



Sanderstead Horticultural Society



FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! This is my favourite time of the gardening year, sitting in the warm, reading seed catalogues and dreaming of future success, whilst forgetting what did not do so well last year. Father Christmas bought me a great new gardening gadget, the BOSCH rechargeable garden saw; it's similar to an electric carving knife, light enough to hold in one hand, and can cut branches up to 3 inches thick. I think I may be able to find the bottom of the garden again this year.

Many of you know that, when I am not being Chairman, I lecture about the great gardens of the world aboard cruise ships. Last year we were lucky enough to visit more than 40 of the great cities of Europe. Naturally the first thing we do on arriving at a new place is to seek out the local gardens. The question I am most often asked is which is my favourite? A difficult one to answer because gardens change throughout the seasons. My favourites last year were the Keukenhof, south of Amsterdam, for spring colour. For spectacle, Versailles and, in Russia, The Peterhof near St Petersburg. For location, Villa Ruffelo on the Amalfi coast in Italy, and for all year interest I don't think Wisley can be beaten!

Once again Wisley is holding its "Butterflies in the Greenhouse" event up to 26th February. This year promises to be even more spectacular with displays of caterpillars as well as exotic tropical butterflies. I am assured that robins will be excluded from the glass house after they managed to eat many of the prize specimens a couple of years ago!

For me the gardening year starts with a visit to the RHS Halls in Westminster for the first of the year's London Flower Shows on 14th- 15th February. Look out for the Lockyers' display of snowdrops. You do not have to be a member to get in.

We start our series of lectures on 9th February with Kevin Ahronson, the chairman of Purley Photographic Society, talking about photography in the garden. Our most entered classes at the shows are always in the photography sections. So, there is obviously a great deal of interest among members, and this should be a most useful evening.

You may remember last February when we had that fantastic talk from Tom Hart Dyke on his World Garden at Lullingstone; the hall was packed to overflowing. Our two local literary societies were quick to sign Tom up for repeat performances - see the diary for details.

Sadly still no response to my pleas for some dynamic new committee members.

Finally "Can you tell me what cross-pollination is?" asked the botany teacher. "Please, miss" said a little girl from the back row, "is that when the lady flower isn't in the mood?"

Happy Gardening.

Colin Jones, Chairman



With children, for children, with you Charity Registration No 221124

EXHIBITION AND SALE OF PICTURES BY LOCAL ARTISTS

Saturday 17th March 10.00 am - 4.30 pm The Small Hall, Sanderstead United Reformed Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill. Admission and programme 50p. Talented artists from all over the Sanderstead, Purley, Croydon and Caterham area will again be displaying their work at this exhibition held in aid of The Children's Society. It is a wonderful opportunity to buy an original picture, framed or unframed, at affordable prices. There will also be a raffle and home-made cakes and preserves stall. We do hope you can come to support this fundraising event to help the Society with its work with those children in this country most in need.

MANURE AVAILABLE Put real heart back into your soil! High quality rotted horse manure in bags delivered to your door. Telephone: **020 8660 6078**.

SNOWDROP DAYS AT CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN 4th, 5th, 11th & 12th February 10-4pm Discover dozens of fascinating types on Snowdrop Trail and on display. A wide selection of snowdrops and other winter flowering plants from specialist nurseries on sale. Admission: Adults (incl Senior Citizens) £9; Children under 5 free; Students & unemployed £6.

RAINFALL Kathleen Davies recorded 47 mm of rain for the month of December. Average temperatures for December 2011, as recorded by John Morris, were: high 47.1F (8.4C) and low 40.4F (4.7C). For December 2010 - high 37.4F (3.0C) and low 31.4F (-0.3C).

RHS LONDON SHOW 14th (10-7pm) & 15th (10-5pm) FEBRUARY, RHS HALLS, GREYCOAT STREET, WESTMINSTER

Snowdrops, Narcissus and other favourites from leading nurseries brighten up the Lawrence Hall. The nurseries have wonderful stocks of plants for sale. In the Lindley Hall, Alexandra Froggatt, runner up of the RHS National Young Designer of the Year and finalist Owen Morgan will create two gardens.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 8th Feb 8pm 'Flowers That Bloom In The Spring' illustrated talk by Colin Jones, Sanderstead Literary Society, United Reformed Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill

Thurs 9th Feb 8pm SHS Talk 'Photography in the Garden' talk by Kevin Ahronson, All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens

Tues 15th & Wed 15th Feb London RHS Show, Greycoat Street, Westminster

Tues 21st Feb 8pm 'Kidnapped in Paradise' talk by Tom Hart Dyke, Purley Literary Soc, United Reformed Church, Brighton Road, (next to Purley Hospital)

Wed 7th March 8pm 'The Highs & Lows of Creating The World Garden & Other Tales', Tom Hart Dyke at Sanderstead Literary Soc, United Reformed Church, Sanderstead Hill

NEXT CIRCULAR: 1st March (notes by 21st February) to Brenda Bateman (8657 5280) 32 Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead, CR2 9AR. Email bateman456@btinternet.com

Delivered by your Road Steward: Tel:.....

Discounted tickets for RHS Wisley - please book in advance with: Colin Whitfield (8657 1972) or Valerie Burley (8651 5837). To hire equipment, call Elizabeth Moran (8657 6828)