

Surrey Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

Newsletter – May 2023

The committee would like to thank all those members who have paid their 2023 subs and for those that haven't we hope it is just an oversight on your behalf; hopefully this Newsletter will prompt you to now pay your subs for this year. As mentioned in previous Newsletters the Society made a loss last year, it was the largest loss in our 59 year history. We are not immune to the current price rises that are affecting everyone, for example the cost of hiring the venue for this year's Main Show has virtually doubled, yet we have kept the membership subscription unaltered at £5 per annum. The Schedule of Shows booklet has been posted out and if your membership card is NOT enclosed it is because your subs for this year have not been received, if this applies to you then please pay your subs as a matter of urgency. Cheques should be sent to our Treasurer Mr A Field 73 Castle Avenue, Ewell KT17 2PJ. For those of you that prefer to pay electronically, the Society's bankers are Barclays Bank sort code 20 96 89 and the account number is 90857157 please ensure that you quote your name as the reference in order that Tony can allocate the payment to your membership, failure to quote your name as the reference will mean he has no idea who has paid.

Do take time to read the schedule for any particular show that you are entering as some changes have been made this year.

This Newsletter is being produced at the tail end of April, the weather is cold and wet and the threat of night frosts is of concern. Greenhouses, cold frames, sheds or any frost free structure are bulging with all our plants at this time of year and we are anxiously awaiting warmer times when we can start to harden off our plants outside during the day before finally planting them out towards the end of May. We are all hoping for an easier growing season this year than last.

The talk/demonstration "An introduction to dahlias" followed by a tuber sale which was held on 25th March, once again proved to be very popular and was well attended. Attendees were able to strike their own cuttings and take them home to grow on, hopefully these cuttings are well rooted by now. During this meeting a straw poll was taken to establish if a Single Dahlia Bloom Show would be supported, virtually all those present liked the idea and would support the show by entering it if the show were to go ahead. More about this later.

The Society's Annual Plant Sale is being held on Friday 12th May from 10.00 until 12.30 the venue once again is outside LeNails & Beauty, Old Woking Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6LG. Please support this event as it our main source of income. If you have any spare plants that you can donate they will gratefully be accepted. As usual there will be a good selection of plants, not only dahlias and chrysanthemums but also herbaceous and vegetable plants plus seasonal bedding, good plants at reasonable prices.

Following the positive response at our March meeting the committee has decided to hold a Single Bloom Dahlia Show on Saturday 5th August 2023 at the Arbor Centre, Teggs Lane, off Coldharbour Road, Pyrford, Woking GU22 8ST. Details of this show ARE NOT in the Schedule of Shows booklet as it was already printed before the decision was made to hold this additional event. A copy of the schedule is attached with this Newsletter and a copy will shortly be able to be viewed on our website www.surreycads.com The committee believe that this show should be aimed at first time and inexperienced/novice growers and not for successful exhibitors who have won at County and National level.

We are trialling the Single Dahlia Bloom Show this year and hope that as many members that are able to, fully support it. We have tried to make it as easy as possible to enter and for it to be a fun experience. Just bring your blooms along on the morning to enter, we will supply the vases. You will need to bring with you some staging material (Oasis, newspaper etc.) to hold the bloom in place in the vase. Unusually you will be encouraged to remain in the hall whilst judging takes place so that you may see and hear how your entries are judged. Any queries regarding this show please contact our Show Secretary Kevin Taitt, his contact details are in the front of the Schedule of Shows booklet.

Our thanks once again go to Jean Clark for running the Ton-up. Results for March and April are:-

March: 99 T Pierce £10 15 B Everest £5 2 A Field £3

April: 41 A Field £10 52 K Hine £5 63 J Coombes £3

Congratulations to the winners.

The committee wish you a good growing season and hope to see you either at at our Plant Sale or Single Dahlia Bloom show but preferably both!