



# Sanderstead Horticultural Society



## NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

**SHS AGM THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL,  
ONSLow GARDENS, 7.30 PM**

10<sup>th</sup> November and the A.G.M. comes around again; please note the earlier starting time of 7.30pm, so as not to delay our speaker. Do come along, have a glass of wine and give us your ideas and suggestions for next year. Traditionally, I ask for volunteers to join the committee and, traditionally, I am met with silence. With the huge success of our shows we are finding that we are severely under-staffed; we need some more strong energetic members who are available to help us on those two show days. We also need someone to act as Lecture Secretary to book five speakers each year and confirm bookings with the churches, and a computer-literate member to assist with keeping our web site up-to-date. None of these jobs requires great horticultural knowledge or know-how. Please think how you could help us maintain the future success of your Society.

If you are thinking about your holiday destination for next year, Floriade at Venlo in Holland is one to consider. The great Dutch flower show and exhibition takes place every ten years. I have been to the last two (how time flies) and I can thoroughly recommend a visit. It is a little like the garden festivals we used to have in this country, where a rather run-down area is beautified and transformed into a park and exhibition with a legacy of future development.

The show opens on 5<sup>th</sup> April and runs through to 5<sup>th</sup> October. As I write, one million bulbs are being planted. Over one hundred national and international exhibitors will be taking part and a cable-car of over one kilometre (six tenths of a mile) in length has already been installed. Venlo is a three-and-a-half hour drive from the Channel ports, and would make a great double-bill with a visit to the Dutch bulb fields. I notice that many tour operators are also including it in their brochures.

Next year, the Jubilee year, sees many exciting gardens opening, particularly at the Olympic site. I was given, recently, a behind-the-scenes tour of the redesigned gardens at Kensington Palace. Amazing work is being done there by the Royal Palaces to restore the original entrance and drive to the Palace. This has involved removing many trees and reopening the original vistas from Kensington Gardens. The Gardens open to the public in March, and will be officially opened by the Queen in June. A garden definitely to put on your 'must visit' list.

**Colin Jones, Chairman**

### **AGENDA FOR 71<sup>ST</sup> SHS AGM - 7.30pm THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL, ONSLOW GARDEN**

1. Minutes of 70<sup>th</sup> AGM
2. Matters arising from the previous minutes
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report with account for year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011
5. Election of Officer for the year 2012
6. Election of Committee for the year 2012
7. To set subscription to the Society for the year 2012
8. Any other business

## **REPORT ON OCTOBER TALK ON 'PLANTS FOR CHALK', BY BRIAN DEAVILLE**

This talk was well attended. Mr. Deaville is an excellent speaker, quietly humorous, and his talk was well structured. He gave us very useful information on many plants which could be grown in chalky soil, but stressed that this should first be improved by adding any organic matter that will hold moisture - compost, manure, leaf mould, bracken etc. If lime-hating plants are really wanted the only way is to have raised beds or dig 2 ft. of chalk out and replace with ericaceous soil or compost (or put in a pot). Mr. Deaville had beautiful slides showing plants growing in surroundings to see them at their best. He told us of many, from alpines, annuals and perennials to shrubs and small trees. He gave brief descriptions of each with tips on how to grow the more tricky ones, such as peonies, which need two seasons for the seeds to germinate. This can be hastened by two sessions of putting the pot in the fridge and then on a windowsill alternately, thus fooling the seeds into feeling two winters have passed.

**THE NEXT TALK WILL BE ON THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER AFTER THE A.G.M.,** and will be given by Joy Gadsby, the well-known local naturalist. She will speak on 'Bees and other Insects' (Gardeners' Friends). This will be accompanied by slides. Joy is always very knowledgeable and should be able to tell us how to encourage the insects which will help us.

**Mary Early**

## **NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL**

If you are receiving your newsletter by this method, and you change your e-mail address, could you please ensure that you let Alan Irving know at [sanderstead\\_hs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sanderstead_hs@yahoo.co.uk). Also, occasionally, some e-mail boxes reject the e-mail, so, if you haven't received a copy for a particular month, once again please contact Alan Irving.

## **MANURE AVAILABLE**

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

**RAINFALL** Kathleen Davies recorded just 32 mm (1.25 ins.) of rain for the month of September, 8mm (0.3 ins.) of which fell on the 11<sup>th</sup>. For October up to 21<sup>st</sup>, just 9mm (0.4 ins.) has fallen. Average high and low temperatures for September, as recorded by John Morris, were for 2011: high - 66.7F (19.3C) and low 55.3F (12.9C). For 2010 the figures were: high - 62.8F (17.1C) and low 49.6F (9.8C).

## **Dates for your diary**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November SHS AGM 7.30 at All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Garden, followed by wine and mince pies and then Joy Gadsby's talk 'Bees and Other Insects - Gardeners' Friends'

**NEXT CIRCULAR:** 1<sup>st</sup> December (notes by 21<sup>st</sup> November) to Brenda Bateman (8657 5280) 32 Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead, CR2 9AR. Email [bateman456@btinternet.com](mailto: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)