

Surrey Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

February 2024 Newsletter

This Newsletter starts with some housekeeping. Some members are yet to pay their subs for this year and are now overdue. Payment details were given in our December communication but for the sake of ease they are; the preferred method of payment is by bank transfer to our new bank account with Lloyds, the sort code is 30-99-50 and the account number is 86518860. Please quote your name and subs as the reference when paying otherwise we will have no way of telling who the payment is from. If you would prefer to pay by cheque then send your cheque made payable to Surrey Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society to Fred Austin, Hawthorns, Forest Road, Effingham KT24 5HL. We have a lot of expenditure in the early part of the year for example hall fees, Insurance, affiliated memberships, printing etc. and it is important that we receive subs on time to help our cash flow in paying these items and keeping the Society going.

There are two members who have not paid for their Ton-up numbers this year despite being reminded. At our most recent committee meeting it was agreed that this is unfair to all the other members who have paid and therefore if any unpaid number was drawn the prize money would be defaulted and returned to the Society and the late paying member informed. This would continue until the two members have paid what is due. If you have Ton-up numbers and haven't paid please contact Fred Austin as soon as possible.

Ton-up results are:-

December. 95 Paul Dalby £10 55 Karyl Weighill £5 53 Howard Cooper £3

January. 65 Karyl Weighill £10 35 Lorraine Morgan £5

February. 1 Karyl Weighill £10 58 Jean Clark £5

This is our Diamond Jubilee Year and to celebrate it we have included extra classes at our Main Show in September and Late Chrysanthemum Show in November. Details of these classes will appear in the Schedule of Shows booklet which will be available later in the year. Kevin Taitt has written a brief history of our Society and this will also appear in the booklet, our grateful thanks go to Kevin for doing this. Interestingly after 60 years, we still have a Founder Member, namely Dave Spencer as a member.

At the time of writing this Newsletter the recent weather has been very mild but wet. It feels like spring is just around the corner as colour returns to the garden, and our thoughts turn to the coming growing season. Chrysanthemum cuttings are doing well and are being potted up, whilst a few varieties have only just been taken. Dahlia tubers are on the heated benches and beginning to show signs of life again which is always a thrill and relief! A few of us will have already taken a few early cuttings to be used as mother plants this year and pot tubers for next year.

If you want to know why some Chrysanthemum cuttings are already rooted whilst other varieties are only just being struck now, come along to our meeting at the Arbor Centre, Pyrford GU22 8ST on Saturday 23rd March. The meeting starts at 10.00 am and during the first part we will cover the propagation of Dahlias and Chrysanthemums and their early care, problems you may encounter at this time of year and try to answer any questions you may have. We will then have a short break when tea/coffee will be available followed by a sale of Dahlia tubers, Chrysanthemums and other plants plus a small amount of sundries that we all need. This will be an ideal opportunity to get some new stock or just come along and chat with like-minded people. Copies of Diamond Jubilee Schedule of Shows booklet will also be given to paid-up members. As usual, quality plants at reasonable prices.

Our main Plant Sale is scheduled for Friday 10th May, once again outside Le Nails & Beauty in West Byfleet. More details regarding the Plant Sale will be given in the May Newsletter. If you can grow a few extra plants to donate to the Plant Sale we would be very grateful as it does put a lot of pressure on the four committee members to grow enough for the Plant Sale as well as their own!

Our website is yet to be updated for this year, so to give you some dates for your diary:-

23rd March – Arbor Pyrford - Talk and tuber/early plant sale.

10th May – West Byfleet – Plant Sale

3rd August – Arbor Pyrford - Single Dahlia Bloom Show

18th August – Abinger Hammer – August Members Show

8th September – Arbor Pyrford – Main Show

22nd September – Abinger Hammer – September Members Show

3rd November – Abinger Hammer – Late Chrysanthemum Show

D.T.B.A. – AGM

We hope you will agree that the committee are putting a lot of events on this year for just £5 membership and that we will see you at some of them. Please support your Society.

The committee would like to wish all members good health and an excellent growing season and hope to see you at some of our shows.