



## 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—[editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

Enquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Chrissie Smith— [secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)  
telephone 01293 539221

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions, and four year subscriptions taken out in 2005 expired on 31<sup>st</sup> 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. Renewals can also be made online on the CHS website.

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



Spring 2010

# Crawley Horticultural Society

## Newsletter

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

#### Contents

#### Secretary's report

#### Spring show report

#### Show dates

#### 2010 committee

#### AGM minutes

#### Orchid Spring show

#### Food for thought

#### Website news

#### Sub-committee members

#### How green is your garden

#### Green space event

#### Fuchsia group

#### Email addresses

#### Important news

Hello everybody. Well, I have now been Chairman for four months and the time has flown by.

I want to thank John for his service to the Society as Chairman and his and the Committee's support during the early weeks when I was finding my feet. Also, a big thank you to all the helpers in the shop. You are doing a great job and I feel I am getting to know you now that I am visiting more frequently.

Thanks are also due to Peter Cole for his 18 years of service as Trading Secretary. There were happy times and hard times, but he always seemed to be able to find a good deal among the suppliers

I am looking forward to completing the various projects we have in the pipeline to improve the building and our facilities. Also, I hope we shall be able to strengthen the Society through growth in sales and improved income as well as build closer community contacts.

I hope all members will support the Society's activities—come to the plant sales and flower shows (enter a class for fun) or join one of the groups.

Let's all look forward to a good gardening year with sun when we want it and rain when we need it!

FRED SMITH

**Bulb Sale 28 AND 29 AUGUST**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Winter is finally over and the spring flowers are coming up. My garden is showing a good display of earlier daffs with the late ones still forming. It's a shame the crocus don't stay so long, they struggle to show their beautiful heads and before you know it, they are on the way out again.

Still, the snow drops did very well this year. We had a lovely show of them up in the Society garden.

With the warmer weather slowly getting closer be sure to get your supplies in now, because when it does get here the plants will burst into life and before you can say 'the sun has got his hat on' you'll be knee deep in grass and weeds.

Don't forget to get your hanging baskets planned, we have plenty of baskets and liners and, of course, compost, but wait too long and it will all be gone....

Whatever you are planning, I hope it all turns out blooming wonderful for you. Happy gardening, keep digging, keep growing, keep smiling and keep happy.

CHRISSIE SMITH

## SPRING SHOW REPORT

After one of the coldest winters for 30 years we were extremely worried whether we would receive any entries for the Show, and very briefly considered cancelling it. It was just as well that we didn't as the number of entries exceeded all our expectations!

Many of the exhibitors managed to find enough daffodils to fill at least one bench, but it was very noticeable that there were no double daffodils shown. Maybe the cold weather hit them harder than the singles.

Entries in the other classes were also down on previous years but this was to be expected. The only classes that showed an increase in entries were the Domestic ones.

## GROUP PROGRAMMES FOR 2010

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

### FUCHSIA GROUP

June 12 (Saturday)	CHS Geranium Show with CHS Summer Show
June 16	Fuchsia & Geraniums – Ready for Shows Mrs T Arnell
July 21	Oldest Flower Gardens in London Mr C Jones
August 7 (Saturday)	CHS Fuchsia Show
September 15	A Gardeners look at Irelands' Gardens & Plants Mr G Peach
October 20	Chrysanthemums Mr R White
November 17	Group AGM & Social Evening



### 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.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please use the following to contact any member of the Management Committee or for any other enquiry.

Any general enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.

Chairman      chairman@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Treasurer     treasurer@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Secretary      secretary@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Membership   membership@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Shows          shows@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Editorial       editorial@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Trading        trading@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Groups                groups@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Information    info@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk  
Website        webmaster@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

## 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

I would like to thank everyone that managed to find something to enter into the show and to those of you who came to see it. I look forward to seeing you all at the Summer and Autumn Shows when, hopefully, all the plants will be back on track!

Don't forget that the Show Schedule is now on our website so you can check to see if you have anything to enter.

CHRISTINE MARTIN  
Show Secretary



## 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

## 2010 SHOW DATES

The dates for the Shows in 2010 are as follows:

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

## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2010– 2011

### President

Ms Mabel Clackson Secretary Social Committee

### Officers:

Mr Fred Smith Chairman & Trustee  
Mr Albert Moore Vice Chairman, Trustee & Secretary Buildings Committee  
Mrs Christine Smith Secretary  
Mr Peter Armstrong Treasurer & Trustee  
Mr John Green Trading Secretary  
Mr Peter Nash Membership Secretary  
Mrs Christine Martin Show Secretary

### Committee Members:

Mr Ray Bell  
Mrs Helen Bergin Newsletter Editor  
Mrs Pauline Chiappori  
Mr John Crippen Website Manager  
Mr Shaun Dalton  
Mr Trevor Figg  
Mr Graham Jones  
Mrs Sheila Jones  
Mr Henry Miller Trustee  
Mr Barry Morton  
Mr Gerry Wareing

### Group Representatives

Ivan Budgen	01737 244533	Fuchsia/Pelargonium Group
John Green	01293 421441	Fruit and Vegetable Group
Sally Mill	01293 547896	Orchid Group
Mick Reed	01293 420975	Alpine Group
Christine Smith	01293 539221	Cottage Garden Group
Christine Smith	01293 539221	Bonsai Group Cactus Group

## HOW GREEN IS YOUR GARDEN?

Many gardeners have deep concerns about the environment in which we live and in particular, the use of chemicals, fertilisers and peat. Because of these concerns they garden and grow crops organically.

With this in mind, we are searching for organic gardeners among the members who would be interested in writing occasional or regular pieces for the Newsletter and website.

Like to help? Leave your name with any Committee Member at the Shop or at any Group meeting or contact

Helen Bergin 01293 535972  
[editorial@crawlhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:editorial@crawlhorticulturalsociety.org.uk) or

John Crippen 01293 886350  
[webmaster@crawlhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@crawlhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

### Green Space Event at Crawley Library

This year the Green Space Event was held on 20 March and was much bigger than last year with more stalls. There was plenty for visitors to see, with bees from Central Sussex Beekeepers Association just inside the doors and the Floral Arrangement Group doing demonstrations right next to them.

Plumpton College were giving lectures in the far right corner and there were jams and wine for sale from another stall at the bottom of the stairs. For those thinking of keeping chickens there was advice from Marianne Oliver.

Crawley Horticultural Society were upstairs by the fiction section, and the Cophorne Allotment Group were with us. We had a good day with 1 new member and 1 renewal and a lot of interest in our Spring Show on 27<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, some of them came to see the show.

I was helped by Penny Harber in the morning and Christine Martin in the afternoon. It was a very relaxing day and being able to chat to people and tell them about the Society gave us a good chance to spread the word and get people interested.

I expect to be invited back again next year.

CHRISSIE SMITH

Our website is for the benefit of members and to attract new people to the Society, so, what do YOU, the members want to see on the site? I recently added my proposals for future developments on the site, but I want to hear your ideas and suggestions too.

There are eight main areas on the site in addition to the Home page: About CHS; Groups; Shows; Shop & Hall; What's On?; Information; What's it For?; Newsletters. Currently there are in the region of 60 web pages plus links to other content that can be downloaded as PDF files or Word documents, from AGM minutes and accounts to Newsletters.

Did you see the first CHS Wordsearch competition?  
Mr R A Collins did and won a year's free membership!

If you haven't done so yet, please visit the website and see what you're missing.

Items for inclusion, comments, ideas, requests, offers of help to:  
[webmaster@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@crawleyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

JOHN CRIPPEN

### SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010

<b>TRADING</b>	John Green, Albert Moore, Ray Bell, Fred Smith, Graham Jones, Sheila Jones, Barry Morton, Trevor Figg, Pauline Chiappori, Henry Miller, and Shaun Dalton.
<b>SHOW</b>	Christine Martin, John Green, Peter Nash, Chrissie Smith and Gerry Wareing, also Doreen and Ivor Budgen.
<b>EDITORIAL</b>	Helen Bergin, John Crippen, and Peter Armstrong.
<b>BUILDING</b>	Albert Moore, John Green, Ray Bell, Graham Jones, and Fred Smith.
<b>SOCIAL</b>	Mabel Clackson, Sheila Jones, Graham Jones and Peter Armstrong,

The Minutes of the Fifty Sixth Annual General Meeting were approved.

**Chairman's Report;** John Green gave his last report as Chair. Trading in composts and other stock in 2009 was very good with extra stock having to be bought.. He appealed for more members to come forward and volunteer to help man the shop. John would be taking up a new position as Trading Secretary and thanked everyone for the support in 2009.

**Treasurers Report;** The Treasurers end of year report shows Trading sales of £27,364 which was up by £3,434 on the previous year. This resulted in a Shop Trading Profit of £8,156; better than the previous year which was £4,005. Member's Equity at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 stood at £59,128, up from £52,881 on previous year.

Election of President and Deputy President was voted en block;  
Election of Officers and Committee;, Proposed, and seconded and approved  
Re-Election of Committee Members, 3 for re-election, proposed second and approved  
New Members;  
Nominations were received by Mr H Miller, Mr G Wareing and Mr S Dalton. proposed, seconded and approved.  
Details are given on other pages in this Newsletter.

**Membership Fees;**  
The membership fees are to remain at 1 year £4.00 and 4 year £14.00.  
**President's Address;**

Mabel opened her address by thanking Mr Peter Cole for all the hard work he had put into the Society over the past 24 years and presented him with a certificate of thanks for his services and dedication to the Society. She also presented a certificate to Mr Mick Reed, received on his behalf by his wife Pam. Mabel continued by thanking John Green for his hard work as Chairman of the Society and wished him well in his new role as Trading Secretary.

As a member of the Social Committee Mabel thanked all those who are kind enough to donate items as prizes for the quiz nights . She felt that much of the money raised would be well spent on refurbishing the hall and toilets.

The Tilgate walled garden continued to be maintained to a high standard by Ron Spraget and Bill Gunning and their wives and the Thursday morning gang do a wonderful job looking after the garden, compound and shop.

Mabel closed by thanking all the committee members who work so hard and everyone who ventured out on such a bad winters evening to come to the AGM.

#### **Change to Ground Rules re Trustees;**

Chrissie Smith read notice from the previous Trustees, Mr R Spraget, Mr D Mountain and Mr D V Gunning. The new Trustees will be the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. In the event that an Officer cannot be a Trustee on legal grounds, then another member of the committee will be elected at the first Committee meeting after the AGM.

Meeting closed at 8.34pm and was followed by refreshments. The meeting was attended by 34 members.

### **THE CHS SUSSEX ORCHID GROUP SPRING SHOW**

On a lovely warm, sunny April day we welcomed to our Spring Show lots of beautiful orchids and visitors from the south east of England. As well as orchids to see there were many for sale, both from Society members and Laurence Hobbs orchid nursery. There was also a large Tombola with interesting prizes; and home-made cakes to accompany cups of tea and coffee.

For the first time in a while we had two entries in our Novice class. The winning plant was a *Phalaenopsis* hybrid (moth orchid) belonging to Beryl Armstrong. This lovely miniature orchid had a large spike of pink flowers. We look forward to seeing Beryl at some of our meetings (when she doesn't have other commitments). Unfortunately though she won't be able to enter the Novice class again!

The best *Phalaenopsis* was won by Simon Waddilove for a beautiful dark purple *Phalaenopsis* hybrid. Simon also won the best Laeliinae for a large *Cattleya* hybrid with creamy yellow flowers. Not content with these two awards, Simon's *Dendrobium williamsonii* won the best Dendrobinae as well as the Best Species in Show. This pretty orchid had lots of orange and white flowers. Hopefully Simon has space at home for all the trophies!

The best *Cymbidium* went to Derek Micklewright for a lovely *Cymbidium* hybrid with two well presented spikes of green-yellow flowers. The best *Cypripedioideae* (slipper orchid) was awarded to Clive Hobbs for *Phragmipedium Pulchellum*. This South American hybrid slipper orchid had just one beautiful, very large flower on a well grown plant. The best *Oncidiinae* went to Penny Hayes for an alba form of *Psychopsis papilio* with two wonderful alien-looking flowers.

The winner in the Vandaceous class was *Renanetia* Bali owned by Mike Penney. This large plant was smothered in small mauve flowers, and also won the Best Hybrid in Show for Mike.

I would like to thank all those who came to our Spring Show and especially Mike McIlmurray who was our judge. Mike brought along three large *Maxillarias* in full flower from his National Collection, which added scent to the hall

Normally Mike would enter his plants in the Show but as he (rightly) suspected that one would win the Best Species, and he was judging the exhibits, he very nobly just put them for display so that the public could see the beautiful plants. In recognition of this gesture Mike was awarded the Chairman's award, given to an orchid that particularly attracts the Chairman's eye.

SALLY MILLS

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

After twelve years of intensive research, Professor Danakin von Wettstein of the Carlsberg Research Centre in Copenhagen has succeeded in crossing a tomato plant with a potato plant.

During an interview, the Professor said: "We look upon the Pomato as a major contribution to solving the world's food/population balance. When it is ready to enter the battle of our common agricultural needs, the fruit will combine the taste of the tomato with the nourishing power of the potato. At the present time however, it still contains a deadly poison!"