



Whitstable and District Horticultural Society

September Newsletter 2015

Society News

Next meeting

Tuesday 13th
Oct

7.30 pm



Sarah Morgan
Designing with
trees for the
domestic
garden.

United Reform
Church

Middle Wall

Whitstable

CT5 1BU

Raffle

Refreshments

Plant Sale

Trips Organiser.

Thankfully a member has stepped up to take this role on. Penny Perkins will be supporting the committee by keeping everyone informed of details from who wants to go, who is actually going and costs, times etc. Many thanks in advance to Penny for offering to undertake this valuable role to enable our small committee to offer you a wide choice of events to attend.

Membership

Our membership currently stands at 123 fully paid up and recorded individual members. With others in the pipeline. This explosion in membership could potentially cause problems at our current venue and a proposal to move next year to All Saints Church hall is included for your consideration in the AGM papers attached to this newsletter. It has parking, a better kitchen, Sound system and of course greater capacity. Discussions in committee considered that members may prefer a central location in the town. So your thoughts are required before we make a decision.

Garden Safari / Open Day

We have been in contact with various organisations both local and national around this proposed event for next year. 7 gardens have been accepted by the NGS for inclusion in the yellow book 2016 edition. With a proposed date in June for a Group Opening. This includes the Community Garden in Stream Walk and we are very pleased to be working with them. Despite the date for NGS approval for inclusion in next year's yellow

book having transpired anyone wishing to get their garden approved can still do so and it will be on the website and then included in the 2017 edition. Owners who do not wish to gain NGS approval can still take part in the event and full details will be given at the AGM in December.

The Community Garden are looking for volunteers to tend the edible beds outside the library in Oxford Street. As the site in Stream Walk has developed they find their current volunteers are needed there. Leaving the edible beds untended. So if anyone has some spare time and would like to get involved this is a golden opportunity to widen involvement in the horticultural life of the town. As the beds are raised they are ideally suited to those of us not as mobile as we would like. They also have a quantity of trees to give away. Including Rowan, Wild Cherry, Silver Birch and Hawthorn. They are available for planting on any site visible to the public. Front gardens, community spaces etc. So look around and think if you know any are that may benefit from a planting.

Alas due to a confusion on dates Septembers speaker did not attend. With great aplomb Kevin stepped in and gave an excellent presentation on Sissinghurst (the intended subject) based on a talk he already had prepared. As usual it was interspersed with his own personal knowledge of the garden and his thoughts so we were not at all disappointed or short changed. I doubt many societies have this facility in the event of non-attendance by speakers and it does happen.

So many thanks to Kevin. Kevin was given a full page article in a recent edition of the Gazette paper. He left Hadlow College this year and is now involved in teaching at various venues as well as returning to practice. Local to us he is running courses at the Brogdale centre. He still has spaces on both Monday and Tuesday. For further information he can be contacted on his new email address: sirplantalot@outlook.com. Alternatively you can contact the society and we will forward emails to Kevin.

I was perturbed to read in my newsletter from Eddington Allotments that due to a lack of interest they have had to cancel their annual show. We of course had to abandon the idea of a show several years ago. When an allotment society dedicated not just to an interest in horticulture but members actively involved in growing on the same site as the show is held cannot garner sufficient interest it is a sad indication of the future of traditional competitive horticultural shows. Yet whilst watching Beechgrove Gardens on Sunday am (BBC 2 8.15am) which is BBC Scotland's gardening programme they visited a thriving show on the Isle of Bute. So it seems it is more about local attitudes than a nationwide trend due to the demands and interests of modern life. Both Kevin and I speak at local

societies and note that some can still muster smaller versions if not the annual extravaganza's of previous years. The society does process some cups and medals from the days of the big shows and we will be exploring ways to award these outside of a show environment. As usual any ideas are welcome so do let us know by email or speaking to one of the committee.

Our next meeting is on the 13th October at the usual venue. We are hosting the designer Sarah Morgan who will be giving us an insight into trees for use in the garden. When a much younger woman at horticultural college we were taught that when designing a garden you planned the framework of larger planting first. Which of course is trees and large shrubs. So I am very interested in Sarah's thoughts to see if they coincide with the words of my erstwhile lecturers. I remember being surprised at the list of qualities to think about with tree planting. How quickly leaves rotted and thus avoided being a trip hazard was one that has stuck with me. The reason of course in our litigious society the London Plane is disappearing from our streets.

Tina Morrissey.

Whitstable and District Horticultural Society
Annual General Meeting
7.30 pm 14th December 2015
URC, Middle Wall,
Whitstable.

All members are encouraged to attend the AGM as this is when the committee reports to members and makes plans for the coming year. It is also when the next committee is elected.

We keep the business to a minimum and are combining our AGM with both a talk from Kevin on Conifers and our end of season social.

However we would like your thoughts on various issues for consideration prior to the AGM so we can give feedback at the event. For example:

Are you happy with the range of speakers?

Do you want any specific subjects included?

Would you like more trips? Suggested venues?

If you have any thoughts on the above or any other points you wish to make please email the society or speak to a committee member at the October meeting. enquiries@whithort.org.uk

Janet Henley our treasurer will give the details of our current financial position and full details will be available of the year's financial ups and downs for members to inspect.

Kevin as our chair will give a brief overview of the season and take a vote on the proposal for a change of venue due to increased membership numbers. Members who cannot attend can make their views known by contacting the society via our email address. The proposal is to change venue from the URC to the Church Hall of All Saints.

Committee Election. All members are entitled to stand for committee and anyone wishing to do so must make themselves known by our November meeting so their details can be circulated to members in case a vote is required. Current committee members can stand for re-election and unless we have more candidates than

positions available a vote is not normally required. But one must observe the proprieties of course.

Kevin will then give a shorter presentation on conifers and we break for our end of season social. As last year we invite everyone to bring a plate of either sweet or savoury buffet food. The society will provide a range of non-alcoholic drinks.