

RADLETT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

YEARBOOK 2021



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Tel: 01923 854127 Email: enquiries@portersparkgolfclub.co.uk www.portersparkgolfclub.co.uk

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This Yearbook is intended for members only and not for general distribution. Members and recipients of complimentary copies should not pass the information on to third parties without agreement.

Front cover photograph by **Erich Schlaikjer**



Radlett Horticultural Society

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society, National Chrysanthemum Society,
National Dahlia Society and National Sweet Pea Society

President Bob Clark **Vice President** Peggy Sjoberg

Committee Members

**Chairman/ Yearbook Editor/Mini Allotment
Co-ordinator**

Peter Hordern, 2 The Rose Walk - 857194
peterhordern27@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman/Archivist

Elizabeth Wackrow, 52 Newberries Avenue
- 856134 ewackrow@btinternet.com

Secretary

Jane Phipps, 43 Newberries Avenue
- 852354 mrsjanephipps@gmail.com

Treasurer

Peter Breward, 8 Homefield Road - 854564
peter.breward@btinternet.com

Show Secretary

Amanda Harvell, Fernville Cottage, 10b Fernville
Lane, Hemel Hempstead - 07810 377257
amanda.harvell@gmail.com

Assistant Show Secretary

Jane Poyser, 1 Gills Hill
- 07812825238 japoyser1@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

Rachel Pearce, 97 Newberries Avenue
- 854984 rachel.pearce@gmail.com

Trading Secretary

David Bagon, 24 Homefield Road
- 853903 dbagon@aol.com

Holiday Organiser

Chris Parkin, 42 Elm Walk - 469644 chrisyparkin@hotmail.com

Trips Organiser

Gesine Latimer, 44 Newlands Avenue - 856970 gesine.latimer@btinternet.com

Talks Organiser

Andy Harvell, Fernville Cottage, 10b Fernville Lane,
Hemel Hempstead - 07748 103190
andrew.harvell123@gmail.com

Publicity

Karen Kendrick, 8a Kitswell Way - 07510 314243
karen.kendrick@btinternet.com

Publications and Website Design/Production

Dave Oswald, 5 Park Road - 07806 808839
davieos@gmail.com

Without portfolio

Anna Cross, 2 Letchmore Road - 07806 856670
anna@cross.vg

Non-committee members

Weeders Digest Reporter

Beryl Cushion, 42 Links Drive - 855247
beryl@cushio.globalnet.co.uk

Stores Rota

Gary Harding,
rotarhs@gmail.com





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Sunday 7 February

The Store opens at 10am for the 2021 season

Wednesday 17 March

Postponed virtual **2020 Annual General Meeting**
at 7.30pm on **Zoom**

Wednesday 24 March

Talk – ‘**Horticulture – Healing Therapy for Mind, Body and Soul**’ by *Anne Luder* at 8pm online

Saturday 8 May

Spring Plant Sale, 2-3pm at the Scout Headquarters,
Scrubbits Park Road

Thursday 20 May

Day trip to Leonardslee (Booking from 18 April)

June 7-11

5 day holiday to Kent (to be confirmed)

Wednesday 16 June

Talk – ‘**Aphids (why you can’t kill all of the aphids all of the time...)**’, by *Colin Richards* at 8pm at the Vision Hall or maybe online

Sunday 20 June

Members Garden Walkabout 2-5pm

This diary is, of course, entirely at the whim of the pandemic. We have planned a whole year of events and will hold as many as we are able. Events may have to be cancelled or rearranged at short notice. These changes will be circulated by email so if you have not received emails from us in 2020 please contact the Membership Secretary, **Rachel Pearce**, at rachel.pearce@gmail.com to update your details.

Committee Meetings take place at about six weekly intervals in the Public Library or online

Wednesday 21 July

Day trip to Hyde Hall (RHS) and **Feeringbury Manor** (private garden) (Booking from 20 June)

Wednesday 28 July

Talk – ‘**Right Plant Right Place**, by *Caroline Broome* at 8pm at the Vision Hall or maybe online

Sunday 29 August

(Bank Holiday Sunday)
Possible Day trip to Open Garden Weekend,
Walsham le Willows, Suffolk. To be confirmed

Saturday 4 September

Autumn Show and Exhibition 2021
3-5.30pm at Vision Hall (entries by 2 September)

Wednesday 24 November

2021 Annual General Meeting
at 7.30pm at the Vision Hall. Followed by a talk by The Chairman – ‘**Flora & Fauna of Mexico**’

Sunday 28 November

The Store closes at 12 noon for the winter break.
Last chance to stock up on bird food.

2022

Sunday 6 February

The Store re-opens for 2022

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To say that 2020 has been an extraordinary year would be a bit of an understatement. Every facet of our lives has been affected by this awful virus but if there has been any positive it was that we all had more time to spend gardening.

For those of us lucky enough to possess an allotment we were very fortunate, as going to the allotment is classed as exercise.

Sadly many of the regular activities of the society had to be cancelled including all the talks and trips, the garden walkabout, the holiday and the plant sale. We were also unable to produce a Weeders Digest because there was little or nothing to report upon.

But we did manage a few events, all of which were very well received. Just before the virus bit in March thirty of us made a fascinating behind the scenes trip to Burston Garden Centre followed by a delicious afternoon tea. The staff made us very welcome and gave us all boxes of free primroses to take home.

As soon as we were able, in June, we opened The Store which was unbelievably popular. It was like the old days with queues up and down the road. In addition, many of our regular plant growers had stock to get rid of so we also had a sort of plant sale. We invited members to contribute whatever they thought fit and people were really generous. We raised an impressive £645 for the Churches Together Summer Hamper Scheme. The Store took well over £1,000 on the first day. We also invested in a credit card machine to minimise the handling of cash and it

has been a great success. We will be continuing with this.

And then came our 'Pièce de Résistance'. In place of the flower show we held a Horticultural Exhibition and it was a storming success that brought out unexpected latent talents. It was the idea of our Membership Secretary, Rachel Pearce and between her, Amanda Harvell, Jane Poyser and Patricia McIntyre a veritable feast of horticultural excellence was on show. Every entrant was given a section of table to exhibit what they had grown or made and, for once, size and uniformity took a backseat. There is a full report later in this publication with photos and there are more photos on our website. The success of this event has made us reconsider the age old format of the Autumn Show and our conclusions also appear later on.

Try peat free for the good of our planet

Not surprisingly an interest in gardening has boomed and we were able to establish yet another four mini allotments. We now have seventeen of these at the site next to the recreation ground. A mini allotment is one eighth the size of a full allotment, approximately 20ft x 12 ft, just enough to grow a few vegetables and maybe some fruit.

We have decided to try to encourage people to minimise their use of peat based compost to do our bit for the planet. We will still stock peat based compost but we are going to stock two varieties of peat free compost at almost cost price so please consider giving them a go.

We also had to cancel our helpers party and we do not think it will be possible to hold it in 2021. So please bear with us, we hope to make it a big celebration in 2022.

My thanks also must go to our wonderful advertisers, none of whom have abandoned us despite the pandemic. Without them we could not afford to produce this publication and they are all good trustworthy local businesses so please patronise them.

As I finish this, a vaccine has just been approved, so let's all look forward to a better 2021. ♦

Peter Hordern



The Store opens with social distancing and masks



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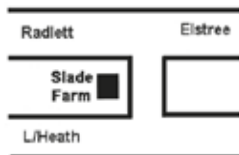
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The bare plot as it was after cutting the grass. Manure, leaves, Mypex and cardboard were all used to cover it

In their quest to grow bigger and healthier crops, ideally with less effort, gardeners are always open to new ideas.

As science and experience increases our understanding of the importance of bacteria, fungi and worms in soil health, as well as the dangers of herbicides, we look for ways that we can work with nature rather than against it. With this in mind we experimented with the 'No Dig' method of cultivation promoted by Charles Dowding and others when we took on a new allotment plot last autumn.

In the past when we took on another plot covered in a thick carpet of weeds we wanted a "clean slate" and asked the Parish Council to rotavate it. We learned that perennial weeds such as couch grass and bindweed are like Hydras and if before rotavating there is one weed, after rotavating these will be multiplied many times over. An enormous amount of time and effort was spent manually extracting these weeds in the first and subsequent years.

This time we did not rotavate or dig the soil. Instead, in October, we covered half the ground with

a layer of leaves and black matting (Mypex) on top. The other half was covered with a layer of cardboard, topped with a mix of leaves and well rotted manure. The theory behind 'No Dig' is that by leaving the soil intact you leave the fungi, microorganisms and insects undisturbed and the CO2 locked in the soil. By eliminating access to light with mulches or matting annual weed seeds don't germinate and perennial weeds exhaust their energy and die.

Breaking the cardboard barrier

Over the growing season the plot had three areas with different crops. We grew roses and winter squash in the cardboarded and mulched area. This required breaking through the cardboard barrier in only a few places. We planted corn and more winter squash through the black matting. Lastly, we pulled back some of the matting to create areas to grow courgettes, tomatoes, runner beans and potatoes in the mulched soil.

As an experiment one row of potatoes was planted the traditional way by digging a trench and placing the seed potatoes in the bottom before backfilling.



The plots as seen by a passing low flying aircraft!



Mypex and leaf mulch in place and some small fruit trees

Another row was planted by using a trowel to open a small hole into which the potato was dropped. Soil was added to bank up both rows as the potatoes grew and a fresh layer of compost was applied around the other plants to suppress weeds.

Relatively little time was spent weeding the plot in its first year. During the summer bindweed did start to appear but only in the area we had covered in cardboard. (To be fair, bindweed was most prevalent in this spot when we acquired the plot.) All visible weed leaves and roots were removed before covering the area with more cardboard where possible and mulching again.

The harvests were excellent, especially the sweet corn and squashes. When we harvested we disturbed the soil as little as possible. It is difficult to remove potatoes without digging, but as our soil improves we hope to extract them with a hand fork. There was no visible difference between the yield of the potatoes

planted in a trench and those dropped into a small hole.

After all the crops had finished we pulled back the black matting expecting to see a network of white bindweed roots. But there were none! We removed a few dandelion and dock plants as well as some horseradish shoots before this half was mulched with 2 inches of leaves and re-covered with matting. On the cardboarded side bindweed roots were teased out before again layering with more cardboard, then compost and this time adding black matting on top in the hopes of reducing the bindweed further next year.

Being as gentle with nature as possible

What was incredible to see as we rooted around for weeds with a hand trowel was not only the number of worms and the improved soil structure but also the numerous white trails of mycelium bacteria adding to the health of our soil.

Because we are mostly using well rotted compost, slugs and snails aren't any more of a problem than usual. However the unrotted leaves do provide a nice place to hide. We found eggs mostly at the edge of the plot which were firmly squished.

When we planted out young plants we used the hedgehog friendly slug pellets. Unfortunately the crows ate these (with no apparent side effects) as they are corn based! So we netted to protect more pellets until the plants were big enough to fend for themselves.

I am so pleased that we did not rotavate our plot and took a 'No Dig' approach. It feels right that we are as gentle with nature as possible and look after our soil. The added benefit is that it is much less work for us. ♦

Jane Poyser

Exploring Hertfordshire's orchards

A new Heritage Lottery-funded project, Orchards East, has recruited an army of volunteer surveyors devoted to discovering and understanding the past, present and future of orchards in Eastern England. A collaborative project working with existing county orchard groups, other interested organisations and orchard owners, the aim is to survey and record old orchard sites in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, as well as research the social, cultural and economic history of fruit growing in the region. The project, which is based in the School of History at the University of East Anglia (UEA), also hopes to restore important old orchards, and to create new examples for the enjoyment of local communities.

As one of the local volunteers, I was sent a pack consisting of Ordnance Survey maps marked up to show the sites of orchards that appeared on older maps of the area. My task was to review what, if anything, remains of the orchards on my patch, noting what I could see of surviving trees, their size and condition, environmental details about their settings, and any available historical information. I did my homework, looking at old and new maps of Aldenham and Shenley

parishes, as well as reading the health and safety rules that came with my surveyor's pack. When did going for a walk and snooping over fences get so complicated? I must tell a 'responsible person' where I'm going, take a fully charged mobile phone, avoid dogs and bulls, and be sure to tuck my trousers into my boots for fear of insects. Luckily I survived my many interesting forays in search of old fruit trees, and completed a batch of survey forms to return to the researchers at UEA.

An extension and further funding

So far, around 150 volunteers have surveyed more than 600 parishes across the region, recording nearly 1200 surviving orchards. The project was due to reach its final stages of survey and analysis earlier this year and present its findings at a major conference in Cambridge, but lockdown intervened. The good news is that the project has been given an extension and further funding to the end of the year, and in the meantime interesting information is already emerging.

Although this part of the county has been more heavily built up than those further from London, researchers have found that our local area - especially the south-western corner, beyond Watford and St



Biodiversity survey: the researcher is vacuuming invertebrates from orchard leaves



Old apple orchard at Wall Hall, Aldenham

Albans - had a thriving orchard industry until relatively recently. South-west Hertfordshire was noted for its extensive orchards by the eighteenth century, supplying apples and cherries to the London market.

In some parishes the number of orchards, and the area they covered, significantly increased in the first three-quarters of the twentieth century. Numerous large fruit farms and smallholdings came into existence, and many orchards were established in the more affluent suburbs. Large institutional orchards were attached to the schools and hospitals built in the course of the twentieth century on London's outer fringes. In the course of my survey I reported not only on the former hospital orchard in Shenley Park, which many of us know well, but also on the forgotten and neglected orchard site nearby at Harperbury, once a flourishing source of produce for that hospital and work for its residents. This large apple and plum orchard is now densely overgrown with brambles and its future is uncertain.



One of the outcomes of the project is this short book which not only looks at the history of orchards in eastern England, and of the fruit grown within them, but is also a recipe book. It provides examples of how different kinds of fruit typical of the eastern counties, varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry, can be used and eaten.



Over the past four decades or so, as development has intensified, many of our orchards have been completely lost. In Watford the 58 orchards shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of c.1900 have been reduced to one or two fragments. Countryside has given way to farmland, while suburban orchards disappeared as large gardens were subdivided into smaller plots. Nevertheless, there is still much variation, reflecting in part the survival of our treasured Green Belt, amidst the suburbia. My survey of Aldenham parish found seven orchards remaining, six of which were in existence in c.1900, when the Ordnance Survey recorded a total of 30 in the parish. Overall, the number of orchards in south Hertfordshire parishes appears to have fallen by between 75 and 100 per cent since c.1900. Many of the survivors are comparatively new orchards, planted in the course of the twentieth century.

Opening up other avenues

This has been a rewarding project to take part in and I look forward to seeing more results emerging from the final surveys and data analysis. The survey has opened up other avenues of investigation. It has alerted researchers to particularly well-preserved orchards, which they are targeting for more detailed investigations, both of fruit varieties and of aspects of biodiversity. Once the current project is complete, Orchards East will continue to exist as a forum for all the orchard-related organisations in the eastern counties, lobbying to preserve and promote orchards and protect those of particular historical, biodiversity or amenity value. ♦

Deborah Spring

Sorting out the slugs

Slugs are not only one of the most common garden pests they also top the poll for the most enquiries to the Royal Horticultural Society. However unlike most other leaf-munching visitors to your garden, they aren't insects. Slugs are land-dwelling molluscs that are more closely related to clams than beetles or caterpillars. Most species of slugs are decomposers who feed on decaying plant and animal wastes but there is a handful of species that prefer to feed on living plant material and these are the ones we are after.

There are about 30 thirty species of slug in the UK but four of them cause the most damage costing up to £8 million a year and the average UK garden is, unbelievably, home to over 20,000 slugs.

Slug bait containing metaldehyde was very effective but has been banned from the end of March 2022 and has already been withdrawn from sale. It is proven to kill wildlife that feeds on the dead slugs, particularly hedgehogs, so we do not recommend its use. If you have any left in your shed please dispose of it responsibly.

But all is not lost, far from it. Millions of words have been written about the subject but here are a few ideas that might be of help. I suggest you don't read this while eating your lunch!

1. Hedgehogs and frogs love to eat slugs, especially in the evening when they and the slugs come out to feed. Encourage frogs with small ponds and hedgehogs with nice dry areas for nesting and holes in your fence so they can get in and out of your garden. Racoons also love slugs but there aren't many of them in Radlett.

2. Nematodes – these are colourless microscopic roundworms that carry bacteria that kill the host which the nematode then consumes. You need to buy one specific for slugs. They have a limited shelf life and are not cheap so follow the instruction closely. They are not harmful to wildlife.

3. Ferric phosphate slug pellets – these are still legal and are often advertised as organic. Slugs tend to disappear underground after ingesting them so are less of threat to hedgehogs. Their effect on other wildlife such as worms is still the subject of debate. It is recommended that these be used sparingly, maybe 4 or 5 in an area of an A4 size of paper.



4. Go out after dark and collect your slugs. Dispose of them as you see fit but salty water works well. The RHS suggests putting them in your freezer – rather than me! I find scissors quite useful and hedgehogs can then tidy up.

5. Lay pieces of wood or other material flat near the plants. Hopefully the slugs will retreat under these in daytime and you can then lift them and dispose of as above.

6. Create barriers with various advertised remedies such as wool, grit, eggshells, copper and plastic collars. I have heard a lot about the failure of these methods but undeterred I have bought a stock of slug collars to try next season (see photo). The theory is that the slugs cannot climb over the rim – we shall see. I will even try sowing some



A 9 volt battery is sufficient and will, allegedly, last all season.

8. Beer traps set into the ground can work. The slugs are attracted by the yeast in the beer and fall in. The upside is that you can drink the beer that doesn't go into the traps.

And I am sure there are thousands of other remedies out there so please let us know what works for you. I will report back on the slug collars next year.

And for those of you who are fascinated (perhaps the wrong word) by slugs here are a few more facts. As a slug moves it secretes a mucus which helps it glide across the surface and it moves at a top speed of about two feet per minute. The mucus trail also helps it navigate back home. They can go up or down at any angle, including upside down and can pass over a razor blade edge without harm. (doesn't bode well for my slug collars). In freezing temperatures it alters its blood structure to prevent the forming of ice in the tissues.

Each slug is capable of laying hundreds of eggs over the course of its lifetime though the eggs are laid in clutches of about 30. They are laid in moist soil, under mulch or rocks, or beneath leaf detritus. They'll sit dormant if the weather is too hot, too dry, or too cold, waiting for just the right moment to hatch. Leopard slugs, which don't eat fresh plant material, are famous for their bizarre mating habits. They hang upside down and their reproductive organs, which come out of their heads are blue in colour. And those particularly large slugs you often find in your veg patch or allotment are probably Dusky Slugs (*Arion subfuscus*) or Large Red or Black Slugs (*Arion ater*), neither of which are the worst offenders. ♦



The barrier method. Try a plastic collar around the seedlings

seeds in the bottom.

7. Electricity – some enterprising gardeners have suggested a wire or strip with a small electric charge is an effective barrier particularly round the top of raised beds. Don't be tempted to wire this up to the mains as you will not only fry the slugs and the hedgehogs but probably yourself as well.



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As you might have expected we had to cancel the 2020 Garden Walkabout due to the virus. We felt that there were too many pinch points and the all important teas were not going to be possible. In addition it was unlikely that the Parish Council would have let us open the allotments.

However the five owners still worked hard on their gardens because there was not much else to do and I would like to thank them all, on your behalf, for their valiant efforts.

We did manage to get some photos of the gardens which are reproduced here.



Above: Brian Davis' garden at 44 Elm Walk. Right: Chris Parkin's garden at 42 Elm Walk. See website for a larger selection

2021 Garden Walkabout – Sunday 20th June 2021

Two of the owners who were unable to open last year have been really generous and are prepared to go through the whole process again this year. So these two gardens combined with the allotments and two new exciting gardens in The Ridgeway form our five properties for June.

We have decided to open a bit earlier than in previous years because with these dry summers the best colour is often over by early July.

We still have the property in Aldenham Avenue which will only be accessible via a 'hole in the hedge' in The Pathway. The teas will be also be served here. The Pathway is fairly short and there will be signs to help you find the entrance.

From there you can walk through the woods adjoining the Recreation Ground to the allotments and then on to the one remaining property in Elm Walk. There is a short path through to Elm Walk from the allotment access road.



Pictures from the Croshers' garden at 23 Elm Walk

In the other direction you can carry on down The Pathway, cross Loom Lane (carefully) and take the small path through to Homefield Road. Turn right and you are well on your way to the Battlers Green end of The Ridgeway where the last two adjoining properties are located.

As with last year this is a true walkabout. Please do not try to drive to the allotments, the parking is for allotment holders and registered disabled only.

Tickets will be available at the gates of all the venues and are a mere £5 for all five properties per person. All profits from the day go to the charities nominated by the garden openers.

Please feel free to bring your friends along.

The gardens are as follows

23 Elm Walk

Mary and Robin Crosher

58 The Ridgeway

Traudi and Anup Puri

56 The Ridgeway

Julie and Alan Woolidge

Aldenham Avenue (access via the Pathway)

Patricia McIntyre and Erich Schlaikjer

The Allotments – accessible from the Recreation Ground and from the road beside the Bowls Club pavilion off Gills Hill Lane. ♦



The Allotments



2021 **Autumn Show and Exhibition Guide**



The show will be held on **Saturday 4th September 3.00 – 5.30pm**
Early entry for disabled visitors 2.30pm
at the Vision Hall, Christ Church, Watling Street, Radlett
Admission £1.00 (Children free)
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Part 1 – Exhibition

non competitive

Exhibitors are invited to create a display of anything they have either grown or made. There are no rules other than the exhibit has to fit into the allotted space. Accessories are permitted and you can even construct your own niche.

The display could be on a theme, domestic entries might be 'tea time', and vegetable displays might be based on a trug. Entries could even be a combination of fruit, flowers, vegetable, domestic and craft.

This section is non competitive but a number of rosettes may be awarded.

There is no entry fee but you have to reserve a space in advance either by completing the relevant section on the entry form or ringing the Show Secretary or her assistant before 7pm the Thursday before the show.

Space will be allocated on the basis of space available. The Show Secretary will inform you well in advance if your allotted space is smaller than the one you requested.

Part 2 – Show

competitive

Deadline for entries is 7pm the Thursday before the show. Entry forms must be delivered to a member of the committee before that time. Entry to the competitive classes is free. There will be no prize money but prize cards will be awarded.

SHOW SECRETARY

Amanda Harvell - 07810 377 257

2021 Autumn Show Special Awards

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY BANKSIAN MEDAL

Will be awarded to the exhibitor who obtains the most points in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4. The competitor who won the medal in 2019 Peter Hordern is not eligible this year.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AFFILIATED SOCIETIES BRONZE MEDAL

Will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Section 4, except that the medal will not be awarded to the same exhibitor for more than three successive years.

THE NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY SILVER MEDAL

Will be awarded to the best Dahlia exhibit.

THE RAYMOND SPRAKE CUP

Will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in the Domestic classes.

THE PAUL BALEN CUP

Will be awarded to the best photograph in the show (classes 46-49).

BLUE RIBBONS

The best exhibit in the Domestic classes.

The best exhibit in Vegetable classes.

The best exhibit in the Fruit classes.

The best exhibit in the Floral classes.

TOP TRAY AWARDS

1st, 2nd and 3rd prize Store Vouchers to the value of £5.00 each.

2021 Autumn Show Classes

SECTION 1 ROSES

- 1 THE BARTON CUP** One specimen bloom large flowered Rose with own foliage.
- 2** One vase of three blooms of large flowered Roses, one or more varieties.
Exhibitors are requested to name varieties where known.

SECTION 2 DAHLIAS

- 3** One vase of three Dahlias from your garden, any variety or varieties. This class is intended for those who just grow a few Dahlia plants in their garden, not for the more experienced grower.
- 4 THE STANLEY DARK CUP** - One Bloom from a mystery Dahlia purchased at £2.50 each plant from the Society. These can be reserved on a first come, first served basis, by telephoning Peter Hordern, and they will also be available from The Store in late May while stocks last.
- 5** 3 decorative Dahlias, any size, any variety or varieties.
- 6** 3 cactus or semi-cactus Dahlias, any size, any variety or varieties.
- 7** 3 blooms of any other Dahlia other than decorative, cactus or semi-cactus. This includes waterlily, pompom, collarette, ball etc.

SECTION 3 OTHER FLOWERS

- 8 THE DOROTHY MERCER CUP** for a collection of cut flowers of a least 5 different kinds in one 4.5" (11cm) diameter container which will be provided by the Society.
Space allotted is 2'6" (76cm) x 2'6" (76cm). This class is not a floral arrangement.
- 9** A miniature vase of cut flowers in a small tumbler/vase. Maximum total height 8" (20cm).
- 10** Three stems or blooms of any annual or perennial flower or shrub, one variety.
This includes spray Chrysanthemums but not Roses or Dahlias.
- 11** Fuchsia flowers, 6 in a box, any variety although identical blooms are more likely to win.
(Display box will be provided.)
- 12** Begonia, one flower, any variety. (Display box will be provided.)
- 13** Gladiolus, one spike.
- 14** Flowering house or pot plant other than Fuchsia.
- 15** A tumbler/vase of mixed herbs, not more than 5 types.
- 16** Most fragrant flower - 1 bloom or stem.
- 17** Floral Art – An exhibit maximum size 8" (20cm) x 12" (30cm) entitled

SECTION 4 VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

- 18 RADLETT TOP TRAY** for three dishes of vegetables, sample quantities: Carrots (3); Cauliflowers (2); Onions (3); Parsnips (3); Peas (9); Potatoes (5); Runner beans (6); Tomatoes (6); Artichoke (2); Aubergines (3); French Beans (9); Cauliflower (2); Celery, trench (2); Courgette (3); Cucumber, house or frame (2); Cucumber, ridge or outdoor (2); Garlic (5); Marrows (2); Parsnips (3); Swede (2); Turnip (3). For other quantities see the RHS handbook.
(Space available 18" (46cm) x 24" (61cm) you may provide your own board.) See page 27.
- 19** A Trug of an aesthetically arranged collection of vegetables and/or fruit but no flowers.
(Trug available from The Store.)
- 20 THE VIC CRAFT CHALLENGE CUP** for tomatoes, (not cherry or small) 6 of one variety.
- 21** Tomatoes, cherry or small fruited cultivar, under one and a half inches in diameter (3.8cm), 6 of one variety.
- 22** A cluster of ripe tomatoes on the vine.
- 23** Potatoes, 5 of one variety.
- 24** Any type of bean, 10 pods of one variety.
- 25** Onions, 3 of one variety, over 8oz. (225g).
- 26** Onions, 5 of one variety, under 8oz. (225g).
- 27** Beetroot, 3 of one variety, tops trimmed.
- 28** 1 Squash, Gourd or Pumpkin.
- 29** Sweetcorn, 2 of one variety.
- 30** Apples, dessert or culinary, 5 of one variety.
- 31** One dish of stone fruit, a minimum of 3 fruits.
- 32** One dish of berry fruit, 10 of one variety.
- 33** Oddities class for anything you grew that didn't quite go according to plan i.e. deformed vegetable, fruit etc. (No points awarded for this class.)

SECTION 5 NOVICE CLASSES PRIZES

These classes are open only to members who have never previously won a Novice first prize in a Radlett Horticultural Society Autumn Show.

- 34** Three stems or blooms of any annual or perennial flower or shrub, one variety.
- 35** One type of vegetable, number as in Class 18.

SECTION 6 DOMESTIC CLASSES

NOTE: ALL POTS MUST BE LABELLED. (No Kilner jars)

- 36** Jam, from berries, one pot.
- 37** Jam, stoned fruit, one pot.
- 38** Jelly, any variety, one pot.

- 39** Marmalade, any variety, one pot.
- 40** Lemon, Orange or Lime Curd, one pot.
- 41** Four flapjacks, any flavour.
- 42** A savoury quiche, not exceeding 8" (20cm) diameter.
- 43** A cake baked to the recipe printed on page 26.
- 44** A Victoria Sponge cake, sprinkled with caster sugar, not exceeding 20cm (8") diameter.
- 45** **Men only class.** A cake baked to the recipe printed on page 26.

SECTION 7 PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PAUL BALEN CUP will be awarded to best photograph in the show. The Society would like to use the winning photograph for the 2022 Autumn Show Schedule cover. These classes are open to both members and non members excluding professionals. Photographs must have been taken by the exhibitor. Where possible, and to add interest, plant varieties should be named. Maximum size for all photographs is 10" (25cm) x 8" (20cm).

- 46** **'Occasions'** A photograph that captures the occasion.
- 47** **'It's Orange'** An image that highlights one of the most vibrant of colours.
- 48** **'Abstract'** A picture that does not attempt to represent external reality, but rather seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, colours, and textures from a horticultural source subject.
- 49** **'Scrubbitts Wood'** - photographs taken in this Radlett woodland, can include vegetation, animals, birds or insects.

The photography judge will be happy to discuss entries with any exhibitor after judging has been completed.

Multiple entries accepted, space permitting but only one prize can be won in each class.

SECTION 8 CHILDREN'S CLASSES

This section is open to all children between 5 and 11 years old on day of show, whether their parents are members of the Society or not.

- 50** A model of choice constructed entirely by the exhibitor from vegetables and/or fruit.
- 51** An item of fruit, vegetable or flower, grown by the exhibitor.
- 52** A miniature garden.
- 53** "Name and display" the ugliest Slug in a jar. This must be displayed in a lidded jar, pierced and food to be included. All entries will be released immediately after the Show, carefully and considerably.
- 54** "Name and display" the prettiest Snail in a jar. This must be displayed in a lidded jar, pierced and food to be included. All entries will be released immediately after the Show, carefully and considerably.
- 55** A photo of either "My favourite flower in the garden" or "A living wild animal, bird or insect".
- 56** A domestic class to make flapjacks to the recipe provided on page 27.

Regulations for Exhibitors

- 1.** Except where stated all classes are open to members of the Society, members of their household and non members under the age of 18.
- 2.** Except in the Children's Classes:
 - a)** Exhibitors may show only produce of their own garden or allotment. House or pot plants must have been in an exhibitor's possession for at least two months prior to the show except Orchids which should have been in your possession for at least 6 months.
 - b)** No two persons may exhibit separately from the same garden in any one class.
 - c)** Exhibitors may make more than one entry in any one class, but no exhibitor may win more than one prize in any one class.
- 3.** It is a condition of entry that the Committee reserves the right to inspect, by appointment, exhibitors' gardens and allotments.
- 4.** Entry forms must be handed to a Committee Member or put through the door of Desmond Cottage, 1 Gills Hill before 7pm on the Thursday before the show. Entries after this date can only be made through the Show Secretary and at her discretion.
- 5.** A limited number of vases are available but exhibitors must be prepared to provide their own. Plates will be provided. All exhibits, personal property etc. shall be at the risk of exhibitors. The Society shall not be liable for loss or damage from any cause.
- 6.** Exhibits must be staged at the show between 8am and 11.30am. All persons not involved in judging must leave the hall by 11.30am. All exhibits shall remain staged until 5.30pm. Prize-giving will take place during the Show at 5.15pm. From 5.45pm exhibits remaining will be at the disposal of the Society.
- 7.** Any protest or objection must be made in writing and handed to the Show Secretary within one hour of the opening of the show. The decision of the Committee is final.
- 8.** The decision of the judges as to the merits of any exhibit shall be final. Any prize or special award may, at the discretion of the judges, be withheld or modified if the exhibit be considered unworthy of the prize offered. Unless otherwise stated the show will be governed by the rules of the Royal Horticultural Society Show Handbook and/or the rules of the appropriate National Societies to which the Society belongs.
- 9.** Cups and trophies will be presented at the end of the show, but will be taken back for engraving.
- 10.** In the event of winners having an equal number of points, the appropriate trophy, cup or medal shall go to the winner of the most first prizes.
- 10.** All matters not provided for in these regulations shall be left to the Committee whose decision shall be final.

Recipes and Top Tray information

Carrot cake (Class 43)

Ingredients:

175g light muscovado sugar
175ml sunflower oil
3 large eggs, lightly beaten
140g grated carrot (about 3 medium)
100g raisins
Grated zest of 1 large orange
175g self-raising flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp grated nutmeg (freshly grated will give you the best flavour)

For the frosting

175g icing sugar
1½-2 tbsp orange juice

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
2. Oil and line the base and sides of an 20cm round cake tin with baking parchment.
3. Tip the muscovado sugar, sunflower oil and the eggs into a big mixing bowl. Lightly mix with a wooden spoon. Stir in grated carrots, raisins and orange zest.
4. Sift the self-raising flour, bicarbonate of soda, cinnamon and grated nutmeg into the bowl. Mix everything together. The mixture will be soft and almost runny.
5. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 40-45 mins or until it feels firm and springy when you press it in the centre.
6. Cool in the tin for 5 mins, then turn it out, peel off the paper and cool on a wire rack.
7. Beat the icing sugar and orange juice in a small bowl until smooth – you want the icing about as runny as single cream.
8. Put the cake on a serving plate and boldly drizzle the icing back and forth in diagonal lines over the top, letting it drip down the sides.

Orange Whisky Cake (Class 45)

Ingredients:

1 orange
6tbs whisky
175g sultanas
175g butter
175g caster sugar
3 eggs, beaten
225g self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
A pinch of salt
Extra whisky to drizzle over cake at end

Method:

1. Peel the orange thinly with a vegetable peeler. Place in a small bowl and add the sultanas and pour in the whisky. Cover and leave for a few hours or overnight.
2. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
3. Line a two pound loaf tin with baking parchment.
4. Discard the orange peel from the small bowl.
5. Sieve the flour, baking powder and salt together.
6. Cream together the butter and sugar until the mix is fluffy.
7. Gradually add the beaten eggs to butter mixture, using a bit of flour to prevent curdling.
8. Add remaining flour.
9. Stir in the sultanas and any remaining liquid.
10. Pour the mixture into the loaf tin and bake for 60-80 minutes until cooked through and the top is light to mid brown.
11. Check the cake after 20-30 minutes; if it appears to be browning too quickly, wrap some foil over the top.
12. When cooked remove from oven and pierce top of cake while still hot with a skewer. Drizzle 2-4 teaspoons of whisky evenly over the top of the cake.
13. Leave to cool for 15 minutes before turning onto a wire rack.



Golden syrup flapjacks (Class 56)

Ingredients:

250g jumbo porridge oats
125g butter
125g light brown sugar
2-3 tbsp golden syrup
(depending on how gooey you want it)

Method:

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.
2. Line a 20x20cm baking tin.
3. Put butter, sugar and syrup into the saucepan, warm and melt to combine.
4. Add the oats and mix.
5. Press into the corners of the baking tray until the mixture is flat.
6. Bake for around 15 minutes until golden brown.

Radlett Top Tray details (Class 18)

Vegetables must be displayed within an area 18" (46cm) x 24" (61cm) without bending. A tray or board or black cloth may be used. No plates are allowed, but rings and tied necks will be permitted.

Each individual tray of vegetables shall be judged to a maximum of twenty points. This shall be split into three allowing 7 points for freshness, 7 points for condition and 6 points for uniformity.

All vegetables are to be displayed for effect.

Hints to Exhibitors

GENERAL

Remember to read the schedule carefully and abide by the description of the class exactly, particularly with regard to the number of specimens in each exhibit. If you have not shown before or are unsure on how to present your exhibit do not hesitate to ask the Show Secretary for advice.

The naming of an exhibit enhances its show value and counts in close competition.

When selecting specimens remember that uniformity is more important than size. Large coarse specimens do not usually win prizes.

All fruit should be shown complete with stalks.

Apples should not be polished and need not be ripe.

FLOWERS

Perennials A perennial plant is one which lasts many years. Perennial plants include trees and shrubs, plants which are grown from bulbs, corms and tubers, and, in fact, all that are not annuals or biennials.

Annuals A plant which naturally and ordinarily begins and ends its growth, seeds and dies (irrespective of frost) within twelve months.

Shrubs Woody perennials of smaller structure than a tree and having no bole or trunk.

Roses A good rose has form, size, brightness, substance and good foliage. Remember that buds count as blooms.

Dahlia These will be judged in accordance with the National Dahlia Society rules. Giants exceed 10" (25cm), Large are between 8" (20cm) and 10" (25cm), Mediums between 6" (15cm) and 8" (20cm), Smalls between 4" (10cm) and 6" (15cm), Miniatures under 4" (10cm) and Pompons under 2" (5cm).

VEGETABLES

Beans Must be straight and young, brittle when snapped and of even shape and size.

Beetroot When cut must be of a colour according to cultivar and of tender age. Whether round or long they should be all of even size and shape.

Cabbages The pair should be of the same variety and similar in shape and size. Each must have a firm solid heart, good colour and leaves without blemishes.

Carrots Must be typical of their type, young and of a rich red colour. Wash them without scratching and bunch fan shaped after trimming the foliage to 3" (7.62cm). All should be similar shape and length.

Marrows Must be sufficiently tender to permit easy puncturing by the thumbnail when tested. Small ones for table use gain more points than large ones and must be alike in shape and size.

Onions Must be cleaned and all scale leaves removed but do not skin them down to the pale green under-skins. Tie the necks with string or raffia.

Shallots Should be firm and of even size. Tie necks neatly and exhibit on a plate of sand.

Potatoes Must be typical of their type and variety. Coloured varieties must show their true colour and all should be young and unblemished when washed clean. All should be of the same size.

Tomatoes Should be just ripe, of even size, rich colour according to cultivar with small green stalk.

FLORAL ART

The flowers need not have been grown by the exhibitor, but the arrangement must be exclusively by their own hand; plant material must predominate over everything else used; no artificial plant material may be used; bracts may be used as flowers or foliage; bases and drapes are not considered to be accessories. All live plant material must have a water source.

Accessory Anything other than plant material used as part of the exhibit except bases, containers and drapes.

Foliage Leaves and unopened buds not showing petal colour.

Fresh Plant Material All the plant material used must be living. As driftwood is dried material, it may not be used in this instance.

Natural Plant Material Fresh and/or dried, preserved, bleached or skeletonised plant material including driftwood.





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Show and Exhibition Entry Form



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56			

Exhibition entries: Each table is 2' x 6' Please tick which size you would like:
A quarter, a half, or a whole table

☐
☐
☐

Please circle the classes you wish to enter, thus:

Multiple entries are permitted, in which case please

circle the relevant entries more than once, thus:

Additional Entry Forms are available from the Show Secretary,

or you may use a separate sheet of paper.

Name of Exhibitor

Address

Telephone

Entries must be handed to a committee member or put through the door of
15 Letchmore Road, Radlett **before** 7pm on Thursday 2nd September 2021.

Please note: If you do not want to tear this page out of the Yearbook you can
download an entry form from the website or pick one up at The Store when open

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54



Affiliated to the:
Royal Horticultural Society
National Chrysanthemum Society
National Dahlia Society
National Sweet Pea Society

The cover image of the
Exhibition and Show
Schedule was supplied
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The money you release is tax free and can be spent on anything you choose, for example, home improvements, the holiday of a lifetime, or even an early inheritance for your children or grandchildren.

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Providers who are registered with the Equity Release Council offer a 'no negative equity guarantee', which means that the outstanding amount owed can never exceed the value of your home, thereby offering you further peace of mind.

Releasing equity from your home is a big decision and there are many things to consider before deciding if Equity Release is right for you. If you would like to find out more, please contact Phil Reading, Mortgage Adviser on 01727 514444 for a free initial consultation.

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Well, what a year 2020 has proved to be! With a hot, dry spring and very hot summer and lockdown limiting our freedom of movement, we have all been affected in one way or another. Thankfully, many of us were able to spend a lot of our time in our gardens or on our allotments and maintain our sanity.

After the Horticultural Society had to cancel all its planned spring and summer events, we did not want to cancel the Autumn Show as well.

When we came out of lockdown in June, we began investigating our options including considering running a 'Mini Show' as a morale booster – the Horticultural Society hadn't been beaten by World Wars so a pandemic wasn't going to stop us! Around this time our membership secretary, Rachel Pearce, suggested we hold an Exhibition, and an idea was hatched.

After several planning meetings, leaflets were distributed, a coffee van booked and Vision Hall confirmed we could go ahead with running their first socially distanced event since March on condition we followed Government guidelines, which we were only too pleased to comply with to allow us to put on the event.

The exhibition would mean that members could

display flowers, vegetables and fruit, culinary items, and craft. We arranged the hall so that exhibitors could only go round the hall in one direction and were asked to pre book a time to set up their displays. This allowed us to control the number of people in the hall and meant everyone had plenty of room and could stay safe.

Exhibitors began to arrive at 9am. The Vision Hall quickly took shape and began to fill with colourful displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables and some incredibly beautiful craft items including handmade glass, paper and technical fabric designs. By midday, the hall was filled with displays from over 30 exhibitors, which was an amazing sight.

Some very thoughtful comments

My worthy assistant, Jane Poyser, invited Patricia McIntyre to write comments on postcards for each display, which was such a lovely idea, and they were so personal. A big thank you to Patricia, who took a lot of time in writing some very thoughtful comments, which meant a lot to the exhibitors.

By 2pm the pop up coffee van had arrived and set up in the hall car park and we opened the doors to members, friends and exhibitors who were all asked to





wear a face mask, use the hand sanitiser provided and to socially distance whilst viewing the exhibition. The one-way system (with arrows on the floor and distance markers) was set up within the hall and we monitored the numbers at all times, which meant that we provided as safe as possible environment for all to enjoy.

No entry fee was charged this year, but we did have a donation tray at the entrance and exit in aid of Thrive, our chosen charity, and I am delighted to tell you that through your generosity we raised over £200, which is truly amazing, so a big thank you!

We had 100 plus visitors to the Exhibition during the afternoon and the feedback was incredibly positive. A few exhibitors did say that they missed the competition aspect of the Show, but they really enjoyed the overall vision of the Exhibition. We are therefore considering holding a combination of the two in 2021!

A big thank you goes to Rachel, whose idea for an exhibition became reality, and blossomed into the success it was. Thank you to Jane, Peter, and Patricia, and the committee and helpers who helped make it a reality and all our incredibly talented exhibitors, without whom the event wouldn't have happened and been so colourful.

At this moment in time we do not know what will be possible in 2021, but there will definitely be an event! In the meantime, I wish everyone good health, stay safe and get gardening! ♦

Amanda Harvell Show Secretary



2021 Exhibition and Show

After the success of the Exhibition last September and with uncertainties of when Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted, we are planning a slightly different Show for 2021. Please pop the date in your diary - Saturday 4 September 2021. It would be wonderful if you can take part in either of, or both of the sections at this popular village event.

For those of you who enjoy the competitiveness of the Show we have selected some of the best entered classes from previous years and this smaller schedule can be found within this Yearbook starting on page 19. We have chosen the most popular classes from 2019 and have also considered the skill factor in growing and showing these items.

The Exhibition section will also be available for members who enjoyed displaying everything from

flowers, fruit and vegetables, photographs and craft. We highly recommend the 'display' factor of the Exhibition which proved so colourful and was very well received by the afternoon visitors last year. As long as you have grown it or made it almost anything goes in this section so let your imagination run wild.

We also hope to be able to serve teas, coffee and cake because it is this that makes it such a unique and sociable event and at the end of the afternoon there will be prizes galore.

I hope that with all this in mind you are encouraged to get out into your garden or onto your allotment and grow lots of produce which you can show or exhibit.

Wishing you all lots of fun and luck and here's to a happy and healthy 2021. ♦

Amanda Harvell Show Secretary



Vegetable entries at the 2019 Autumn Show



A colourful display from the 2020 Exhibition



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The allotments became more than somewhere to grow flowers, fruit and veg in 2020, they became a haven away from the stresses and confinement of Covid lockdown. Allotmenting was, fortunately, classed as exercise and we all made the most of it. I have never seen them looking so well tended.

Unusual weather seems to be the norm these days and we are going to have to plan for it. Mini droughts, as we had last May, are now commonplace and I suspect the answer lies in mulching to keep the moisture in. Heavy rain earlier in the year made my strip beds and permanent Mypex paths a good choice because even in the wettest weather you can do the weeding.

One of the famous seed companies, Mr Fothergill, managed to sell courgette seed that produces really bitter fruits and of course I ended up with one of these. Apparently all cucurbits in their natural state are really bitter and the fruit that we enjoy are a product of very

careful plant selection. Occasionally the bitter gene fights its way back and that happened in this instance.

Last year I reported that I had double dug my runner bean patch to improve yield and all was going well until we had five fiercely hot days in August. This heat managed to wither almost all of the flowers which meant no beans. It wasn't until mid September that a few new flowers brought a late crop, much to the surprise of everyone.

Bitter fruit

In the polytunnel everything thrived. I grew two cucumber varieties. The first was Market More which produces dozens of small delicious fruits, ideal for the lunch box. The other variety, Telegraph, was more of a problem. Unless you remove all the male flowers the fruits are really bitter and those male flowers appear at an alarming rate. Fortunately we did manage to grow



Above left: The tomatoes in the polytunnel
Above: Yellow rattle appears in the wild flower allotment
Left: Installing the pond in the wild flower allotment.
Far left: Constructing the geodesic dome

several edible specimens.

Tomatoes grew in abundance. My two mainstays, Shirley and Sun Gold, were as good as ever but the new kid on the block was Mimi, an all yellow cherry variety which was both delicious and prolific. Apparently yellow tomatoes are less acidic than their red counterparts and these were no exception. In 2019 I grew a very dark variety called Rosella but due to increased demand for all seeds was unable to get any. I noticed that several seeds had germinated where last year's Rosella had grown so I transplanted a couple and 'hey presto' I produced one very healthy plant and lots of delicious fruit.

We had a bit of a disappointing year with sweetcorn. I was unable to get hold of my favourite Lark seed so had to make do with Incredible which proved tasteless. I still had some of my other favourite Swift so at least we had some good cobs.

I have already started the construction of a geodesic dome to grow my runner beans up. I am building it with discarded bicycle wheels (see picture opposite). We hope to open the allotments this year as part of the walkabout so look out for this unusual structure.

Elsewhere the wild flower allotment has flourished. The yellow rattle I sowed last year has borne fruit and we counted about 40 plants. These have produced lots of seed so hopefully yellow rattle will soon cover the whole plot. I was also given a small, preformed pond liner so we have installed this to help the wildlife settle in. On the allotments we are all trying to encourage hedgehogs because they feast on slugs. Unfortunately it seems that foxes like nothing better than a tasty hedgehog. You can't win! The foxes are becoming very bold and are regularly seen striding up the paths between the plots, often with the family in tow. ♦

Obituary – Stuart Thorne



Stuart Anthony Thorne, who passed away in September aged 75, was a master tailor and a Radlett man through and through. He was also a serious gardener, bee keeper, birdwatcher, music lover, photographer and collector of vintage Madeira wine, as well as an active member of the Chamber of Commerce in the 70's and 80's and the Radlett Rotary Club. He was also a devoted partner to Maureen and they would have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary next year.

Stuart was very proud to be asked to have his portrait painted by John Walton (Royal Academy of Portrait Artists), another legendary Radlett man. John had been asked to submit a painting to be hung in the People's Portrait Collection at Girton College Cambridge which depicts people from a wide range of professions, trades and skills. The portrait, which you can see below, will be there in perpetuity.

Stuart was born in Edgware and left school at 15 with the sole intention of becoming a tailor. He disliked

school and even burnt his tie on the last day. The Careers Advice officer could offer no help on his chosen profession but Stuart said that was no problem as he had already secured himself an apprenticeship.

Tailoring very much ran in the family on his mother's side going back 300 years to Malmo in Sweden. His uncle was in military tailoring and his mother a waistcoat maker.

In 1960 he began his apprenticeship with Cooling, Lawrence and Wells and after qualifying, spent a further three years with coatmakers Hawes and Curtis. He then decided to set up shop on his own in Radlett and his parents helped him buy the property in Aldenham Road. His father was a carpenter and designed and built the superb bow front to the shop which survives to this day. Traditional and distinctive - very Stuart.

He advertised in the Herts Advertiser and got ten initial customers, some of whom remained with him for life. He retained his connection with Saville Row and travelled there for fittings, often on a weekly basis.



John Walton's painting from the People's Portrait Collection

He continued working well into 2019 and could still sit up on his workbench, creating a masterpiece almost without looking, whilst conducting a conversation about something completely different.

His clientele was diverse but one or two were very special such as the man who flew him to his yacht in Marbella to deliver his suits and another customer from Paris who avoided Saville Row and came straight to Radlett on recommendation. His clients also included many surgeons and the newsreader Richard Baker.

He and Maureen met on a blind date and soon discovered they had much in common, not least of which were collections of bonsai trees which were merged when they were married in Christ Church, Radlett in 1971.

Sweet peas and sweet honey

This was also the year when they took their first allotment, a hobby that they both loved, and they also joined the Radlett Horticultural Society. Stuart was a perfectionist in everything he did and the allotment was no exception. He would always say that he was just the labourer but aside from keeping their three plots immaculate he also helped Maureen stage numerous National dahlia shows as well as growing some superb



Maureen and Stuart on their fabulous allotment

sweet peas and producing exceptional honey from their apiary.

Stuart also became very involved with Radlett life and became vice chairman of the Chamber of Commerce as well as a member of Probus. He was also a founder member of the Rotary Club and used his skills to help make the rotary wheel which is still in use today.

Fundraising was also a bit of a theme. He agreed to do a 10km run with Stuart Nagler and although he succeeded he said 'never again'. Much more to his liking was a sponsored knit where he was so good that he cost some of his sponsors a fortune.

Stuart could be outspoken and stood up fiercely for what he believed in. He was equally fair, good company, humorous and generous, particularly towards Maureen.

He and Maureen very much enjoyed the finer things of life and loved dining at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. They holidayed regularly in Madeira and Yorkshire as well as enjoying trips to Canada, Trinidad and Tobago and flying on Concorde to Antigua and St Lucia.

Stuart will be much missed in Radlett and it would be no exaggeration to say that he was an institution in himself. He was also the longest serving sole trader in the village. They really don't make them like him anymore - rest in peace. ♦

Holiday to Kent

Monday 7th June - Friday 11th June

Due to Coronavirus our holiday to Canterbury and the gardens of Kent for next year is temporarily on hold. If we do decide to go ahead we will send out an email and contact all those who have previously been on holidays.

The holiday will be with Crusader Holidays and is subject to their booking conditions etc. Crusader are part of Motts our usual coach company and it is anticipated that Sam will be the driver as usual.

The cost will be in the region of £509.00 per person

Use of the coach, your accommodation (dinner, bed & breakfast) and all excursions are included with the holiday price.

Single room supplement approx £100.00

Optional Travel Insurance approx £29.00

While in Kent, the 'Garden of England', we hope to enjoy a variety of daily excursions including a leisure day in Canterbury with a tour of the historic Cathedral, a private guided tour of Leeds Castle, and visits to several beautiful gardens.

Highlights:

- Coach Travel with pick up from Radlett Post Office
- 4 nights' accommodation, hopefully in the 4-star Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel
- Bed, breakfast and 3-course dinner included
- Use of hotel pool, sauna, Jacuzzi & fitness suite included
- Single, Double and Twin rooms available
- All entrance fees and excursions:
 - Doddington Place Gardens
 - Leeds Castle, including private guided tour
 - Canterbury Cathedral guided tour
 - Franciscan Gardens, Canterbury
 - Sissinghurst Castle & Garden
 - Ightham Mote

Neither bookings nor reservations are being taken at this time. ♦



2021 Day trips

Bookings for this year's day trips (if the trips go ahead) can be made six weeks in advance at The Store or at the evening talks where forms will be available.

1. Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens

Lower Beeding, West Sussex

Thursday, May 20th 2021

After nearly a 10 year closure and a two year restoration programme this is the 'Finest Grade 1 woodland garden in England'. First planted in 1801, it was re-opened in 2018. With outstanding displays of rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias. It also features a rare colony of wallabies, the famous Dolls House Museum, a gift shop, plant sales and tea rooms.

Bookings commence 18th April 2021

2. RHS Hyde Hall

Chelmsford, Essex

Wednesday, 21st July 2021

Hyde Hall has a beautiful hilltop garden with herbaceous borders, a rose, vegetable and Mediterranean dry garden. Make time to visit the excellent plant centre, gift shop and cafe or restaurant.

On to **Feeringbury Manor** (private garden)

Feering, Essex

10 acre garden with two ponds and river Blackwater. Arboretum. Lots of different and colourful plants. The owner was former president of the RHS. Tea and cakes included.

Bookings commence 20th June 2021

3. Possible visit to **Open Garden Weekend** **Walsham le Willows, Suffolk, 29th August 2021,**

Bank Holiday Sunday.

Lots of Gardens, Allotments, Medieval Church, Music, Stalls, Lunches and Teas.

Further details are available from

Gesine Latimer on 01923 856970

(Cancellations may be liable to a charge) ♦



The beautiful and impressive gardens at Hyde Hall in Essex where we are planning to visit in August

The first talk will be online and details of how to gain access will be sent out nearer the time by email. Contact rachel.pearce@gmail.com if you would like to be added to our email list. The other talks will either be online or at Vision Hall, Christ Church, Watling Street, Radlett, starting at 8pm. No fee online but £2 at Vision Hall which includes tea or coffee and biscuits. No fee for the AGM and you get free wine!

Wednesday, 24 March 2021 **Horticulture – Healing Therapy for Mind, Body & Soul**

by Anne Luder

This talk shows us how gardening has been used as therapy since the time of the pyramids and Healing Therapy is now a recognised benefit. In some countries it is available on prescription. Anne talks about all sorts of HT as well as her experiences working in this field for over 20 years.

At the beginning of Anne's horticultural career she spent four years in charge of propagation at a nursery in Essex where many of the staff had learning disabilities.

She retired as a lecturer at Capel Manor College where she specialised in, and expanded the provision of, therapeutic horticulture for people with severe physical disabilities. She concurrently worked as a designer and delivers talks in her spare time.

Wednesday, 16 June 2021

Aphids (why you can't kill all of the aphids all of the time...)

by Colin Richards

This fascinating talk covers every aspect of the aphid lifecycle, including their predators and what we should and shouldn't be doing to control them. The information is based on the latest research by the Rothamsted Institute at Harpenden and ends with some hints for gardeners on aphid control.

After studying economics at university, Colin made his career in computing (no connection at all with his studies) and worked for BT and Rank Xerox.

Once retired he joined Watford & District U3A, where he jointly ran the Art Appreciation Group.

He has an eclectic range of other interests such as science, healthcare, local history and marionettes.

As well as other talks he is a volunteer speaker for Diabetes UK, a subject close to his heart, although he is not diabetic.

Wednesday, 28 July 2021

Right Plant Right Place

by Caroline Broome

This popular and informative presentation, with plenty of photos, strips away the mysteries surrounding successful plant placement. Most of the plants will be familiar to all and readily available from garden centres and concentrates on those awkward areas found in most of gardens

Caroline has been gardening for more than 30 years and has developed her East Finchley garden into a "personal paradise" which won the 'Best Small Back Garden' Trophy in the London Gardens Society Awards three years running. She and her husband also invite the public to visit each year in aid of charity.

Caroline is Chairperson of Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society and was previously an organiser for the National Garden Scheme. She also writes articles for Garden News and her local paper, Suburb News.

Their garden features a prairie themed roof deck above the Beach Hut summerhouse and an exotic front garden with ornamental grasses adorning hanging buckets and a mini living wall.

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

Following the AGM there will be a talk *Flora & Fauna of Cuba and Central America* given by the Chairman, Peter Hordern

Peter and his wife, Barbara, travelled to Cuba and seven Central American countries early in 2020 and the talk will not only be about the Flora and Fauna of those countries but of the ups and downs of their rather independent form of travel. Honduras and El Salvador are among the most dangerous countries in the world but they fortunately got through them in one piece. The talk will be accompanied by lots of photos. ♦

How to build a wildlife pond in your garden

Installing a pond is the biggest single contribution that can be made to increase the wildlife interest in a garden. It provides a breeding place for frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies and all the other aquatic fauna as well as a drinking and bathing area for birds and other animals.

Do site pools in a sunny place away from trees.

Do include at least one sloping side so that amphibians can escape onto land.

Do use a butyl liner rather than a pre-formed structure – slopes and ledges are easier to create with a flexible liner.

Do plant non-invasive oxygenators such as rigid hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), spiked water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and common water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*).

Do plant up the pond margins as upright stems or leaves are necessary for emerging dragonfly and damselfly nymphs. Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), greater spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum*

salicaria), water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) and arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*) are suitable.

Do plant floating-leaved aquatics such as frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) and water-lilies (*Nymphaea* spp.).

Don't add fish such as goldfish or koi carp as these are voracious predators of tadpoles and pond insects. However, very small fish, such as sticklebacks, can be included.

Don't introduce rampant non-native plants, such as Canadian pond weed (*Elodea canadensis*), floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) and New Zealand pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*, sometimes sold as *Tillaea recurva*), and rapidly-spreading floating plants such as duckweeds (*Lemna* spp.) and water ferns (*Azolla* spp.).

Regularly clean out the pond. When necessary, remove excess plant material in small quantities and leave it on the side if possible, to allow some of the pond life to escape back into the water ♦



Notice of Annual General Meeting 2020

(postponed from 25 November 2020)

The 81st Annual General Meeting of the Society

will be in the form of a virtual Zoom meeting on

Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7.30pm

(Details of how to join the meeting will be on the website in the New Year along with the supporting papers for the AGM)

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Trading Report
7. Secretary's Report
8. Election of Officers and Committee
9. Special resolutions (if any)
10. Any Other Business

Members are reminded that all resolutions for discussion at the AGM and nominations for officers and the committee, with names of the proposer and seconder, must be notified to the Secretary in writing no later than Wednesday, 24 February.

Jane Phipps - Secretary

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2021

The 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Society

will be held either at the Vision Hall, Christ Church

or in the form of a virtual Zoom meeting on

Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 7.30pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Trading Report
7. Secretary's Report
8. Election of Officers and Committee
9. Special resolutions (if any)
10. Any Other Business

Members are reminded that all resolutions for discussion at the AGM and nominations for officers and the committee, with names of the proposer and seconder, must be notified to the Secretary in writing no later than Wednesday, 3 November.

Talk

After the business meeting, there will be an illustrated talk by the Chairman on the flora and fauna of Central America and Cuba.

Holidays

It is hoped to give information on a proposed holiday for 2022.

Jane Phipps - Secretary



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Malcolm Bird
Liz Bissett
Helen Bowen
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and some of our existing ones....**

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