

# Surrey Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

## Newsletter – October 2023

\*\*\*\*\*

For most of us the show season is over for another year, only the late chrysanthemum growers have anything to look forward to as their show season is about to start. If you haven't seen or been to a late chrysanths show, do come along to our Late Chrysanthemum Show at Abinger Hammer on 5<sup>th</sup> November, you will not be disappointed.

The recent light frosts have blackened the dahlia foliage bringing to an end what has proved to be another difficult year.

Since the last Newsletter we have held four shows. The first was a Single Bloom Show for novice, first time exhibitors and garden growers; it was the first time we as a Society have held an event like this. The show was well supported having a good relaxed atmosphere and was enjoyed by those that attended; based on the success of this year's show we plan to hold another Single Bloom Show next year.

The August Members Show and September Members Show were both held at Abinger Hammer Village Hall, the two shows received entries below those that were benched pre covid. The August show was fairly well supported and was similar in numbers to 2022. The number of entries for our September Members Show however was very poor and does bring into question the viability of this show going forward.

In stark contrast to the two shows at Abinger Hammer, our Main Show which is held at the Arbor, Pyrford was a great success as far as Dahlias are concerned with the number of exhibitors and vases benched up a fair bit on 2022 numbers. There were 9 entries in the Surrey Dahlia Championship which was won by Dave Gillam beating Raymond Duffy into second place by 1 point; last year's winner Paul Schramm was third. New member Andy Savage won the Surrey Small Growers Championship (for those that grow less than 200 plants in total). Bryan Everest came out top in the Chrysanthemum Section.

Our last show of the year is the Late Chrysanthemum Show which will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at Abinger Hammer Village Hall, Felday Road, Abinger Hammer RH5 6QX, entries close 8.00 p.m. on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. For those of you who are interested in or thinking of growing some late chrysanthemums, it is well worth coming along early afternoon (show open 1.30 – 3.30) as the blooms are spectacular and it would give you the chance to chat to the growers.

Our final gathering of the year is our AGM which is to be held at 8.00 p.m. prompt on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at Cobham Village Hall KT11 2LU. It is important that as many members as possible attend this year's AGM as there have been quite a few changes very recently not only to the committee but also to the way we propose to handle things going forward with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Additionally amendments to the Society's Constitution are also going to be proposed at the AGM together with changes to the Ton-up.

Ton up results for August, September and October are:-

August No.72 F Austin £100      No.40 J Jones £20      No.51 M Dixon £10      No.80 K Weighill £5

September No.49 T Pierce £10      No.40 J Jones £5      No.43 K Hine £3

October No.83 K Weighill £10      No.5 K Weighill £5      No. 77 J Jones £3

Congratulations to the winners.

As this Newsletter is being drafted, we have just received the sad news that our President Emeritus Tim Pierce has died. Tim was a well-respected grower and judge of chrysanthemums, serving for many years on the Society's committee which he joined in 1984 becoming Vice Chairman in 1988. In 1990 he became Chairman a post he held for 17 years until he became President in 2007 and in 2021 he became President Emeritus. He will be sadly missed by members who knew him and the wider chrysanthemum world.