

*Cookham and Cookham Dean Horticultural Society*

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm**

Cookham Dean Village Hall

**“Going Dutch; The Gardens of Guelderland”**

*An illustrated talk by Richard Poad*

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

A very Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a good Christmas despite the weather. Winter has certainly arrived with a bang and, speaking personally, I'm surprised not more damage was done to the garden by the heavy snow. Despite the best efforts of the troop of pheasants who now patrol our garden, my 'society' bulbs are still intact in their pots and the few vegetables I still have left outdoors don't look too bad.

It was very gratifying to see so many at our AGM in November, and we had an excellent entry for the Christmas Table Decoration competition. I hope you agree that it was also a very enjoyable social occasion and the raffle prizes of 'goodie bags' were a popular idea. On behalf of the whole Committee, I must express our appreciation of your support for the Society, and we were delighted that you agreed so overwhelmingly to an increase in the annual subscription to £10 per year. We had thought than an increase of £3 might be too much for you to accept all at once, but as our Treasurer, Janet Shanks, explained, speakers' fees and, particularly, their travelling expenses, have gone up considerably over the last few years, and we feel it is most important to book good lecturers in order to appeal to our members. Apart from the cost of the hire of the hall, we do not have any major expenses, so we have thought for some time that our money is best spent this way and the consistently good attendances at our monthly meetings seem to bear this out. Mary Downes and Pam Campin have planned an excellent programme for the forthcoming year, so please encourage anyone you know who has an interest in gardening to join the society so that we can reach our target of 100 members.



This year, for the first time, we shall be organising the Horticultural Show at the Cookham Dean Village Fete in September, so we hope you will all support it as much as you can, either by entering your flowers and/or vegetables or helping out on the day. The schedule of classes should be available in the spring, but watch this space!

Happy 2011!  
Susie Tremlett

## COOKHAM DREAM GARDEN

We all have our favourite plants, and in the Autumn of 2009 I asked all members to think about the plants which give them the greatest pleasure, in particular those which they would recommend to a friend or neighbour moving into the Cookhams. Implicit in this request was the notion that these plants would thrive in our soils and climate and that they would not require a high degree of horticultural knowledge or cosseting. A third of our members responded to this survey and thank you to all those who took the time and trouble to list your favourites. At the December meeting Carolyn Foster and I presented the results in visual form and as a reminder the list of the Dream Garden plants is included in this newsletter. For the record I felt that it was worth mentioning a few of those plants which did not make the top five in each category, just in case members would like to give them a trial run.....

In the **small tree category** several members nominated *crab apples* and *ordinary apple trees* as a favourite. The malus species do give lots of interest with good blossom and fruiting and one of my own favourites is Malus Profusion with it's purple leaves and wine red flowers. In the shrub category I was very surprised that more members had not listed *mahonia* amongst their favourites. I know this is a very large category with competition between deciduous and evergreen shrubs but with mahonia's tolerance to shade and the added bonus of scent from many mahonia cultivars these plants are well worth a place in the garden. Other contenders in the shrub category which did not make the top five were *buddleia*, *cornus*, *cotinus*, *hebe* and *lavender*. I think many of us have had disappointing results with lavender on heavy clay soils. As far as the **climbers** are concerned there were a few votes for *jasminum nudiflorum*, *jasminum officinale*, *solanum* and *passiflora* but otherwise all the favourites were covered in the 'top five'. Unsurprisingly the **perennials category** gave us the most enthusiastic response. The top five list saw off competition from a long list of nominations including *hostas*, *paeonies*, *persicarias*, *primulas*, *alchemilla mollis* and *anemone japonica*. My own listing of *astrantias* (*deer proof!*) was not echoed by other respondents.

**Annuals and biennials** gave us five fairly clear winners but a good number of you are clearly committed to growing sweet peas. Finally, *anemone blanda* and *iris unguicularis*, *leucojum* and lily of the valley were all mentioned in the **bulb category** with one brave respondent listing *agapanthus* as their favourite. I hope that this has made you all think hard about the plants you love, and to get rid of those which **do not** earn their place in your garden and has inspired confidence to introduce plants which you have not tried. A big thank you to Richard Foster for inputting the data from the forms and of course Carolyn for helping me with this project. Our next interactive survey is entitled '**My Favourite Garden Shed**' in the hope that those of you who did not feel confident about listing plants will at least be able to tell us about an interesting or useful garden shed which you either own or have seen. A few words describing your favourite shed and why it appeals to you, with or without a photo, is all that is required. **Closing date, November 2011.** This gives you all time to visit gardens over the summer and think about the topic. Don't ever say that the Cookham and Cookham Dean Horticultural Society does not involve it's members in creative writing and thinking! GT

Contributions to next month's newsletter by 6<sup>th</sup> February please by email to [gilltownend@aol.com](mailto:gilltownend@aol.com) or 01628483092 or 38 Rookery Court, Marlow SL7 3HR

COOKHAM AND COOKHAM DEAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
“DREAM PLANT LIST”

**TREES**

- 1 Acers: Acer palmatum, Acer griseum
- 2 Amelanchier canadensis
- 3 Betula utilis jacquemontii
- 4 Cercis siliquastrum
- 5 Prunus subhirtella Autumnalis

**Runners up:** Sorbus and Yew

**SHRUBS**

- 1 Viburnum mariesii Lanarth, Viburnum opulus Compactum
- 2 Choisya ternata
- 3 Pittosporum Tom Thumb
- 4 Hydrangeas; H. quercifolia, H. arborescens Annabelle
- 5 Abelia grandiflora

**Runner up:** Shrub roses

**CLIMBERS**

- 1 Clematis montana and clematis viticella varieties
- 2 Climbing roses-Rosa Compassion and Rosa Wedding Day
- 3 Hydrangea petiolaris
- 4 Lonicera periclymenum
- 5 Wistaria sinensis

**Runner up:** Hedera

**PERENNIALS**

- 1 Hardy Geraniums-G.Rozanne, G.macrorrhizum
- 2 Hellebores-Helleborus argutifolius, Helleborus orientalis
- 3 Sedums—Sedum telephinum Matrona, Sedum spectabile Autumn Joy
- 4 Phlox paniculata
- 5 Aster frikartii Monch

**Runner up:** Delphiniums

**ANNUALS AND BIENNIALS**

- 1 Cosmos
- 2 Digitalis purpurea
- 3 Nicotiana- Nicotiana glauca
- 4 Pansies
- 5 Nigella damascena

**Runner up:** Salvia microphylla (tender perennial)

**BULBS**

- 1 Narcissus varieties eg Tete a Tete, Thalia, February Gold
- 2 Tulips
- 3 Snowdrops
- 4 Alliums-Allium Christophii, Allium afflatuense Purple Sensation

**Runner up:** Cyclamen- Cyclamen coum and cyclamen hederifolium.

November 2010

## Your Programme for 2011

January 26th	<b>Richard Poad</b> , popular local speaker. Going Dutch- Gardens of Guelderland
February 23rd	<b>Jim Rodda</b> , from the NCCPG. Plant Zoos – National Plant Collections and Plant Heritage
March 30th	<b>Spring Show</b> . Lots of classes to enter and Judge Les Waldren to impress with our wonderful narcissi!
April 27th	<b>Pamela Holt</b> , local horticultural lecturer and arboriculture specialist. Tree Planting and Aftercare
May 25th	<b>Michael Keith-Lucas</b> , well-known botanist and lecturer. Wildflowers and the Management of Chalky Grassland
June 29th	<b>Edwin Rye</b> , BBC Gardener of the Year 2002. David Austin Roses
July	<b>Visit</b> to a local garden, tba.
August	No meeting
September 28th	<b>Peter Brandham</b> , retired senior scientist from Kew. A Year at Kew
October 26th	<b>Russell Bowes</b> , garden historian. The Ancient Garden
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AGM and pre-Christmas meeting.</b>
December	No meeting.



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## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2011

Membership subscriptions for the year 2011 became due at the AG.M. on Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup> 2010. Although your committee recommended that the subscription should increase to £8 for this year the membership voted overwhelmingly to increase the subscription to **£10**. It helps me if you fill in your details on the form below and send it to me together with your £10 subscription to the address below. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope and I will send your membership card to you as soon as I am able. Alternatively collect your card at the next meeting. Visitors fees will be increased to £3 and refreshments will be 50p if you have them. These increases will help the Society to finance high quality speakers which in turn encourages an enthusiastic and vibrant membership. The committee is asking everyone who has an Email address to receive the newsletter by Email as it saves on the cost of postage for the society.

**NAME:**.....

**ADDRESS:**.....

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** ..... **EMAIL ADDRESS:**.....

The address to send your subscription is: **Mrs Janet Shanks, 144, Whyteladyes Lane, Cookham Rise, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 9LA**

**Thank you**