

# Surrey Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

## Newsletter – August 2022

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The committee are pleased to report that the two talks held in May and July were well received, these workshops conclude the three part series of “An introduction to dahlias”. It is the first time in many years that the Society has held this type of event and it has been very encouraging to see so many new members join the Society.

The Plant Sale held in May at West Byfleet was once again a great success, raising much needed funds to help run our shows and other activities. Many thanks to those who donated/purchased plants, your involvement is very much appreciated.

The committee have just learnt, of the death of Norman Flint. Norman was a founding Member of Surrey Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society and Life Vice President, he will be fondly remembered by many of our members. Not only was he an exhibitor and judge of dahlias, but also a breeder. L’Ancrese which he registered in 1982 is still grown and occasionally seen on the show bench today. Norman will be missed by the dahlia world and our thoughts and condolences go to his family.

The weather in July has been very challenging, with the combination of record temperatures and virtually no rain. But we are now at that point in the year when the early chrysanthemum growers amongst us are beginning to bud bag, whilst the dahlia growers are busy taking their plants down to numbers and counting how many days to show day. Late chrysanthemum growers still have to wait a few weeks before buds on their plants appear. We must all carry on watering, feeding and spraying as own growing method dictates. With our plants now all growing away, we begin to turn our thoughts to the show season which is the pinnacle of our year and is fast approaching

Can all cup and trophy winners please clean and return their awards to Kevin Taitt so that they may be awarded to this year’s winners.

The show schedule for each of our shows, together with contact details of Kevin Taitt our Show Secretary and closing dates for each show are in our Schedule of Shows booklet. Unfortunately it appears that several members have not received this year’s Schedule of Shows booklet, particularly those new members who joined the Society at the talks held earlier in the year. If you have not received your 2022 Schedule of Shows booklet please contact Tony Field, his phone number is 0208 3938220 or email [anthonye.field@btinternet.com](mailto:anthonye.field@btinternet.com)

Our first show is our August Members Show held at Abinger Hammer Village Hall on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August. For those of you that have not been to this hall before it is easy to find and there is plenty of free parking at the venue.

Our Main Show is on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September and once again is being held at the Arbor Centre, Pyrford. which has proved to be a very popular venue to hold this Show at. Whilst we do permit the use of green Oasis, we do request that each exhibitor removes their own exhibits at the end of the show and take their Oasis away with them. We are a very small Committee and have no facilities for

the disposal or removal from site of such a large quantity of non-recyclable rubbish that the staging material produces. There can be no exception to this rule.

We are always extremely short of people at this show especially for the set up/ break down of the show, so if you can help on the Saturday afternoon to help set the show up or the Sunday afternoon once the show closes, to help dismantle the staging, please let either Kevin Taitt or Howard Cooper know. Your help would be very much appreciated.

The date for our September Members Show is Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, like the August Show it is being held at Abinger Hammer Village Hall.

The Committee hope that you will be able to exhibit at least at one or two of these shows and we look forward to seeing there. On the subject of shows, congratulations to two of our members for awards they have won during the summer. Darren Everest won a RHS Silver Gilt medal for his dahlia stand at Hampton Court Flower Show (you may also have seen him on TV) and Jim Adams won the Tom Shilling prize at the National Sweet Pea exhibition held at RHS Wisley. Well done both of you.

As mentioned in our last Newsletter the entry at this year's Daffodil Show was very disappointing. There doesn't seem to be the same number of daffodil growers that there once was, probably the very high cost of bulbs is putting some growers off and the fact you cannot swap stock like you can with chrysanthemum and dahlia cuttings. The Committee have therefore decided that it is not going to hold a Daffodil Show in 2023. Not only was there a very low interest in this year's show, but due to how Easter falls next year, SEEDS are moving their show forward a week to what would have been our show weekend. It would therefore not be viable to hold a Daffodil Show in 2023.

Jean Clark continues to do a great job running the "Ton-up" and results for June and July are as follows, congratulations to all the winners.

June 1<sup>st</sup> 27 Karyl Weighill £10                      2<sup>nd</sup> 79 S Clark £5                      3<sup>rd</sup> 61 C Beere £3

July 1<sup>st</sup> 11 T Field £10                      2<sup>nd</sup> 54 D Blackburn £5                      3<sup>rd</sup> 89 J Bridger £3

It is hoped that the August draw will take place at the August Members show on 21<sup>st</sup> August and remember first prize is £100.

People are asking "when will it rain?" the answer is the day before I cut my flowers for a show!