



ASHFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

President: V.S.J. Leader, Esq.

FOUNDED 1948

Please Reply to: 22 Percy Avenue
Ashford Middx
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23rd January 2017

Dear Member

The next meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday 14th February 2017** in St. Matthew's Hall at 8pm. The speaker is Russell Dixon, who will be talking about his job as Head Gardener at Great Fosters, as well as talking about the building and gardens. He will also mention the wild birds etc that his wife (a veterinary surgeon) brings home to care for, and the llamas, donkeys and many other animals that they have. This sounds fascinating so do come along and maybe bring a friend or neighbour - either as a guest (£1) or as a new member. The speaker for March will be Paolo Arrigo of Franchi Seeds.

Competitions for the Evening

1. A bowl of bulbs.
2. A spray of flowering shrub.
3. 3 stems of snowdrops
4. 3 stems of hellebore
5. A mini collection of vegetables, 2 kinds, 1 specimen of each
6. A photo, A5 size or smaller, 'Hint of Spring'

[N.B: exhibits in class 1 must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months.]

Plant Fair This year our Plant Fair is on Saturday 29th April and, with the demise of Ashford-on-the-Map, will be our main fundraising event for the year. It will be particularly important that we do well and now is the time for you to be planning your contribution. We will, as usual, be buying in some bedding plants and will need volunteers to help bring them on. Greenhouse cover is needed, but not necessarily heated, as the plants do not arrive till early March. Please contact Barry Muggeridge or Bob Calder if you can help. We also need vegetables and other plants, so sow a few extra seeds or take some extra cuttings to help provide lots of bargains on the day. Our veg stall is both popular and profitable, so veg plants are especially welcome.

Seeds If you have any surplus seeds this year, please bring them along to the monthly meetings, clearly labelled, and put them on the plants and magazines table for other members who might be able to use them.

Plant Swap This event that we first held in 2013 and then again in 2015 was so successful that we will be holding another one this year on Saturday 8th July. Once again we are asking members to donate plants: this can be by perhaps growing some (from the seeds you might pick up at the seed swap?), or surplus plants from your garden or greenhouse; perhaps there are plants that you need to split this year or you can even take some cuttings and grow them on. We leave it to you, but it would be great to have a good display of plants in Church Road on that Saturday in July not only to bring pleasure to the people of Ashford, but also to raise the profile of the society and get new members.

Subscriptions please see the note and renewal slip on the second page of this newsletter.

Barbara Baghapour
Hon Secretary

Subscriptions These are to remain at £6 per member and £10 for member and partner, and are due from 1st January. In past years members have queued for an unacceptably long time to renew their subscriptions. In an attempt to avoid this we are introducing a different method for 2017 by having two ways to renew:

Please complete the tear off slip printed below and put it in an envelope together with your cheque, made payable to Ashford Horticultural Society and EITHER send it to the Membership Secretary (address below) OR drop it in the marked box on the membership desk when you attend a meeting. Renewals will be processed and membership cards, together with the Show Schedule, will be ready for collection at the next and subsequent meetings.

If you are unable to attend meetings and would like the paperwork posted to you, please enclose a C5 sized SAE.

New membership will be processed at the meetings, as before.

We do hope that members will find this a smoother process.

ASHFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017

£6 SINGLE MEMBER; £10 MEMBER & PARTNER

TO: Miss Cathy Setterfield, Membership Secretary, 67A Chesterfield Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3PF

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

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TEL. NOs

EMAIL