



Horticultural Society Newsletter and update May 2023

Our Spring Show in April always marks the beginning of the year and is an event we look forward to. Despite our changing weather pattern affecting what we might see in our gardens, the hall was very colourful – Ralph Pointer won the cup for most points awarded and Vivienne Isemann won the 'Best in Show' in the 'small arrangement' category. A big thankyou to those who brought in entries on the night. Next year we will probably make some changes to the schedule. As always it was a very jolly occasion.

The Coffee Morning, Plant Sale and Seed Swap in the Community Centre on 29th April was a bit disappointing owing to a low footfall. We were very grateful to Country Markets for supporting us again. The Hall is booked for next year and we are thinking of developing a new formula to attract more growers and families and hopefully new members.

The Yorkshire Holiday starting on 19th June will go ahead despite concern about a low take-up. We are still able to accept more applications, so if you are interested, please speak to Val Ramshaw (01962 733160). Val is also taking names for the outing to Wisley on 1st June. This is a really good opportunity to go to Wisley for just £15 including the coach from the Station Carpark and free entry to the gardens. This seems to be a particularly good time for a visit although that said, any time of year is good for Wisley. We are so lucky to have it nearby.

You should now be thinking about planting up your hanging baskets and containers and also thinking about entering the competition in July. The date for judging has yet to be decided. Last year we had a red, white and blue theme but this year you have a free choice.

You will see in your programme that Val is planning a garden autumn visit in October. She is now looking at possible venues so if you have a suggestion within reasonable travelling distance, do let us know.

There are still a few members who have not yet paid their subscription. Please speak to Benny. She will accept cash, cheque or bank transfer.

It will be a pleasure to welcome Susan Simmons of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to our May meeting. Care of the Environment is important to all of us and it is a happy co-incidence that on Saturday 27th May the local HIOWWT representative, Jon Cranfield is leading a guided walk of St John's Churchyard entitled Nature on Your Doorstep. The Churchyard is an important open space in the town and home to many species of plants, trees and wildlife. Everyone is welcome. We gather at the church door at 10.00am.

Janet Pooley

Chairman