



Monthly News Sheet

Stalham & District Horticultural Society

December 2020

1. It looks increasingly unlikely that we will resume our monthly talks in early 2021 as we may still have restrictions lasting until Easter. Also, I am sure many of us would like to have the COVID vaccine before we starting meeting outside our bubbles again. A sad time for the Society , as I don't think any of us realised the full implications of COVID 19 when we first cancelled our meetings and shows earlier this year. I hope we can all stay positive and get together again in the New Year.

2. On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all our members the best Christmas they can have and a happier and more prosperous New Year in 2021. Thank you for all your help and support, because without you all the Society simply could not exist We will keep updating our website as to what is happening regarding commencing talks again, arranging trips and what is happening with the shows. Jo, our Chairwoman can also be contacted by telephoning 01692 650321 if you don't have internet access and would like to speak to someone if you need more information or have another enquiry. Our website is www.stalhamhorticultural.co.uk

2. I have been busy propagating plants in the hope that we can have a bumper stall at the East Ruston Plant Fair in June 2021. This is our biggest money-spinner and after raising no funds this year, we need to remedy that in 2021. My greenhouses are full with plants including:- lots of salvia cuttings, a dozen peony's, foxgloves, aquilegias, agapanthus plants, chrysanthemums to name but a few! If you are still gardening please bear the Society in mind, if you can pot up and keep a few plants for next year then that would be greatly appreciated.

3. Jo (our Chairwoman) has been very industrious & opposite we have a list of all the meetings we have for 2021, there is a lot to choose from and lots of them will have plants for sale too! So save that Christmas gift money!

4. We are still looking to hold your annual shows, the Spring one will be held on Saturday 10th April in the Poppy Centre for the first time! It will be open to the public from 2.00pm with a raffle, tombola & refreshments. There will also be a mini plant fair from local nurseries so bring some cash too! The Autumn Show will be on Saturday 4th September in the same place with the same format. If you would like a Spring schedule then please e-mail Susan the Show secretary on:- susancarter2@nhs.net and she will send one to you. When restrictions change we hope to have them available in local businesses for you to collect in person.

5. **Boris and Covid prevailing**, will determine we can start having talks again so please keep checking the website or call our Chairwoman, look in the EDP what's on section or look for our posters in the surrounding areas. Just in case everything changes quickly we have listed all the dates for our talks and who is giving them so at least you are all prepared!

All monthly meetings will be held in the Poppy Centre in Stalham,

Our second talk is entitled "Plants for Free" (propagation) by Richard Hobbs (of the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society) which will be held on Friday 19th February, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start . There will also be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments.

Our third talk is "Rose Growing Made Easy" by Simon White from the Chelsea Gold Medal Nursery - Peter Beales! This will be held on Friday 19th March, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will also be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments. Please note that Simon will be bringing roses for sale and lots of other garden and rose related sundries, so bring some cash!

The fourth talk is "Hardy Exotics" by the Plants of Panache Nursery and will be held on Friday 16th April, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments. Please bring some money as they will be bringing plants for you to buy!

The fifth talk is "Pelargoniums" by Ken Abel and will be held on Friday 21st May, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments.

The sixth talk is "Hostas" by the well known Mickfield Hostas Nursery and will be held on Friday 25th June, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments. They will have plants for sale so please bring some money!

The seventh talk is "Drought Tolerant Plants" by renowned expert Mr Barry Gayton (Radio Cambridge), to be held on Friday 16th July, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments. This talk is particularly apt as our summers are getting drier and drier and hotter and hotter!

The eighth talk is "You Too Can Show" by Pauline Harper (Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society), to be held on Friday 20th August, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments.

The ninth talk is "Alpines" by Rob Potterton, international alpine grower from Pottertons Nursery, to be held on Friday 17th September, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments. Rob will be bringing plants to sell from the nursery.

The tenth talk will be held on Friday 15th October, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments. Unfortunately Woottens of Wenhaston are ceasing to give talks so a new speaker will be booked.

Our final talk for 2021 is on the subject of "Sweet Peas" by Geoff Freeman, to be held on Friday 19th November, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will also be a raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments.

Our Christmas Lunch for 2021 has already been booked! It will be held on Sunday 5th December at How Hill in Ludham. The meal is normally 2 or 3 courses, traditional or, other options are available and includes mince pies and tea or coffee to finish. Time, cost and food choices will be available in the New Year.

6. We have transferred our trip choices over to 2021, and Boris prevailing we hope to go ahead! Our first is to the Gardeners World Live/Good Food Show at the NEC in Birmingham on Saturday 19th June. This means that you have the option to visit both shows if you so wish.

The second trip is to the RHS Gardens at Wisley in Surrey on Saturday 11th September. This also incorporates their Plant Fair, the National Dahlia Championships and a floral art display so you really will get your money's worth! Times and costs for both trips will be confirmed in 2021.