

Digging In

Newton Park Horticultural Society www.newtonparkhs.co.uk

Autumn Issue 2016

Chairman's Notes

John Salter 020 8868 3254

I have a confession – Before I start to write these notes I scan through my previous year's contributions. Mainly because it is easier than just starting with a blank page but also to try and avoid repetition. It's quite hard sometimes as in 2014 I was writing about a wet spring and warm weather in October. This year has been similar although by the time you read this there may be snow on the ground! It is not surprising how this affects the entry numbers in our show. This year tomato and fruit entries were up but potato entries were down. I don't however think that our show records would be a very reliable guide for climate research.

The weather of course doesn't affect the work of the Committee who keep the Society running smoothly for your benefit. The next major event in the Society diary is our Christmas party on Sunday 11th December which is a great time to reflect on the passed year before you hibernate for the winter.

The last twenty-five years have seen quite a remarkable technical revolution and it is now easier than ever before to get information or keep in touch with friends and family far and wide. Our web site on www.newtonparkhs.co.uk is relatively new and could eventually replace newsletter deliveries and notices at the Trading Shed. It is also a great way for you to give us feedback along with ideas and nominations for charity donations. More than anything join in and support your Society in whatever way you can.

OUR SHOW

Christine Salter

Exhibitors, judges and visitors all commented how much they enjoyed our show this year. I know that it does take quite a bit of effort by many people to put on such a spectacular event. It is appreciated and I would like say a big thank you to all involved. The number and quality of exhibits was excellent and it attracted more visitors this year. To all who won trophies and awards – congratulations.

But it is not all about competing. First and foremost, it is a **show** and a great opportunity to share the results of whatever you have been doing or growing this year with others. I was really pleased that so many exhibitors were willing to have a go and enter an exhibit to share with us this year. I'm sure if you were a first time exhibitor you have learnt that bringing an exhibit to show and share with us is not as daunting as you may have first thought. I hope you found it informative, inspirational and fun. But most of all you have taken part and without exhibitors we wouldn't be able to have a show at all. So a special thank you to all the exhibitors who ensure that our show is so spectacular for the visitors.

The Show Committee will now be planning for 2017. We would love to hear any suggestions you have before we publish the schedule next year.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 11th December

Our annual year-end celebration - **FREE DRINKS AND FOOD!** - will be held during normal shed opening hours courtesy of the Committee. Come along and chat the year over with us. Even if you can not attend, do buy raffle tickets beforehand (put your name and phone number on the back) as we have some very attractive prizes.

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

Following from the government's imposition of a 5p charge, our stock of such bags is now running very low. If you do have some spare then they would be gratefully received down the shed for free re-use when required by our purchasing members.

Secretary's Report - Show Mania

Ron Dickens Hon. Secretary 020 8422 1609

Well the weather showed us yet another facet of its infinite variety. Heavy rains early on flooded the allotments and either washed out or drowned early sowings, the following hot spell then baked the successive sowings, whilst the final cool Summer months delayed ripening of crops! Despite all this all three Shows we support were a great success.

At the Harrow in Leaf (HiL) August Bank Holiday Show held at the Harrow Museum & Tithe Barn, our members did us proud whilst as usual we did well in the inter-Society Championship – winning this once again. For the latter our thanks go to our Chris and John Salter who organise our entries in parallel with organising our own Show.

Our Show's new wonderful venue of Roxeth Community Church (RCC) was an instant hit last year with both competitors and visitors and this year proved an even greater attraction, so again we must again thank the RCC members for all their help and warm welcome they gave us. My annual mantra applies: yet again our Show was a spectacular success with about 300+ entries. And yet again it was accorded the highest praise by the judges, who asked (or should I say begged?) that our competitors entered the Middlesex County Show on the Sunday week. Such success does not happen by chance, so on your behalf I proffer our thanks to all involved - especially our Show secretary Chris Salter for her boundless energy and inspirational input.

The Show Committee would also wish to raise thanks to RCC members for all their invaluable help, interest, and support: we will return to RCC next year for our 2017 Show.

Finally, we also did well at the Middlesex County Show in Perivale, the Society again doing well in the inter-Society Award coming runner up to Harefield horticultural society (£15 to our coffers!). Although smaller than our Show it does attract some exemplary exhibits and as such next year, given the judges high praise for our Show, it would be nice to see some more of our members enter their wonderful exhibits to show a wider audience.

Trading Shed News

At the time of writing the Trading Shed looks very empty and we are completely out of horse manure but the Shed will be restocked fully in time for the major selling period in Spring and early Summer with all your favourite multi- purpose composts etc.

Shakespeare Autumn onion sets which can be planted now are available but are selling fast– so pop along and get yours before they all go.

However my main message at this time of the year is to come early in the New Year to buy your seed potatoes, onions and shallots, as because of rather poor sales I have not ordered so many as last year as the Society really cannot afford to lose money on seed potatoes if they are not sold.

Varieties ordered for 2016 are First Earlies – Pentland Javelin, Swift and Red Duke of York – Second Earlies - Charlotte and Kestrel – Main Crop -Desiree, King Edward, and Cara . As usual I have selected new variety which this year is Pentland Javelin and despite Brexit the price should be the same as last year.

As far as onions are concerned I have ordered the usual firm favourite varieties – Sturon and Golden Gourmet shallots, again they should be on sale early in the New Year.

These potatoes and onions will, hopefully, be on sale from Sunday 15th January 2017 so the advice is to come early to ensure you get the variety you want.

Tony Racher Trading Secretary



The Society would like to thank
Estate Agents Gibbs Gillespie for their
continued support and sponsorship
303 Rayners Lane
Tel 020 8868 9966