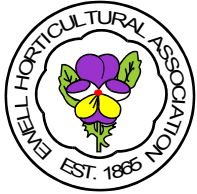


EWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

February/March 2003

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

SECRETARY/SHOW SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bedding plant orders 2003

With your newsletter you will have received this year's order form for summer bedding plants.

Please note that these need to be returned by 28 February to Fred Evans, the Assistant Treasurer, who has volunteered to receive and process the orders for us.

You will be aware that these plants are grown to order which enables us to offer them at a good price and high quality. Order your plants now and take the stress out of shopping.

There are a few changes to the list from last year. The supplier has had to change his practice to fall in line with other growers and can no longer offer boxes of 40 plants. Plants previously supplied in this quantity are now available in boxes of 24. However the plants are grown in individual modules, are much larger and will become established and flower quicker.

Three new items on the list are argyranthemum (marguerite) and lantana, both of which are suited to container planting or bedding and continental trailing geraniums highly suited to baskets and window boxes being very floriferous.

Flower Show

The Spring Flower Show on March 29 starts the gardening year off for most of us. Do you know that there are over 23,000 varieties of daffodil registered? They come in many different shapes, sizes and colours and many are sweetly scented. They are perfectly hardy and an early treat in the garden. Pay a visit to the show (2.30pm onwards) and you could become hooked on them.

There is scope at this show for those that can bake, knit, sew, crochet or are talented in other crafts to enter the competitions. In addition to the sales stalls there will be an activity for junior visitors organised by Katherine and Anne-Marie.

The nominated class is for the pot of Anemone Caen details of which were provided to those that bought the corms - Class number 100

All entries should be **phoned** to **Diane Chandler (members will have contact number) by 9pm** on Thursday 27 March. This is the *latest* time, however she will be happy to take your entries in the days leading up to this, but not after 9pm please.

I am still looking for support to help set up the show on Friday evenings so please don't be shy and send me (Sandra - 'ever hopeful') an email on secretary@ewellhortassn.co.uk Nominated class for June Show 2003 is a board of 6 clematis blooms, 1 or more varieties

The Pelargonium selected for the Vernon Cup (June Show) is SASSA. It is an easy-to-grow, compact plant. Plugs can be obtained from 17 March from the Potting Shed. Every entrant

will receive a £1 voucher with additional vouchers for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places kindly donated by Vernon Geranium Nursery.

Open Sweet Pea Competition

At the Summer Show on 21 June we will be holding a competition for sweet peas that is open to members and non-members. There are big prizes that are being sponsored by local tradespeople. It is hoped that we will get a good response and that it will add to the interest of the show and encourage visitors.

The classes are:

£20 prize for best vase of 9 stems sponsored by Arkell Antiques, Dorking

Exhibitors that grow 200 or more plants

Class 1 3 vases of 9 stems, distinct variety in each.

Prize money £10, £7, £3 sponsored by **Selectrical Installations of Stoneleigh**

Class 2 2 vases of 9 stems, distinct variety in each.

Prize money £5, £3, £2 sponsored by **F Giles, East Street, Epsom**

Class 3 1 vase of 9 stems, 3 varieties 3 of each

Prize money £3, £2, £1 sponsored by **Burnside Nursery Chobham, (supplier of plants to EHA)**

Exhibitors who grow less than 200 plants

Class 4 2 vases of 9 stems, distinct variety in each.

Prize money £5, £3, £2 sponsored by **Beechcroft Nursery, Reigate Road, Ewell**

Class 5 1 vase of 9 stems one variety

Prize money £3, £2, £1 sponsored by **Burnside Nursery, Chobham, (supplier of plants to EHA)**

Class 6 1 vase of 9 stems, 2 or more varieties

Prize money £3, £2, £1 sponsored by **Louise Field Flowers, Epsom.**

Annual General Meeting

The Association's Annual general meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell on 19 March 2003 commencing at 7.30pm. (*NB not 8pm as stated in the last Newsletter*) Following the business and refreshments there will be a talk by Tim Richardson entitled 'All Quiet Up Here'.

This is the story of the Canadian Riot at Epsom Police Station in 1919 that ended with the death of Police Sergeant Green. This talk comes highly recommended and I urge you all to come, listen and enjoy.

Sandra Ranson

THE POTTING SHED

The Potting Shed at Ewell Court House will be open on the following dates: **Sundays (10 am to 12 noon):** 2 February, 16 February, 16 March, 23 March. **Wednesdays (6 pm to 7.30 pm):** 16 April, 30 April, 14 May, 4 June.

As we approach our busy time, I can report that we are well stocked with most of our regular lines. You will help us, and yourselves, if you can buy early as it will spread demand over more openings. This will reduce queues and avoid disappointment if we do run out of a particular product.

Bargains to be had include Levingtons 75 litre seed and potting compost at £3, 16in hanging baskets at £1.50 and 12in for £1. Come down to see just what is in stock

ROGER who used to wear the **BOWLER HAT**

Trips and Outings 2003

Seats are still available on each of the trips. If you want to bring friends or relatives they will be very welcome at membership rates.

To book any of the trips contact Pamela on outings@ewellhortassn.co.uk.

Cheques for deposits/final amount made payable to Ewell Horticultural Association and sent to Mrs Pamela Knowles. £30 deposit per person as soon as possible with insurance details for either the Foreign or Long Weekend trip. Day trip payable in full by end February 2003.

DAY TRIP

Saturday, 3 May 2003 to Exbury and Borde Hill Gardens.
£24.50 per person including entrance, concessions included.

2003 FOREIGN TRIP

5-Day break, Thursday 15 May to Monday 19 May 2003.
Gardens of Normandy, France, including Monet's Garden at Giverny.
£225 per person which includes hotel and evening meal on first night, coach, ferry and entrance to gardens. Single room supplement £56 per person (£14 nightly for four nights).
Travel insurance compulsory (payable with deposit). Palmers £16 per person payable with deposit or proof of own insurance (name of insurance company and policy number required).

2003 LONG WEEKEND TRIP

PETE'S CORNER

Sweetpea (*Lathyrus odoratus*) continued

Spring Sowing of sweet peas can be carried out from December through to March (technically not spring sown). The same procedure is followed as for Autumn sowing, although a little heat is beneficial to encourage germination. At the first signs of soil break (emergence) the plants must be treated as October sown plants, except once two pairs of leaves have opened the growing point must be stopped/removed.

Final Soil Preparation should be carried out by the end of February/March weather permitting. Trenches should be raked to obtain a good tilth. This will also assisted with drying out of heavy soils.

Planting out commences from the first week in March, once again weather permitting. Sweet Peas are quite hardy and will withstand cold weather

Clump Growing. If growing for cut flowers, the groups of plants in the 6in/150mm pots are planted directly into the growing position, bushy hazel/birch sticks 6ft/2m high are pushed in around the clumps, and some smaller twigs placed around the base of the clump for initial support/protection or they can be allowed to just scramble up netting. Do not forget your slug bait immediately after planting. (This method will give you smaller flowers and shorter stems than the cordon method)

The Cordon System of Growing is used if growing exhibition blooms. The plants that have been grown in single pots are knocked out and planted 9in/225mm apart and 12in/300mm from the centre line of your trench so when completed you will have two rows 24/ 600mm apart.

The groups of plants in the 6in/150mm potted plants are knocked out, the roots teased apart selecting the strongest plants. These are then planted out in the same way (please don't forget your slug bait). 8ft bamboo canes can then be positioned runner-bean style. However they should be placed about 2in/50mm on the outside of each plant. The reason for this is that initial wind protection is very important. This can be achieved in several ways, planks of wood can be placed against the canes, fleece or windbreak mesh is good. These can also give some protection if extreme cold is forecast. During kind mild sunny weather these can be lowered to give plants full sun.

In the April/May issue I will be dealing with growing on and some tips to get the best from your plants.

In the mean time if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email: peter.king19@btinternet.com

4-Day break, Friday 25 July to Monday 28 July 2003.

Tatton Park Flower Show and gardens of the north-west.
£199 per person (entry to show and gardens *not* included).
Members (EHA, RHS, NT or senior citizens) will be able to have reduced or free entry; the remainder, when numbers are known, will benefit from group discounts. Single room supplement £36 per person (£12 per night for 3 nights).

Please let Pamela know which gardens you would like to visit and whether you are a senior citizen or a member of any of the above societies, including the EHA.

Detailed itineraries of all these trips/visits appeared in the December 2002/January 2003 *Newsletter*.

Ewell Foral Art Group

Our first meeting of the year will be on **12 February** entitled "**Take Five Flowers**". We will meet at Ruxley Church in Ruxley Lane from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Membership fee is £20 for the year plus £1 membership to EHA. Visitors are welcome to join us. On **12 March** we will show how to do different kinds of "**Landscape Arrangements**".

For further information, including the Show titles for the Spring Show please contact Sheila Stracy on info@ewellhortassn.co.uk

EHA Lectures

These will be held at Bourne Hall commencing at 8 p.m.

5 Februry "Rock and Water Features" – G W Ace

4 March "Waddesdon – A Victorian Garden" – D P Cheston

9 April "Climbers" – P Spriggs

We have a full and varied list of speakers and subjects for 2003.

As you know, I have set up the lectures for the EHA over the past couple of seasons and will continue to do so. I do however want to investigate the possibility of forming a group of members who would be interested in meeting, perhaps monthly, primarily as a social event but also as a means of discussing the lectures and possible subjects for the future.

Remember and please note that you are **not** being asked to take up a position or organise anything. It is your opinions and suggestions that would be of great assistance.

Those of you who would be interested in a chat over tea and biscuits should contact Fred Evans on lectures@ewellhortassn.co.uk