

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society
Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society
Newsletter Spring 2017

Local News



The Joy of spring

We were impressed by this joyful bunch of daffodils drawn by a young, budding artist in the Garden Suburb school garden

Allotment secretary attacked

Last month, 80 year old grandmother and allotment secretary from Colindale, Lea Adri-Soejoko was attacked and killed at her allotment. Police were alerted to her disappearance when she failed to turn up for an allotment committee meeting on February 28th. Another plot holder has been arrested and remanded in custody in connection with her death and will face trial on July 10th.

Membership

Don't forget your annual membership is now due for renewal. You can renew easily online through our website <http://www.hgs.org.uk/hortsoc/membership.html> or fill out and return the form at the back of the Newsletter.

Showtime

It will soon be showtime again! The horticultural society's 283rd Show will take place on Saturday 17th June 2017 3.00-5.30pm at the FREE CHURCH HALL, Northway, NW11 6PB. Entry Night will be on Tuesday 13th June at FELLOWSHIP HOUSE, Willifield Way, NW11 6YD 7.00-8.00pm, or send entry forms to 4 Asmunds Hill, NW11 6ET on or before that date.

National News

Parks need protection

A new report by the Communities and Local government committee highlighting the vicious circle of decline facing the UK's 27,000 parks. It encourages parks professionals to urge the government to step in and safeguard open spaces. The report warns that many parks are under threat from deep cuts to local authority budgets and recommends that strategic plans are drawn up to tap into the wider benefits parks provide such as flood prevention, and healthcare.

30 years of the RHS Plant Finder

The plant hunter's favourite book is celebrating its 30th birthday this month. This year's RHS Plant Finder will be a special edition, featuring articles highlighting favourite plants of the past 30 years and how the RHS trials help the society to decide which varieties qualify for an Award of Garden Merit. The RHS Plant Finder is available from www.rhshop.co.uk for £12.99

Sweet Chestnut Blight

Sweet chestnut blight was recently confirmed on trees in Devon. *Cryphonectria parasitica* infection is usually fatal to European and North American sweet chestnut trees and has devastated sweet chestnut forests in the eastern USA killing an estimated 3.5 billion trees. Although losses have not been on the same scale in Europe, it has spread steadily throughout much of Europe, and tree losses have been regionally significant. A 3 mile regulated zone has been established around the infected trees and restrictions on the movement of timber in the area has come into effect to minimise the chance of spread.

Garden Girl

By Caroline Broome

THREE THINGS TO DO THIS APRIL

- Stake your plants. Believe me, do it now, even if your plants are only just emerging. Position your stakes while you can still reach into the borders, and your plants will grow up through and around them, disguising their supports in high season. Far better than doing what I always do at the last minute, propping up mature toppling plants so that they resemble drunken soldiers!
- Plant summer flowering bulbs. Once the flush of spring bulbs is in full swing and perennials are colonising the bare earth it's easy to forget that these treasured summer bulbs can enhance your garden displays from high to late summer. Plant hardy summer bulbs such as lilies and allium outdoors from early April onwards, followed by more unusual tender species, like gladiolus acidanthera and papilio at the end of April.
- Keep an eye on the watering. Although we think of April as a rainy month, it can be deceptive. Ensure new additions and transplanted divisions are well-watered during dry spells, and be sure to check containerised plants, those under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens to see that they don't go dry.

THREE CLIMBERS OTHER THAN CLEMATIS

- *Jasminum officinalis* 'Fiona Sunrise' - Hardy Golden Jasmine - This plant has consistently golden-chartreuse foliage which keeps its colour even in strong sunlight. This deciduous jasmine will reach 6'-10' tall, is fully hardy and will grow in pretty much any aspect. Summer flowering, with pink flushed buds opening to white, fragrant blooms. It makes a nice complement, especially when paired with purple or blue flowered plants.



- *Actinidia kolomikta* - Hardy kiwi - A deciduous climber, ultimately reaching up to 28', with slender but vigorous, twining branches and heart-shaped, variegated leaves, splashed with pink and white. Small fragrant, pink or white, pendulous flowers appear from May to July, followed in the autumn by greenish-orange fruits. Plant in a sheltered, sunny position. Grow in a fertile, well-drained slightly acid soil.

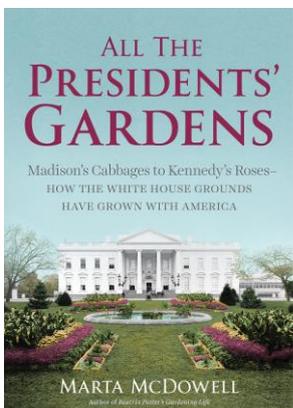


- *Acebia quinata* Chocolate Vine - This climber has semi-evergreen foliage, a vigorous twining habit, and provides rapid cover up to 20', even in dry shade! In spring, its dainty purple & cream blooms will fill the garden with the delectable fragrance of chocolate. A great choice to cover an unsightly fence, trellis, or any other garden structure.



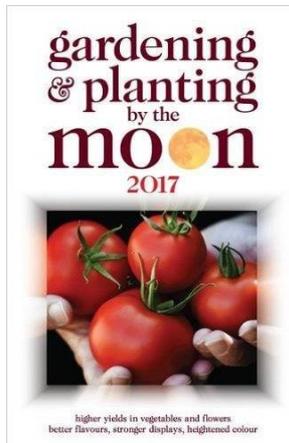
THREE GARDENING BOOKS

All the Presidents' Gardens - by Marta McDowell. - Here's a topical one! *All the Presidents' Gardens* tells the untold history of the 18 acre White House Grounds, starting with plant-obsessed George Washington and ending with Michelle Obama's kitchen garden. Fascinating tidbits, from Lincoln's goats to Amy Carter's tree house. Historical and contemporary photographs, vintage seeds catalogues, and rare glimpses into Presidential pastimes.

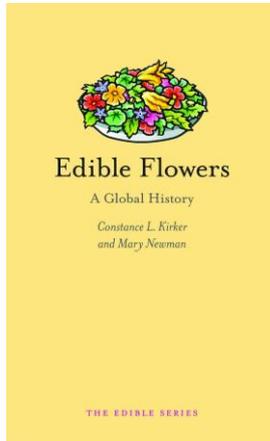


Gardening and planting by the Moon 2017 - by Kollerstrom N - You won't have to get up in the middle of the night to sow your carrots! This gardening guide computes everything

you need to know about the daily influence of the moon and the planets. With its full 15-month daily calendar, it creates an essential timetable for the year ahead and is also a fine means of self-discipline for keen gardeners.



Edible Flowers: A Global History -by Constance L Kirker - The current vogue for edible flowers, so favoured by leading chefs, is far from new. Kirker's work explains the use of edible flowers from ancient times to the present day, in cooking and as herbal remedies throughout the world, as well as containing flower-based recipes. In ancient times the Romans used fennel flowers as a garnish, the Incas used nasturtiums as medicine. As recent as the Second World War, famine in the Netherlands saw people resorting to eating a porridge made from ground tulip bulbs to stave off hunger.



Jobs for the veg garden

By James Robbins

- Sow peas in guttering - fill a 50cm length of guttering with compost and sow your pea seeds 1cm deep and 2cm apart along its length. When they are ready to plant out you can simply draw out a furrow with your hoe and slide the strip of young plants in place in one go.
- Sow broad beans outside - Now the weather is warming you can sow directly into the soil. Broad beans are often sown in the autumn on lighter soils, but on clay soils an early spring sowing will mean fewer losses from damping off.

- Plant potatoes - Potatoes are traditionally planted around Good Friday. This always auspiciously falls on the first full moon after the spring equinox, though it more likely became tradition as it was a day that people had holiday, so was the first time they could get to the allotment. I find it best to plant 1st earlies now, at the beginning of April, 2nd earlies in middle of April, and maincrop at the end. Plant tubers with the eyes facing up 15cm deep, 30cm apart in rows 45cm apart, and draw up the earth from either side of the row to cover the stems as they grow.
- Use a cloche or cover to warm the soil before direct sowing root crops like carrots or parsnips - The soil is starting to warm, so it is now time to start sowing root crops. Tradition was, if you could sit comfortably on the soil, it was ready to sow. I prefer not to get damp and instead use a sheet of clear polythene, pegged down over the soil, to retain moisture and warm the soil, making new sowings germinate even quicker.
- Start tender veg indoors - April is the time for sowing tender crops indoors such as beans, sweetcorn and squash. I use a heated propagator unit which will give warmth from underneath the pots, and a humid atmosphere to help get them started. Covering the top of the pots with a thin layer of vermiculite can help to reduce damping off and make it easier to spot when the first shoots appear. Sow larger seeds the depth of the seed and sow fine seeds onto the surface of the compost.
- Harden off plants before planting out - By the end of the month it will be time to get ready for planting out. Plants that have been grown in the warmth of the greenhouse will need a few weeks to gradually acclimatise to outside conditions before being planted out. The shock of a sudden drop in temperature can sometimes make them reluctant to grow.
- Water any new plantings well as the weather can be changeable this time of year, and keep fleece handy to protect tender shoots against any late frosts.
- Keep weeding the beds - The warm wet conditions of the spring means weeds grow quickly but a quick hoe will usually be enough to stay on top of them.

Seasonal recipe

By Ruth Beedle

Try this simple and quick spring recipe using seasonal vegetables

Broad bean, Mint and Parmesan pasta

Ingredients-

Pasta of your choice

Handful of broad beans

(fresh are best but frozen are also fine, shells can be removed if you prefer)

A handful of peas

A bunch of mint

Olive oil

A lemon

Parmesan

Method-

Cook the pasta in boiling water

Blanche the broad beans and peas for two minutes

Finely chop the mint

Drain the veg and toss with the pasta, oil, lemon juice, mint

Add salt and pepper to taste

Serve with a generous grating of Parmesan

Optional extras are garlic and chilli flakes

Quiz Night Supper

by Jackie Murphy

21st January 2017

The Quiz Supper, on 21st of January was very well organised by Diane Berger and Jane Gee and a happy event thoroughly enjoyed by all.

John Matthias was Question Master, and Vincent Berry did the honours as Score Keeper working really well together. The 7 teams attempted to answer some quite challenging questions set by Jane and Diane. The subjects covered included British Gardens, Anagrams and Historical Figures.

At half-time we had a well earned break and a 3 course supper of hot soup, quiches with delicious home-made salads and a desert (or fruit for the more health conscious!)

It was all conducted in a friendly (but decidedly competitive) spirit. The final result was a close run thing however, the winning team's amazing talent with anagrams was the deciding factor and its members were each given a box of chocolates as first prize.

Garden visits

The trip to Anglesey Abbey unfortunately had to be cancelled the day before as a visit from storm 'Doris' meant the gardens were unsafe for visiting.

We still have more garden visits available this year for you to enjoy.

On Thursday, 18th May we will be visiting The Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park. This is one of Britain's finest ornamental gardens with an amazing collection of rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias. With 35 acres of interconnected gardens, there is plenty to see and do. After lunch in the newly refurbished restaurant, we will head off on an escorted coach tour of the private roads of the Park culminating at the famous Punch Bowl in The Valley Garden where we will be given a talk by one of the gardeners. The cost will be £30 per person. This is expected to be a very popular trip so

to avoid disappointment, reserve your place by contacting Diane Berger on 020 8455 0455.

Seed Swap

By Barbara Kogut

As a reminder that Spring is just around the corner, the Horticultural Society and the Allotments Committee held a joint Seed Swap at Fellowship House on 9th March. Ruth Beedle and Patricia Major had urged their respective members to collect and bring in seeds from flowers and vegetables they had grown to make free swaps. The long table at Fellowship House was covered with dozens of small brown envelopes carefully labelled, some with growing instructions: there were delphiniums and beans and purple potatoes for all to exchange.

Fortified by wine from the Horticultural Society we settled down for an illustrated talk by Chris Collins from the Henry Doubleday Research Station (Garden Organic) at Ryton near Coventry. He spoke enthusiastically of the methods of winnowing, sieving, drying and packaging of vegetable seeds for the Heritage Seed Library, which specialises in old varieties which have been condemned by the European Union to be removed from growers' lists. The runner bean, Scarlet Emperor was included, but several growers continue to produce it. Chris illustrated beautiful flowers of cabbages and beans and urged us to sow old favourites. He said that we could visit Ryton, where the café serves their own crops.

After his inspiring talk we rushed to the table, where Ruth and Patricia urged us to take as many packets as we wanted and eagerly outlined growing instructions. Chris Collins remained until the end of the evening, offering advice to all who approached him. We all left clutching our packets. Many members remained to clear the hall and there were still some packets available, and the wine had lasted out. It was a lovely, convivial evening and a great co-operation between two committees on the Suburb.

Class changes to shows in the 2017.

Exhibitors please note!

When you are deciding on your entries for the shows, please note that there are some changes to classes this year:

Rose classes - We have tried to simplify the Rose classes in both the June and September shows to encourage more of you to enter. Many of us have very beautiful roses which we may have inherited with our gardens, but don't know what type or variety they are and which classes(s) to enter them in.

Pot Plants - Class 32 in June is now an African Violet or a Streptocarpus

Vegetables - Classes 52 & 53 in September - Onions. At the suggestion of Jim Buttress, there is no longer a class for Onions Grown from Seed. Instead the classes are for Onions over or under 8ozs/250g.

Junior Photography - this is new for both June & September shows.

HGSHS Events

Annual plant sale -
Fellowship House, Saturday, 13th May 10.30am

Outing to Savill garden -
Contact Diane Berger for details, Thursday 18th of May

Entry night for 283rd flower show -
Fellowship House, Tuesday, 13 June 7-8 PM

283rd Summer flower show
17th of June 3 till 5:30 PM

NGS Hampstead Garden Suburb Open Gardens
Sunday 25th of June

Other Local events

Mill Hill Horticultural Society
May 5th - Visit - Kew
May 27th - plant sale

Totteridge Garden club
April 12th - Talk - 'Plants to encourage wildlife'
June 14th - Talk - 'Capabilities of the Hertfordshire landscape'

Hampstead Horticultural Society
June 7th - Visit - Mike Jacksons garden Battlebridge Court Kings Cross

Finchley Horticultural Society
June 24th - Visit - Hyde Hall and Beth Chatto's garden

National Events

April 7th - 9th - RHS Cardiff flower show beat Park Cardiff Castle
April 20th - 23rd - Harrogate spring flower show
May 11th - 14th - RHS Malvern flower show
May 20th - June 4th - Chelsea Fringe
May 23rd - 27th - RHS Chelsea flower show
June 7th - 11th - RHS Chatsworth flower show
June 17th -18th - Open squares and gardens weekend

If you would like to contribute any stories, news tips or events for our Spring Newsletter, please email us at; HGSHTortSoc@mail.com you can also like us on Facebook; Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society or follow us on twitter; @HGSHTortSoc

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1909

Joint Hon. Presidents: Jonathan Ross and Jane Goldman

Flower shows, plant sales, outings, talks, quiz, Suburb in Bloom best garden competition, occasional workshops, children's activities, handbook, quarterly newsletter etc

New members welcome (£7.00 single subscription or £10.00 family subscription).

To join, please complete form below & return to: HGSHTS Membership Secretary

David Broome, 79 Church Lane, London N2 0TH . Tel: 020 8444 2329

Email: HGSHTS.membership@virginmedia.com

I / We wish to join HGS Horticultural Society for 2017 / We enclose cheque for £.....which includes a £.....Donation

Cheques payable to HGS Horticultural Society.

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