



The Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society
Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER – January 2012

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www.hgs.org.uk/hortsoc



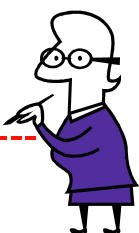
SUPPER QUIZ EVENING
Saturday 21 January 2012, 7.30 pm
at Fellowship House
£12.50 to include supper and a glass of wine
*Essential to book in advance - please find booking slip
at the end of this Newsletter*



2012 Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Saturday 21 January | Supper Quiz Evening
Fellowship House, 7.30 pm
Tables of 4 or 5, make your own table
or we can seat you with others
<i>Please book in advance</i> |
| Saturday 18 February | Coach Trip -Anglesey Abbey
NT or RHS members £18, non-members £23.50 |
| Saturday 10 March | Gardeners' Question Time
Members free, non-members £2 |
| Thursday 12 April | Kenwood's Park and Gardens
Fellowship House, 7.30pm
Members free, non-members £2 |
| Saturday 12 May | Plant Sale
Fellowship House, 10.30am -12 noon |
| Wednesday* 6 June | Entry Night for 273rd Flower Show
Fellowship House 7.00-8.00pm
<i>*Please note date – due to Tuesday Bank Holiday</i> |

Saturday 9 June	273rd Flower Show Free Church Hall, 3.00-5.30pm
Saturday 9 June	Children's Fancy Dress Parade & Competition Adults' 'Mad Hats' Competition
Thursday 14 June	Coach trip - Gardeners' World Live, NEC Birmingham An opportunity to watch the TV programme brought to life £37.50 coach and entry, subscribers to 'Gardeners' World' £22.00 coach <i>Tickets must be bought in advance (see magazine)</i>
Sunday 8 July to Tuesday 10 July	Gardens of Norfolk Three-day visit to six gardens Hotel accommodation for two nights <i>See next page for further details</i>
Tuesday 10 July Competition	Closing date for 'Suburb in Bloom' Garden
Tuesday 17 July	Judging for 'Suburb in Bloom' Garden Competition
Saturday 21 July	Summer Party, 7.30pm
Sunday 26 August	Trip to Great Comp Garden and Nettlestead Place
Tuesday 4 September	Entry Night for 274th Flower Show Fellowship House, 7.00-8.00pm
Saturday 8 September	274th Flower Show, Free Church Hall, 3.00-5.30pm
Thursday 20 September	Talk (details to follow) Fellowship House, 7.30 pm
Thursday 18 October	Coach trip to RHS Wisley
Tuesday 13 November	98th Annual General Meeting and Prize-giving Fellowship House, 7.30pm
Saturday 8 December	Christmas gathering (details to follow)



Many thanks to those of you who have paid your membership subscription promptly. A gentle reminder to those of you who haven't - subs for 2012 are now due. You will find an application form at the end of this Newsletter.

A new event for the Horticultural Society, 8-10 July



A visit to six of the most beautiful gardens in Norfolk and Suffolk, including Helmington Hall, the Old Vicarage East Ruston and the recently re-worked Pensthorpe Millennium Garden.

Three further gardens are currently being planned, to include two private gardens by special arrangement.

£349 (single room supplement £40) includes coach travel, two nights half-board hotel accommodation, and entrance to six gardens. Accommodation will be at a Marriott Hotel for the nights of 8 and 9 July.

A deposit of £100 pp is required to secure places on what promises to be a very popular event. Cheques payable to Diane Berger, 86 Willifield Way London NW11 6YJ. Further enquiries: Sonia Mathias 8455 7334 or Diane 8455 0455.



‘Another very successful year’: 97th AGM and Prize-giving

(excerpts from report by Horticultural Society Chairman Michael Franklin)

‘We have had another very successful year. All our events have been well supported. We now have over 450 members, with lots of very young entrants in our two Flower Shows.

The year began with a talk by Jennifer Potter, ‘Romancing the Rose’, followed two weeks later by our popular Supper Quiz. Our **February** event was a new departure: a *Seed Swap and Growing* Talk and Workshop by Mike Jackson. Many thanks are due to Lizzie Sturm and Robert Wallis for organising this popular evening.

The **March** event was an illustrated talk by Pamela Holt, ‘Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs’, while **April** saw our subsidised members’ trip to Wisley. The annual plant sale in early **May** was again a great success. Later in the month we organised a very interesting visit to Coton Manor and Cottesbrook Hall and Gardens.

Our First Flower Show of the year in **June** was a riot of colour. The weather was kind and it proved another very popular day. Thanks are due to our new Show Sub-Committee and to Vincent Berry, Lorna Page, Peter Oliver and John Mathias for their help during the year. The Open Gardens in **June** was organised again by Diane Berger and everyone enjoyed a peep into the many interesting Suburb back gardens, some of

them open for the first time. This was combined with a specialist nursery Plant Sale and a Festival of Roses organised by Ruta Teteris, followed in turn by the Suburb in Bloom Competition organised by Patricia Larsen and won by Chris Page.

In **July** we visited St Pauls Walden and Kathy Brown's Garden and held our Summer Party here in Fellowship House. In **September** Dr Katherine Horwood gave a talk on 'The History of Women in Horticulture since 1600'.

Our 272nd Flower Show on **10 September** saw many new prize-winners and the Grimsdyke Brass Band was a roaring success. I would like to thank our tea ladies for their sterling work. We also held a bulb sale - thank you to Diane, Vincent and Patricia who organised this profitable event.

I would like to thank the whole Committee for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the year. The Horticultural Society is a very important part of the fabric of the Suburb in bringing people together and helping to keep this very special village atmosphere alive. We have again been able to support the North London Hospice with a £740 donation from the proceeds of ticket sales for the open gardens event and we gave Abbeyfield Home in Erskine Hill a £500 donation towards the cost of renovating their central flower bed. Thanks are due to Caroline Broome and Ruta Teteris who organised this and much of the planting.

One of our longstanding members, Wendy Parry, is standing down. Thank you, Wendy, for all your hard work. Our new Treasurer has brought us into the 21st century with our banking arrangements - thank you, Jeremy. David Broome, our new Membership Secretary, has modernised our membership list and his many emails throughout the year are a great help to us all - thank you, David.

As I have mentioned, it has taken a sub-committee of four people to take over the work of Yvonne Oliver, our outgoing Show Secretary. I would like to present this bouquet to her for her many years of hard work in making the Flower Shows the wonderful success they are today. Thanks are due to Katja for the very professional Newsletter, to Gladys for all her secretarial duties, and to Marjorie for press and publicity. Our new member, Jane Gee, is already making a valuable contribution to, *inter alia*, the Handbook - thank you, Jane. Thank you also to Chris and Sonia for all their hard work and thank you, Barbara for successfully running the two raffles at the Flower Shows.

Finally, our membership fees remain the same for 2012 and I wish to thank all our members for supporting us through this year. Please tell your family, friends and neighbours about us and get them to join next year - and, especially, encourage all the children you know to enter the special classes for them at the shows.'

Cups and medals were presented to prize-winners by Joan Rees Phillips, Vice-President of the Horticultural Society.

Children who received prizes were:

Melissa Redman (5-8 years): the Winifred Price Children's Cup

Charlotte Croft (9-11 years): the Jack Rumbold Children's Cup.

For details of adult cups and prizes awarded, see 2012 'Handbook'.

What on earth is going on at Sunshine Corner?



by Patricia Larsen

Sunshine Corner, a public open space at the end of Heathgate, connects the Suburb to the Heath Extension and is part of the original planning layout of the Suburb. As part of the Great Wall, it was designed by Charles Wade, who worked in Parker and Unwin's office. The retaining walls, steps and benches are listed Grade II.

Approaching the area from the Heath Extension, the two fenced rectangles on the raised outer court are to be sown with a wild flower mixture. Wild flowers thrive in poor soil and it is hoped that the present soil will not be too rich. The two areas each side of the path leading into Heathgate will be laid to grass once the boundary walls have been restored. The privet hedges, deprived of light for so long, should recover and eventually screen the private gardens. The oak tree will remain and daffodils and snowdrops will be planted.

Congratulations to Caroline Broome, who has recently taken on a new role for the National Gardens Scheme's 'London Yellow Book' as Assistant County Organiser for Barnet and Arkley.

Three things to do in January and February

by Caroline Broome

The winter garden is never dormant. Day length is increasing. There are still plenty of things to be done during the first couple of months of the year and here are some suggestions for those of you hardy enough to want to get out there among it all:

January

1. Provided there is no frost, this is an ideal time to prune your fruit trees and plant bare root roses.
2. Don't be caught out this winter. Check your greenhouse heaters and have fleece at the ready for exotics and specimen plants when frost and snow are forecast.
3. Once safely indoors, don't forget to check your overwintering begonia tubers every so often for any that have rotted, and discard to avoid spreading to healthy tubers.

February

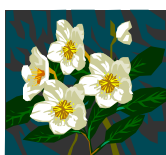
1. Towards the end of the month, start pruning your bush roses to an outward facing bud. I trim mine to 18 inches from the ground. Be brave and revive neglected specimens by cutting out old, unproductive stems to the base and removing any crossing or weak branches, aiming to create a bowl-shaped structure of the newest stems.

2. Snowdrops can be divided 'in the green'.
3. Cut down ornamental deciduous grasses left uncut over winter.

At this time of year, don't forget to feed the birds regularly and, if you have a pond, float a plastic ball on its surface to stop it freezing - this will benefit fish and other pond life.

Three plants to admire

To my mind, flowers that bloom in winter are extra-special and should be given more space and prominence to thrive in every garden. Here are three old favourites:



1. **Hellebore Niger**, often referred to as 'Christmas Rose' flowers in many different shades of pink and maroon, is commonly available with double flowers, but for me the original white form is hard to beat.
2. **Sarcococca**, also known as Christmas box, is a slow-growing, evergreen shrub 1-2 m tall, ideal for smaller gardens. It has the most fragrant flowers and is good for shady areas.
3. **Galanthus** What could be more encouraging than the first sighting of snowdrops poking through snow-covered borders in the dead of winter?



Three places to visit

1. **Chelsea Physic Garden** 66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS, www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk. Snowdrop Days 4-12 February, 10 am- 4 pm
2. **Garden Museum** 5 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB www.gardenmuseum.org.uk Well worth a visit is the Museum's knot garden, created in 1980 and designed by the Museum's president, The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury. The current Gallery Exhibition, 'From Garden City to Green City', runs until 1 April 2012.
3. **Myddelton House Gardens** Bulls Cross, Enfield EN2 9HG, tel 08456 770 600

Worth a visit at any time of year. Entry to this newly restored six-acre garden is now *free*. Explore the unusual plants of the Lunatic Asylum, the newly restored Kitchen Garden, the colourful Alpine Meadow and the extensive snowdrop collection, which bring the gardens to life in February. Edward Augustus Bowles, one of Britain's most famous self-taught gardeners, artists and expert botanists, lived in Myddelton House from 1865 to 1954 and dedicated much of his life to transforming the gardens with his love of unusual and exotic plants.

BOOKING FORMS

Coach Trip to Anglesey Abbey

To Events Secretary Sonia Mathias, 87 Willifield Way NW11 6YH

- I wish to book seats for Anglesey Abbey @ £18 per person NT or RHS members
- I wish to book seats @ £ 23.50 non-RHS/NT members' rate

TOTAL £ ... (cheques payable to HGS Horticultural Society)

Name/s

Address

Tel No

Email

Signed



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Quiz Supper 21 January

To Event Secretary Diane Berger, 86 Willifield Way NW11 6YJ

I wish to book ... places for the Supper Quiz @ £ 12.50 per person

TOTAL £ ... (cheque payable to HGS Horticultural Society)

Name/s

Address

Tel No

Email

Signed

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2012

Subscriptions for 2012 membership are now due.

**Please complete and return to David Broome, 79 Church Lane, London N2 0TH
Tel 020 8444 2329 email david.m.broome@virginmedia.com**

I/ We wish to join the HGS Horticultural Society

I/ We wish to renew subscription to the HGS Horticultural Society for 2012

NAME(S)

TITLE

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/we enclose a cheque (payable to HGS Horticultural Society) for £5.00 (single subscription)

I/ We enclose a cheque for £7.50 (family subscription)

*I/We enclose a cheque for £ ... which includes a £ ... **DONATION***

No need for an envelope but a postage stamp would be appreciated.