

OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

March 2005

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*'What a man needs in gardening is a cast iron back, with a hinge in it.'*

Charles Dudley Warner 1871

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Yes, it's Springtime and time for your own

SPRING SHOW

On
Saturday 19th March 2005

Staging of your entries will take place from 9.30am and we would ask you to **kindly vacate the hall by 11.45am.** The Show will open, as usual, at 2.15pm.

Entry forms, together with your entry fees, to the Parish Office please or to 34 Willow Park by 17th March.

If you are not sure into which class to enter your Narcissi/Daffodils, please turn to page 5 of your schedule, where a description of the cultivars is shown.

As this Newsletter is being written daffodils are not in abundance, but we hope that by the 19th March the weather will be warmer. Please, even if you only have one daffodil to enter it will help to brighten up the hall.

We would again be very grateful for any CAKES for sale with teas.

Please note: Juniors will be able to collect the Society Marigold seeds which are to be sown in a pot or tray and when seedlings are large enough, transferred to their final pot. Full instructions are provided for successful plants. The Junior Challenge Cup will be presented for the best pot of Marigolds at the Autumn Show.

Just a reminder:

The flower arrangement titles will be:

42. "A Host of Golden Daffodils"
43. "Cooks Choice"
44. "An exhibit in a small jug"
45. Novice "A Spring Day"

And the photographic titles:

56. "Wild Weather"
57. "A Statue or Monument"
58. A candid shot of a Child or Children.

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We had a wonderful turnout at our Cheese and Wine evening and it was good to see so many members and new members. We do hope that you enjoyed it.

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Our second 'Fun Quiz Evening' was again a success and we thank those members who participated. However, it would have been nice to have some more tables from members.

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Our first evening meeting was a very cold one and so only a select band of members came along to hear a talk on 'What the Vegetable Judge likes to see' by Dusty Miller. It was a first class talk enjoyed by all.

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As you are all aware our all-day visit this year is to the **Hampton Court Palace Flower Show on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2005.**

**Enclosed is a reservation form and you will note that a deposit of £10 per place is required. The balance will have to be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005.**

We anticipate that demand is likely to be high and would therefore ask you to let us know as soon as possible. Places will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April when Ken Turner will be giving us a talk on 'Water Gardens'.

Our evening visit this year will be to Lullingstone Castle and World Garden on 30<sup>th</sup> June, which will follow the talk by Tom Hart Dyke on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Details of this visit will be given at our meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. At this meeting we will have a talk by Robert Wiseman on 'Miniature Roses'.

The Village Fete will be on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May and the theme will be 'Nautical', to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Nelson. As you are all now planting your seeds may we again ask you to please plant just a few more for our stall at the Fete and bring them along on the day to help with our funds. The extra money we obtain from selling these plants helps to provide better speakers for our meetings. Also on the subject of the Fete, if you would like to participate in the procession on behalf of the Gardeners' Society, please contact Janet on 523760.

As many of you are aware we have started our seed swap scheme. The idea is for you to come along to our meetings and take any spare seeds that are on offer for a small voluntary donation. You don't have to have seeds to swap to take the seeds away. However, if, eventually you have spare seeds then bring them along to a meeting and leave them for someone else to have a go at raising the seeds.

We learn from the Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies that the Kent Dahlia Society will be holding an evening **Daffodil Show** at Otford on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which we understand will open at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. It is normally open only to members of the K.D.S., but O.G.S. members are invited on condition that they purchase a raffle ticket.

The South East of England Daffodil Group will be holding a Daffodil Show on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at the Weald of Kent Grammar School for Girls, Tudley Lane, Tonbridge. It opens to the public at 2.00pm.

The K.F.H.S. has now commissioned a website, the address of which is: [www.kentfed.com](http://www.kentfed.com). It is not intended for it to dispense reams of horticultural information, but to show relevant information as to dates of shows and other horticultural events in the area.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of Pat Bysouth, who was an ex-member of our Committee. Pat was well known in the Village for her vast knowledge of plants and will be sadly missed.

Your Committee and I look forward to seeing you and your entries at the **Spring Show.**

**Doug Dickerson**



**Chairman.**

