



EWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter April/May 2008

Chairman: Dave Tarrant

Assistant Show Secretary: Terry Eddowes

Membership: Roger Bellingham registrar@ewellhortassn.co.uk

Website: www.ewellhortassn.co.uk



EHA Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on 19 March, the Chairman thanked the Committee, and helpers at the shows, plant distribution and Potting Shed for their hard work during the past challenging year. Officers and helpers had been under extra pressure, partly because of the existing vacancies for key officers, and also because of the resignations of three more of them. The Chairman thanked Sandra Ranson, who had resigned after 10 years as Secretary, and six as Show Secretary, Jenny Booth for her many years of service on the committee, and Jo Ward-Ellison for her work as Publicity Officer over the past year. Any volunteers for their posts, and the other vacancies, would be most welcome. On a more positive note, the four shows in 2007 were very successful, with entries up on the previous year. In addition, there were four excellent trips and outings to gardens last year, arranged by Brenda Allen and Pauline Horne. There are still a few places on the 2008 trips (see overleaf). Finally, the Chairman thanked all those involved in the production and distribution of the newsletter, and Fred Evans for organising an imaginative programme of lectures. Rob Thomson was thanked for his continuing maintenance of the website, while Carol Bradbury's enthusiasm and hard work at the Potting Shed were paying off. After the AGM, members were treated to a fascinating talk on trees, by Liz Ramsay.

Looking forward to summer . . .

This newsletter went to press too early to include a report on the **Spring Show** on 29 March but congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who took part or helped behind the scenes. A list of winners will be included in the next newsletter and posted on the EHA website shortly.

So it is now time to start thinking about the **Summer Show** at Blenheim High School on Saturday, 21 June. With over 80 classes, there is something for everyone to enter.

As usual, entry to the show is free and doors open to visitors at 2.30pm, with presentation of prizes at 4.30pm.

Entries for the show should be with Mrs Terry Eddowes on before 9pm on Thursday, 19 June.

Class 54 relates to the Vernon Cup which is awarded for the **Pelargonium** grown from plants purchased from the EHA earlier this year. The plants should be shown in pots not exceeding 6in (15cm) internal diameter.

Class 83 is the nominated class for **hostas**. Three hosta leaves will be judged equally for quality and variety.

Check your Handbook or the website for details of all the classes at the Summer Show. We look forward to seeing you there.

. . . and to autumn

. . . when you will be able to enter your photographs in four classes at the late show on 25 October. Topics are *Market Scene*, *Hedgerow*, *Stately Home* and *In a Greenhouse*.

Jo and Roy escape to the country

It was only their attendance at EHA lectures and the fortunes of our raffle that brought our attention to Jo Ward-Ellison and her husband Roy, who subsequently helped us in so many ways. Sadly, for us, they are moving to the country.

Jo, our Publicity Officer, produced our excellent flower show posters and was co-producer of the newsletter. She also co-ordinated the redrafting of the Handbook.

But, more important, both of them brought welcomed vitality to everything they were involved with. They will be sorely missed, not only for their work with the EHA but as friends. We wish them all the best for their new life in Herefordshire.

Can you help?

If anything is true it is that the EHA has survived for so many years because of the willingness of individuals to help organise events or just give their time. We are currently in a position where we badly need that help. If you can lend a hand, please contact our friendly Chairman, Dave Tarrant, Carol Bradbury (at the Potting Shed) or Fred and Anne-Marie Evans.

Ewell Floral Art

On **9 April** we have a demonstration by Pam Lee entitled *My Favourite Places*. This is an open meeting, with visitors very welcome. Entry £3.50. Doors open 7.30 for 8pm.

On **14 May**, Maureen Hanlan will be running an evening entitled *Rhapsody in Blue*. Members will be shown how to incorporate or use a blue bottle in their arrangements.

Our meetings are held at Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane. For further information, please contact Sheila Stracy.

Collect your plants

Members who have ordered bedding plants should pick them up from Glyn School, The Kingsway, Ewell, on Saturday, 10 May. This year they can be collected from 8.30-11am and from 12.30-2.30pm, regardless of your name. Come along at your convenience but not, we hope, all at once. Any spare plants will be sold off from 2.30pm that day and on the Sunday morning at the Potting Shed.

April in your garden

- Many shrubs will benefit from a trim now to keep them tidy and encourage new growth.
- Trim over-lanky winter-flowering jasmine, *Jasminum nudiflorum* plants and tie in long shoots to their supports to tidy the display.
- Hard prune tall old stems on *buddleja davidii*, *Leycesteria formosa* and other fast-growing shrubs that flower on new wood. Many dogwoods and willows, should also be cut back hard now, right down to a stubby base, about 30cm (12in) from the ground.
- Clip old flowers off winter-flowering heathers. Take care not to trim back into old wood.
- Mark any congested clumps that have flowered poorly with a label to remind you to lift and divide them later in the year. Give every clump of bulbs a thorough soaking with a liquid feed.
- Spread a thick layer of compost or well-rotted manure as a mulch around established shrubs and along the base of hedges to help conserve moisture in the soil and keep down annual weeds.

Jobs for May

- Finish sowing hardy annual flowers outside in May. Later sowings will result in later blooms.
- Place support frames over tall perennials, or those with a floppy disposition. Remember to put eye guards on top of any canes used.
- Prune back the flowering stems of hellebores, such as *helleborus argutifolius* as soon as blooms are past their best. Cut back to their base to make room for new shoots. If seedlings are required, leave a stem to set seed; collect and sow it when ripe.
- Now that the danger of frost has passed, cut down last year's growth from perennials such as *penstemons*. This will encourage new flowers to bloom during later summer months.

Talk about gardening

Our monthly talks are held at Bourne Hall, Ewell, and start at 8pm:

16 April, Wildlife Gardening, John Clachan will tell us how to create a garden that will benefit our wildlife.

21 May, Organic Gardening, Paul Templeton discusses the basic principles. Admission is £2 and includes a great raffle and tea/coffee.

Stock up at the Potting Shed

The Potting Shed will be open on

- Sundays 6/13*/20/27 April and Wednesday 16 April.
- Sundays 11/18/25* May and Wednesday 14 May.
- Sundays 1/8*/22 June and Wednesday 11 June.

* denotes extra openings.

Sunday openings are 1000-1200 noon

Wednesdays: 6.00-7.30pm

Extra openings may be arranged on Saturdays. Please check the notice board at Potting Shed for these.



Trips in 2008

For those booked on the **Cambridge** trip at the end of June, the balance is due by 15 May. Please contact Brenda to find out exactly how much you owe. This will depend on whether you are RHS or English Heritage members, or senior citizens.

There are still a few places left on the **day trips** on 7 May (Bucks) and 10 August (Kent). Details were published in the December/January newsletter. Please ring Brenda for information or to book.

Road stewards

We are seeking volunteers to join our network of road stewards:

- Park Avenue East (23 addresses) and Parry Road, Stoneleigh (3);
- Northey Avenue (3 addresses), Harefield Avenue (2) and West Drive, Cheam (1);
- Reigate Road (8 addresses), Curvan Close (2), Persfield Close (1) and Tayles Hill Drive, Ewell (1);
- Banstead Road (4 addresses), Beverley Close (4), Burford Lane (4), Birchfield Grove (1) and Howell Hill Grove (1);

If you could help with any of these, please contact The Registrar on registrar@ewellhortassn.co.uk.

VISIT A LOCAL GARDEN

Two Surrey gardens are open at this time of year under the National Garden Scheme. More details of these, plus many others, can be found in the *Yellow Book* or on the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk.

41 Shelveys Way, Tadworth

Half-acre back garden of dense and detailed planting, interesting at all seasons, starting with a mass of spring bulbs with over 100 varieties of daffodils. In one part, beds of choice perennials are interlaced by paths and backed by unusual shrubs and mature trees; in the other, cobbles and shingle support grasses and special plants for dry conditions.

Open: 23 and 27 April and 20 July (1.30-5pm).

Admission: £2.50. Home-made teas available.

Moleshill House, The Fairmile, Cobham

To meet the challenges of climate change, significant replanning and replanting have taken place in this romantic garden surrounding a Victorian house. Short woodland path with shade-loving plants leads from dovecote to beehives. Informally planted colour co-ordinated borders contrast with the strict formality of topiary box and garlanded cisterns. Mediterranean courtyard with bright colours and tender plants, conservatory, fountains, bog garden, pleached avenue of 38 *Sorbus lutescens*, pots and many unusual features. Only a few minutes from Claremont Landscape Garden, Painshill Park and Wisley.

Open: 11 May with music and 14 May (2-5pm).

Admission: £3. Home-made teas.