



EWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter February/March 2010



Chairman: Dave Tarrant
Assistant Show Secretary: Terry Eddowes
Membership: Roger Bellingham
Website: www.ewellhortassn.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Ewell Horticultural Association

will be held at Bourne Hall on Wednesday, 17 March, at 7.30pm. It will be followed by a talk by Peter Brandham from the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Spring Show 2010

Our first show of the season will take place on Saturday 27th March, at Blenheim High School, Longmead Road, from 2.30pm onwards. Look in your new handbook to see which classes you can enter, and then contact **Mrs Terry Eddowes**, before 9pm on Thursday 25th March with your entries.

Although some of our exhibitors produce a very high standard of blooms, don't be put off from entering because you think your flowers are not perfect. There is always room on the show bench for some new entrants, and everyone has to start somewhere! A lot depends on the weather, and you may find that your daffodils and narcissi are nearly as good as those of the experts. At this show there are a number of classes for pot plants and cacti, and you should be able to find some flowering shrubs which have survived the winter. In view of the sparse entries for some classes in previous years, new competitors stand a good chance of winning prizes!

If your talents are more domestic than horticultural, now is the time to bring out your hand made embroidery, needlework or knitting, or enter the cookery competitions. Don't forget to consult the handbook, as there are new recipes to try. Finally, encourage your children to enter. There are cookery and handicraft competitions for the under 7s and 7 – 13s, and entry is free.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

Spring Show: 27th March

Early Summer Show:

19th June

Autumn Show:

4th September

Late Autumn Show:

23rd October.

EHA talks, Bourne Hall, 8pm, £2

17 February: D P Cheston – The Herbaceous Border.

17 March: AGM at 7.30pm, followed by a talk by Peter Brandham from RBG Kew (no charge).

Wednesdays, 21 April, 19 May, 15 September, 20 October.

The Potting Shed at Ewell Court will be open on Sundays 7/21 February, 7/14/21/28 March, 4/18/25 April, 9/16/30 May. More dates are on your membership card.

Ewell Floral Art

We start the flower club year on the 10th February when Maureen Hanlan will be teaching us to make a simple wall decoration. All materials will be supplied. On the 10th March we will do an arrangement using plants and spring flowers. Subs are due in February - £20 for the year. We meet at Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane, meetings start at 8pm.

For further information please contact Sheila Stacey.

Nominated Class



This spring the Nominated Class consists of 3 blooms of a daffodil bought from the EHA at the Late Autumn Show 2009. Those of you who are nurturing your daffodils for this class, don't forget to enter, and also use any spare blooms in the other relevant classes at this show.

TRIPS This year's EHA Day trips are filling up fast, especially the trip to Beth Chatto's garden on 30th April. This year is the 50th anniversary of the garden, which is an inspirational place to visit. The date of the June trip to Hopley's/Bennington Lordship has been changed to **12th June** so it does not clash with the Summer Show. Contact Brenda Allen on for more details or see the last newsletter & web site for a booking slip.

Bedding Plants – Order Now!



The order form for Bedding Plants accompanies this Newsletter. The plants we offer are deservedly popular for their quality, and with a very small price increase on last year, they are truly a bargain.

As seen here, last year's plants in tubs at Nonsuch Primary School bloomed from May until the end of July, and were still in flower when the school returned in September!

With our bedding plants, you can ensure an amazing display of colour throughout the summer - we look forward to having your continued support and receiving your orders.

NOW – EVEN EASIER!

A copy of the plant Order form can be obtained from the front page of our web site www.ewellhortassn.co.uk and has been improved from previous versions.

This version will save your time by printing and calculating the totals for you as you go along. All you need do is print out the form once completed and sent it in with your cheque in the usual way.

Please return your order form to Fred Evans by 21st March 2010. Collection of plants is on 15th May, details on the form.

The **Epsom Garden Society** is holding shows on the following dates in 2010: March 20th, June 26th and September 11th.

The shows are held at St Martin's Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom at 2.00 - 4.30 pm. Contact Jan Hobday, Secretary, Epsom Garden Society, for more details.

The next **Surrey Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society** Show is on Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday) at Abinger Hammer Village Hall, RH56QX. The show is open between 1.30 and 3.30. Members of the EHA are welcome to come to the Society's monthly meetings and details of these will be in the Society's newsletters. Contact Alan Moody.

The Vernon Cup

The Vernon Cup is awarded at the Summer Show to the best pelargonium grown from plug plants purchased from the Association in conjunction with Vernon Geranium Nurseries. These are available at the Potting Shed, Talks and at the Spring Show, at a bargain price to those wanting to enter the competition. They must be exhibited in pots not exceeding 6in (15cm) internal diameter.

The Nominated Class for the Early Autumn Show is cutting your initials into a marrow and letting it grow. Seed will be available to purchase at the Spring Show, together with instructions as to how to grow the marrow. The cup will be presented to the biggest marrow.

Feed the Birds

At the time of compiling this newsletter, (mid January), we have been experiencing the hardest winter for years, and I have been particularly conscious of the need to feed the birds. Putting out food a few weeks ago, in thick snow, a robin came inches from my hands to take seeds, it was so hungry! Conditions are now improving, however, the welfare of the birds at this time of year is still a concern.

The RSPB website reminds us why we gardeners benefit from having birds in the garden, and offers good advice about feeding. In February and March the weather can still be cold, so it is important to keep feeding high energy foods such as seeds and fats, as well as trying to provide fresh, unfrozen water. Grapes, or soft apples and pears cut in half, are also welcome, together with soaked dried fruit, and grated cheese.

Once the birds start nesting, however, it is important not to provide foods which may choke young birds. For this reason, avoid putting out peanuts, fats, or large chunks of bread in late spring and early summer.

Once you establish a feeding routine, the birds may come to rely on you, particularly during cold or wet spells when insects may be in short supply.



Try, therefore, to feed regularly, so the birds can survive periods of shortage. They will reward you in plenty by eating many garden pests, and brightening our days with colour and song.