shop. Next came a page of Society News which gave information about gift vouchers, and the Newsletters we produce twice a year. Since then the Society News has expanded to 3 pages

At first 'hits' on the website were slow to materialise as we were not listed on search engines. Members who had registered their email addresses with the Society were the only 'hits'. In the first year we managed 3000 'hits', in the second year 4,500 'hits' and from March to December 2009 we have had over 5,000 hits.

Over the first year we gradually increased the amount of pages to include all the groups with their programmes listed. In the second year we managed to load the Newsletters onto the website and add news items such as the opening of the Interfaith Garden in March 2009 with Charlie Dimmock and Chris Collins opening this, the first Faith Garden by the Royal Horticultural Society.

In the shop members who are online are giving their email addresses to the Membership Secretary, who passes them to me and I send emails about the website address, as well as information about the Society's activities.

We are now in the process of changing from our original website to the new website at crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk with a new webmaster John Crippen. I will still be sending out emails reminding members about Shows, plant sales, bulb sales etc.

THE BRIDGE GROUP

We meet every Monday at 1.30 pm for beginners and every Friday at 7.15 pm for regular players. For further information contact the Chairman, John Lake, telephone. 01293 527325.

COTTAGE GARDEN GROUP

The Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month except October, when the Wednesday meeting will be combined with the special Gardener's Forum to be held on Thursday 7 October.

January	No meeting
February 3	Belinda Sinclair
March 3	T.B.A.
April 7	T.B.A.
May 5	Spring outing—T.B.A.
June 2	T.B.A.
July 7	Marion Bear and Strawberry Supper
Aug 4	T.B.A.
September 1	T.B.A.
October, Thursday 7	Gardener's Forum with Jean Griffin, Jim Buttress and Tom Hart Dyke
November 3	A.G.M
December 1	Christmas Supper

THE FUCHSIA & GERANIUM GROUP

The Fuchsia and Geranium Group meet on the third Wednesday of each month except August and December. See Calendar for dates.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROUP

The Fruit and Vegetable group meet on the second Monday of each month for illustrated talks and discussion of member's problems. See Calendar for dates.

GROUP PROGRAMMES FOR 2010

Except where otherwise stated, the Groups meet throughout the year in the Hall on weekday evenings at 8 pm.

THE ALPINE GROUP

The Group meets on the third Monday of each month as follows:

January 18	Mick Reed -Wisley Gardens
February 15	John Withall—Birds & Animals at Wakehurst Place
March 15	Nick Sexton—Mini Tour of New Zealand
April 19	Alpine Flower Show
May 17	Trip to Mill Nursery
June 21 st	T.B.A.
July 19	M. Dobell - My years as Head Gardener at Little Mythurst Farm
August 16	T.B.A.
September 20	T.B.A.
October 18 ^t	Mrs J Cooper—Wild Flowers & Ancient sites of Crete
November 15	T.B.A.
December 20	A.G. M. & Social Evening

THE BONSAI GROUP

NOTE: The Bonsai Group have changed the evening of their meetings from the last Thursday in the month to the third Thursday each month.

January 21	Workshop re-pot
February, Sunday 21	Sunday morning workshop from 9 am
March 18	General workshop
April 15	Club member demo
May 20	Show preparation
June 17	Workshop
July 15	Tony McKenzie
August 19	Members Show
September 16	AGM, cheese and wine
October 21	Winter workshop
November 18	Social evening

I wish you all fruitful gardening year in 2010.

MICK REED

2010 NEW WEBSITE

Size matters! Following on from the excellent work by Mick Reed and others in creation of the CHS website a couple of years ago, it became apparent that the site just wasn't big enough for all we wanted to include. During spring of 2009, a new site was sown, has developed over the summer, grown well into the autumn and, as an evergreen, will carry on expanding over the winter.

As with most things green it does need nurturing, so YOUR support is needed. The website is for the benefit of members and to attract new people to the Society, so, what do YOU want to see on the site?

Visit the new website at www.crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk and see what you're missing.

Items for inclusion, comments, ideas, requests, offers of help to: webmaster@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

JOHN CRIPPEN

STRAWBERRY TEA PARTY

The strawberry tea party was held on Sunday, 12th June. It was attended by 24 members and was a most enjoyable occasion. With a selection of sandwiches, cakes and of course, strawberries and cream, it was a lovely way to get together, chat about all sorts of things and enjoy a light tea with old and new friends.

This event is a small thank you to our volunteers, without whose help the shop would not be manned and would therefore not be open as often. It is essential to the success of the shop and the Society that we have enough people to cover the rota throughout the year.

I would like to say a personal thank you to all you volunteers, you know who you are, and hope I will see you next year in the shop and at the strawberry tea.

CHRISSIE SMITH

CHS CALENDAR 2010

January	Sunday 17	Orchid Group AGM	2.30pm
	Monday 18	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 20	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 21	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
February	Saturday 23	Quiz Night	7.30pm
	Monday 1	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Wednesday 3	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 8	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Monday 15	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 17	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Sunday 21	Orchid Group	2.30pm
	Sunday 21	Bonsai Group Workshop	Shop hours
March	Thursday 25	Society A.G.M.	7.45pm
	Monday 1	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Wednesday 3	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 6	Saturday shop opens	9.00am -12 noon
	Monday 8	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Monday 15	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 17	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 18	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 27	Spring Show	1.30pm
	Monday 5	Cactus Group	7.30pm
April	Wednesday 7	Shop opens	6.30pm—8.00pm
	Wednesday 7	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 12	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 15	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Sunday 18	Orchid Group Spring Show	1.30pm
	Monday 19	Alpine Group Show	8.00pm
	Wednesday 21	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Monday 3	Cactus Group	7.30 pm
	Wednesday 5	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Sunday 9	Orchid Group	2.30pm
May	Monday 10	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm
	Saturday & Sunday 15 & 16	Plant Sale	In Shop hours
	Monday 17	Alpine Group	8.00pm
	Wednesday 19	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm
	Thursday 20	Bonsai Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 29	Cactus Group Show	10.00am
	Wednesday 2	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Monday 7	Cactus Group	7.30pm
	Saturday 12	Summer and Pelargonium Show	1.30pm
	Sunday 13	Orchid Group	2.30pm
Monday 14	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	

June (cont)	Wednesday 16	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 17	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	Monday 21	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
July	Wednesday 30	Last day shop open		
	Monday 5	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
	Wednesday 7	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm	
	Monday 12	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 15	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	Sunday 18	Orchid Group	2.30pm	
	Monday 19	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 21	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
August	Wednesday 4	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm	
	Saturday 7	Fuchsia Show	1.30pm	
	Monday 9	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Sunday 15	Orchid Group	2.30pm	
	Monday 16	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 19	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	Sat/Sunday 28 & 29	Bulb Sale in Shop hours		
	September	Wednesday 1	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm
	Saturday 4	1st CHS Autumn Show	1.30pm	
	Monday 6	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
Saturday 11	CHS 2nd Autumn Show	1.30pm		
Monday 13	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm		
Wednesday 15	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm		
Thursday 16	Bonsai Group	8.00pm		
Sunday 19	Orchid Group	8.00pm		
Monday 20	Alpine Group	8.00pm		
Saturday 25	Saturday shop last day			
October	Monday 4	Cactus Group	7.30pm	
	Thursday 7	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm	
	Monday 11	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm	
	Sunday 17	Orchid Group	2.30pm	
	Monday 18	Alpine Group	8.00pm	
	Wednesday 20	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm	
	Thursday 21	Bonsai Group	8.00pm	
	November	Monday 1	Cactus Group	7.30pm
Wednesday 3	Cottage Garden Group	8.00pm		
Monday 8	Fruit & Veg Group	8.00pm		
Monday 15	Alpine Group	8.00pm		
Wednesday 17	Fuchsia Group	8.00pm		
Thursday 18	Bonsai Group	8.00pm		
Sunday 21	Orchid Autumn Show	1.30pm		

Some of the Groups do not meet in December. Check with the Group Secretaries