

Digging In

Newton Park Horticultural Society www.newtonparkhs.co.uk

Summer Issue 2016

Chairman's Notes

John Salter 020 8868 3254

Uncertainty seems to be the key word this Summer. As gardeners and growers I'm sure we would all vote for a little less rain and more sunshine. Hopefully, the uncertainty of the weather will not affect our harvest too much and there will be plenty of produce for you to share with us at our Show.

April's AGM had little surprises with a poor turnout. On your behalf I thanked all those who have contributed towards the running of our Society with special thanks to the Officers who do so much, but we do need more volunteers to eventually replace us all if the Society is to thrive long term. So don't take your Society for granted!

The best place to keep up to date with news, events bargains etc is at our Trading Shed. We want you to bring along your own ideas and nominations for charity donations. More than anything – join in and support your Society's events, especially our Show on 3th September.

AUTUMN SHOW - 3th September The big event!

September will soon be upon us. So make a note in your diary now for our Autumn Show. This will take place once again at Roxeth Community Church.

We really do make it very easy for everyone to have a go and enter at least one class. For those of you who aren't growers, there are classes for cookery, preserves, cake-making, hand-crafts, photography and a harvest festival class. We literally have classes for everyone. It is not all about winning prizes (although there are plenty for every level of ability), but this is your chance to share your skills with us and compare notes with others. There is little achievement if there is only one entry in a class. The schedules are available at the shed or from our web site, so see what you can enter. If you have never entered before - have a go and join in.

If you are unable to enter, why not just come along at 2.30 p.m. to look around and see what our members have achieved. Bring your friends and family it's **free entry** (but any donations are most welcome). Enjoy the exhibits, buy some spring bulbs or excess produce. There will also be tea and homemade cakes to refresh you. So do try to come along and have an enjoyable afternoon.

Over the years we have encouraged and been supported by record numbers of entries from members. This attracts more and more visitors as word gets around that our Show has become a unique and spectacular event. So come and support us again this year. Remember, it is entries and visitors that will determine just how spectacular it is. **Christine Salter,**



BBQ Party

This years BBQ will take place on Saturday 6th August from 6pm on Newton Park East allotments.

Food & fun bring your own drink. £6.50

Pease book with John Hillier on 02089331810 or John Salter on 02088683254



Secretary's Report

AGM:

Ron Dickens Hon. Secretary 020 8422 1609

A very disappointing turnout for our AGM this year, fortunately all existing officers and committee members were prepared to remain in office.

Financially we remain sound but we are short on manpower and would appreciate more help down the Shed and with our Shows. Do come down the Shed or contact me if you wish to consider helping – every little is appreciated.

2016 SHOWS:

Harrow in Leaf Show at the Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre on the 29th August Bank Holiday Monday. Hopefully all the major refurbishments and rebuild will be completed thus enabling a bigger better Show .

OUR SHOW : Roxeth Community Church, Coles Crescent South Harrow on Saturday 3rd September. I reiterate, this is the biggest and best individual society show in the Borough bar none. And if you think this is just hype then check out the list of other societies shows on our noticeboard and go to them. You'll soon see just how great ours is.

Middlesex Federation Show 11th September (Sunday) at Perivale Community Centre

The final show of the triad with which we are heavily involved and one at which both our members and the Society do well. Do come along and see how we do against other societies of the County. Schedules for all three are available from the Shed. Any problems do contact Chris Salter or me.

HELP FOR SHOWS: We can always make use of extra help at all three Shows, for setting up, helping during the Show, and/or clearing down. If you can help, please contact me or Chris Salter.

Trading Shed News

My report for this edition is going to be rather short as I am sure members are well aware by now of what goes on in the Trading Shed and must be getting a little bored with reading the same stuff from me.

Regulars will be aware that the amount of multi purpose compost is a little low at the present as there has been an unprecedented demand for giant bags. So I am afraid that only large bags are now left in stock and to order a further supply of giant bags would cost a great deal in delivery costs. Don't forget that you can always use growbags as a substitute.

The rest of the shed is pretty well stocked and there are a few bargains on offer such as

Desch pots which are Buy one get two free and all Wilko hose fittings at half price. There is also a vast selection of slug and snail pellets to combat the present plague of these pests.

Finally don't forget that there will be a selection of spring bulbs, hopefully, for sale at our show but because of poor sales there will be less varieties than in previous years so come along earlier to get the best choice.

Tony Racher Trading Secretary

Where do all the birds go?

The apparent disappearance of birds in August is another natural change and a part of the annual cycle of birds. There are two reasons for this.

Firstly, once birds have completed their breeding for the year, they moult into fresh new feathers. A moult of all feathers takes several weeks. During this period birds look rather scruffy, and while they are moulting their wing feathers, they are less able to escape predators.

During this time, they conceal themselves as much as possible to avoid predators and territory disputes. It's easy to get the impression that they've disappeared.

Secondly, in late summer natural food becomes available as grain, berries and fruit ripen. Many birds abandon their nesting areas and move to where the most food is. This is probably the time of the year when birds are least interested in our bird tables.



The Society would like to thank
Estate Agents Gibbs Gillespie for their
continued support and sponsorship
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