

Surrey Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

Newsletter – May 2022

There are still a few members who have not paid their subscription for 2022. As a Society with limited resources we cannot keep chasing people, so if you are one of these that have not paid can you please send your subs to Tony Field by the end of the May.

We are now entering the busiest time of year for us gardeners, there doesn't seem to be enough time to get everything done that needs doing and certainly not enough room in our greenhouses, polytunnels, cold frames etc for all the plants that need protection. Hopefully you have managed to propagate all the dahlia and chrysanthemum cutting that you need and are now thinking of getting the ground prepared ready for planting out next month or in the case of late chrysanthemums final potting.

The first event of the year was a talk/demonstration entitled "An Introduction to Dahlias" given by our Chairman Fred Austin and was held at the Arbor Centre, Pyrford on 12th March. This was the first talk of this kind that we have given aimed at new growers and were therefore a little unsure how it would go down with those that attended, fortunately the morning was a great success and was well attended with 10 new members joining the Society. The morning ended with a tuber sale which helped raise much needed funds to help run our programme of holding 5 shows. The talk was so enjoyed; several people asked when the next one was going to be. At the committee meeting held later in March it was agreed that we would hold 2 more talks later in the year.

New dates for your diary

21st May – An Introduction to dahlias part 2

23rd July – an Introduction to Dahlias part 3

Both events will be at the Arbor Centre, Pyrford, GU22 8ST and will be from 10.00 – Noon.

Admission is free to members

Part 2 will cover ground preparation and fertilizers, planting out, staking and tying in, first stop and getting the correct number of breaks, pests and diseases, spraying, early season feeding etc.

Part 3 will include advice on how to time blooms for a special occasion e.g. show, wedding etc. knock back method, disbudding, mid and late season feeding, how to transport blooms etc.

Our Daffodil Show was held on 3rd April at Abinger Hammer Village Hall, due to Covid this show had not been held for the previous 2 years and we were therefore hoping for a bumper turn out as this show had always been very well supported prior to the pandemic. Unfortunately we were to be disappointed as only 5 exhibitors entered. That said there were over 100 vases on display and the quality of the blooms was very high. Congratulations to Kevin Taitt who won Championship A with vases of Cameo Marie, Ombersley, Flor D'Luna, Polgooth, Cameo Joy and Banker. This entry was deemed by the judges as Best Exhibit in Show and the vase of Polgooth won Best Bloom in Show. Kevin went on to win Championship B with an entry of Park Springs, Banker, Lighthouse Reef and Honey Bourne. The Surrey Green Rosette for Best vase of three in Show was won by Fred Austin with a vase of Heamoor.

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Due to the expense of putting these shows on, the very limited manpower we have with only 4 Committee members and the very disappointing level of exhibitors at this show, it is only fair to warn you, the membership that this may be the last Daffodil Show that this Society holds. It does seem that there is not the daffodil growers and level of support that there used to be. A decision will be made at our next committee meeting and we will let you know in our next Newsletter.

Our annual Plant Sale is being held on Friday 13th May outside Le Nails and Beauty, Old Woking Road, West Byfleet KT14 6LG opposite Waitrose in West Byfleet. Not only will there be Dahlias and Chrysanthemums for sale but also summer bedding, herbaceous and vegetable plants. Good quality plants at reasonable prices. Do support this sale if you can as this is the Society's main source of income. If you have any spare plants that we can sell or are able to help on the day please inform either Howard Cooper or Tony Field, our contact details are in the front of this year's Schedule of Shows booklet. If you are coming to the Plant Sale to purchase plants it would be helpful if you could bring your own bags/boxes to carry your purchases away in.

Our next show is our August Members Show on the 21st August, to be held at Abinger Hammer Village Hall, details and the show schedule are on page 6 of the Schedule of Shows booklet and can also be viewed on our website www.surrey-cads.com

Jean Clark continues to do a fantastic job running the "Ton-up" and results for March, April and May are as follows, congratulations to all the winners.

March	1 st 60	Karyl Weighill £10	2 nd 83	Karyl Weighill £5	3 rd 44	H Clark £3
April	1 st 10	M Dixon £10	2 nd 22	K Taitt £5	3 rd 96	J Jones £3
May	1 st 52	K Hine £10	2 nd 74	K Taitt £5	3 rd 80	R Tabor £3

Our next Newsletter is scheduled to be issued in early August therefore please do take note of the dates of the 2 talks and Plant Sale as there will be no reminder between now and these events taking place.

Happy Gardening.



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