



Whitstable and District Horticultural Society

June Newsletter 2016

Society News

We are now full pelt into the busiest period of the year. Everything is in full growth including any plants we don't want and attention has turned from growing to maintenance of our gardens. For those of us with problem weeds as in bindweed or similar it involves daily checks to nip it out as it pokes its head above the soil. This is the best way to control it in an already developed area. I always explained it to students as similar to having a bank account. The plant uses reserves from its account to produce these shoots. If you remove before a leaf has unfurled (or as soon as possible after) and therefore stop it replenishing the amount it has in the account eventually you will exhaust the reserves. However, note the use of the word "*eventually*". The other method in a developed area is to use a small pop bottle with the bottom cut out. Place the offending growth inside and then spray your preferred weedkiller through the top. Keeping it in place until the spray has settled. Thus protecting the surrounding plants. Alas my standard answer when asked how to get rid of either Ground Elder or Japanese knotweed was to move house. So I am afraid if you have either you have my sympathy but little else of any use. It is also time for the 'chelsea chop' when traditionally as Chelsea closes we all dash out and prune spring flowering shrubs but also cut back part of any clumps of perennial flowering plants. This extends the flowering period as the part of the plant left will flower as normal whilst the 'chopped' part taking longer to come to flower after being cut back continues after the initial burst of colour.

Next meeting

Ylva Bild-Mackenzie



A plantswomans' choice

Tuesday

14th June 7.30pm

United Reform Church

Middle Wall

Whitstable

CT5 1BU

Raffle

Refreshments

Plant Sale

www.whithort.org.uk

enquiries@whithort.org.uk

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at the plant sale it was a very successful event. We have sufficient plants remaining to sell at our stand in the garden of the Umbrella Centre during the Gardens open day on the 12th June. I have previously been responsible for growing plants for Chelsea stands on numerous occasions during my time at Capel Manor. Including one year for Dan Pearsons rooftop garden for the Evening Standard. Yet never felt the concern I had over this crop. It is very labour intensive both in the bringing on of the plants and on the day so the committee would like to thank everyone who plant-sat, contributed and helped. It is great that more and more members are becoming involved with the society other than just attending meetings. So well done to all.

Although some members have decided not to renew their membership this year we are constantly attracting new members so our numbers remain extremely healthy. Yet we cannot rest on our laurels so do spread the word about us to any family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues who are interested in the art of horticulture. There are only a few seats remaining for the trip to Hampton Court so hurry and book for any friends or family who want to come, now that members have all had the chance to avail themselves.

One of our members has a garden storage unit for sale. The sort they advertise for keeping the cushions of garden furniture in. If you are interested please email Liz via our email address enquiries@whithort.org.uk and she will give you all the details as it is too big to bring to a meeting.

I am looking forward with extreme pleasure to the Garden open day, nothing like having a nose in other patches for good ideas on planting combinations and features. For full details visit our website www.whithort.org.uk It is also the garage sale safari www.whitstablesafari.com so in one fell swoop by touring the area you can get inspiration and bargains galore. Then to round off the month we have Ylva Bild-Mackenzie as our speaker at the June meeting for even greater inspiration. Ylva is both a designer and Landscape Architect and is part of Madrona Nursery. So her plant knowledge and design experience should make it a very interesting and informative evening.

Tina Morrissey.