



EWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter June/July 2008

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EHA Spring Show, one of the best

Although the weather outside was wet and blustery, this year's Spring Show turned out to be one of the busiest anyone can remember. Members and visitors had a really enjoyable afternoon and the verdict was that our opening show of 2008 was a great hit. Let's hope the others are as successful.

The unseasonably warm winter followed by the cold, wet weeks leading up to the show meant that the number of daffodils exhibited was down on previous years, but the show of flowering shrubs, tulips and pot plants more than made up for this. Other exhibits included cookery and handicrafts, and the Floral Art Group put on a breathtaking display of flower arrangements. The children enjoyed themselves too, mixing soil to plant up their own pots of violas, complete with hand-made plant labels.

The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Jean Steer, presented the cups and medals to all the winners. Top awards were:

Spring Show Challenge Cup: Geoff and Val Ellam; **Arnall Cup:** Ronald Hedge; **Secretary's Cup:** Jennifer Booth; **National Daffodil Society Medal:** Ronald Hedge.

As always, the flower shows are only possible due to the hard work put in by our dedicated band of show helpers. Many thanks to them, and to the members who came along to support this event.

If you did not make the Spring Show, then it's not long till the **Summer Show**, on **Saturday, 21 June**. Full details below. We look forward to seeing you there.

Get ready for the Summer Show

The **Summer Show** will take place on Saturday 21 June, at Blenheim School, Longmead Road, Epsom. The show opens at 2.30pm and continues to 4.30pm when the prizes are presented. At this time of year, gardens are in full flower, so expect to see magnificent roses, sweet peas, pinks and delphiniums, as well as beautiful pot plants, pelargoniums and fuchsias. There should be plenty of vegetables and soft fruit too. The Floral Art competitions are always of an exceptional standard – worth a visit to the show on their own.

Why not enter a few exhibits yourself? If your skills are domestic rather than in the garden, you could enter the cookery classes and show off your talents that way.

Details of all the classes are in the Handbook, and entry for most classes is only 10p. For those of you who have been growing a Pelargonium purchased from the EHA earlier this year, now is the time to enter it into **Class 54** for the Vernon Cup.

In addition, the nominated class this show, **Class 83**, is for three hosta leaves, to be judged on quality and variety.

Finally, there are children's classes too, both for cookery and handicraft. Recently we have had very few entries for either section, so if your child enters, the chances of winning a prize are very high. Details are in the Handbook and entry is FREE.

To enter the show, contact Mrs Terry Eddowes before 9pm on Thursday, 19 June.

Don't forget that there is a children's activity at each EHA show, supervised by Elaine Marshall, one of our volunteers. At the **Summer Show on 21 June**, she will be helping them to make a herb garden, so be sure to bring your children along.

Congratulations to the Surrey Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society, whose team of Tod Frost and Fred Austin won the Inter Society Championship at the South East England Show for the fourth year running.



Forty-four members visited Waddesdon Manor (above) and Chenies Manor, on a separate early May day. Contact Brenda for details of our Kent trip, the last of 2008

Lend a hand

At the AGM in March it was noted that there are still several posts vacant on the Committee, and Jo Ward-Ellison's departure makes a further hole in our skeleton staff. With more and more duties being carried out by fewer and fewer people, we would welcome offers of help from any member, even if just for a couple of hours at one of the shows. The Committee posts are not particularly onerous, and joining in with the organisation of the EHA can be fun. If you are interested, please contact Dave Tarrant for a chat, or speak to any of the Committee at the shows or at the Potting Shed.

Ewell Floral Art

On **11 June**, in *Ideas for the table*, Barbara Meineck will give us a teach-in on how to make our dinner table look good.

Then, on **9 July**, we can watch a demonstration entitled *Summer Nights* by Annette Urquart. Visitors are welcome, £3.50.

We meet at 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane. For any further information, contact Sheila Stracy.



For the first time in years our bedding plants were distributed on a sunny day. Many thanks to all who placed orders and in particular for collecting them within the set timescales. Special thanks to Gordon and his hardworking team without whom this annual event would not be possible.

DATES ... DATES ...

As usual we take a break from our popular talks at Bourne Hall during the summer months but we can look forward to 17 September, when Chloë Dancey will tell us about *My Life as a Shepherdess*. Chloë has worked on the Loseley Park estate for 40 years, and will be bringing along the tools of her trade, including some which date back to the 18th century. Sounds fascinating. **Kathy Alexander**

The Potting Shed will be open on Sundays 1/8*/22 June and Wednesday 11 June (6.00-7.30pm). In July, the dates are Sundays 6/20 and in August, Sundays 3/17. Sunday openings: 10 am-1200 noon. *extra opening.

EHA Autumn Show, Saturday, 6 September.
Late Autumn Show, Saturday, 25 October. Don't forget to keep your cameras at the ready, so that you can enter the Photography Classes at this show. Subjects are: *Market Scene*, *Hedgerow*, *Stately Home* and *In a Greenhouse*.

Time for roses

At this time of year it is all too easy to spend a lot of time in your own garden and forget to visit some of the other lovely ones in the area. Roses, particularly the old-fashioned, sweet smelling types, are at their best in June and July, so here are some suggestions of places to visit to see them.

Polesden Lacey is a house and garden run by the National Trust, just the other side of Leatherhead. There is a walled rose garden, together with other garden areas and beautiful views across the Surrey Hills.

Mottisfont Abbey, for those of us who can get a bit farther afield, is near Romsey in Hampshire. This is also a National Trust property, with a large walled garden crammed with beautiful old-fashioned roses, at their peak in June. Details of both of these are on www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Loseley is a house, park and gardens near Guildford. The walled garden, based on a Gertrude Jekyll design, contains over 1,000 different old-fashioned roses, at their best at this time of year. There are also herb and other flower gardens, and of course refreshments are available. Details on www.loseley-park.com.

June in your garden

- Plant out annuals – either bought or sown from seed – to fill any gaps in borders. Possibilities include **Cosmos** with its lush ferny foliage and **Nicotianas** (tobacco plants); for evening fragrance; *Nicotiana alata* and tall *N. sylvestris* are scented.
- Remove faded flowers from rhododendrons and camellias taking care not to damage the new shoots emerging below old flowers.
- In the fruit and vegetable garden: thin out apples and pears so the fruits won't touch each other when fully grown, tie in new canes of blackberries, make a second sowing of courgettes and tomatoes to continue cropping later in the year and make successional sowings of salad leaves.
- Book tickets for Hampton Court Flower Show (8-13 July).

Jobs for July

- Prune shrubs that have recently flowered such as **Philadelphus**, **Weigela** and **Deutzia** removing one stem in three and any dead or damaged branches.
- Divide rhizomes of congested **bearded irises** when they have finished flowering. Dig up the rhizomes, remove the oldest pieces from the middle of the clump and replant the rest individually, having cut the leaves back by about half. They should be planted so that the top of the rhizome is above the soil and, preferably, facing south. Water in well.
- Transplant biennial seedlings such as **Sweet Williams** and **Wallflowers** which were sown in May. This helps them make good root systems before they are planted in their final positions in September or October.
- Keep greenhouse tomatoes watered regularly to lessen the risk of blossom end rot.
- Watch out for greenhouse pests such as whitefly and red spider mite, and damp down the floor frequently to increase humidity and discourage the mites.
- Relax with a glass of wine or beer and enjoy your garden.