



RAYLEIGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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www.rayleighhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Newsletter AUGUST 2015



“dinner plate size dahlias”

Where has the year gone. The Autumn show is our next event the last chance for you to

enter one of this years shows, the one with whopper vegetables and dinner plate size dahlias. Come along and support every ones hard work on the day. As usual any help to set everything up is appreciated 7.30 a.m. at the store or 8 a.m. at the Mill Hall. Can last years cup winners bring them back to the show or take them to the store.

See you there

Peter Noble, Show Manager

Gone, but not forgotten during June are:

Dora Dunford, wife of Vice-President, Les Dunford and our condolences go to Les and his family. Also, long-standing member, Peter Linfoot and our sympathy goes to his wife, Mrs. Margaret Linfoot.

Our thoughts are with you both at this difficult time.

from the chairman



Hi All,

What a summer this has been! I'm usually writing the August Newsletter in basking hot sunshine – but this year, it's cold winds and dull skies – so no wonder all the plants are so slow to produce – except that is, for my lovely round courgettes, and perfect carrots which have been a triumph! There are some years when a few things just do really well! I hope the weather will soon warm up again so that you all have plenty of fruit and veg. to display at the Autumn Show on Sept. 6th!

There are still a few tickets left for the Suffolk coach trip on Sept. 12th so hurry and get yours from the Store so that you're not disappointed.

The next Club Night on August 25th is sure to be interesting about "Maritime Tales" as the speaker is our own member, Sue Howarth-Reading – so make a date in your diary for that one.

We still desperately need members to help on Show Day (otherwise it is left to the usual small band of helpers) so if you can help with staging the show, call Peter, our Show Manager, on 01268 745925.

See you all on Sept. 6th.

Colin Andrews

SUNDAY 6th SEPT

AUTUMN SHOW

Mill Hall, Rayleigh

Every member welcome to exhibit
Flowers, Fruit, Vegetables, Craft & Cakes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2 p.m.

(Not shown before? – now is the time, if you need help phone a committee member, call in the store or just turn up on show day, we are only too pleased to help)

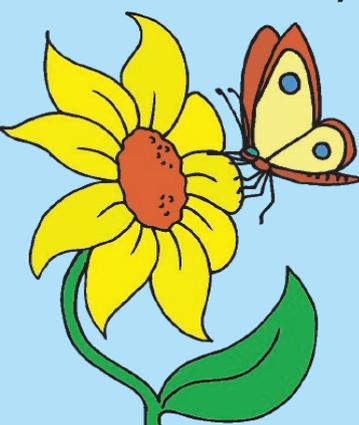
Largest SUNFLOWER Head

FOR ALL AGES UP TO 13 YEARS

1st PRIZE £5.00 2nd PRIZE £3.00 3rd PRIZE £2.00

Class sponsored by Jean Cornell
Seed donated by Gt. Waking Tree Management

Bring to the Mill Hall on the morning of the show before 11.30





AUGUST 25th
Sue Howarth-Reading
‘Maritime Tales & Coincidences’

Maritime history is an area that Sue enjoys researching. The subject is full of fascinating events and people some of which she will be highlighting. Sue runs a Maritime history group for a local U3A and is a senior watch keeper with National Coastwatch locally.



SEPTEMBER 22nd

John Downer

Leigh to Southend Area in the 1900s

John was born in South Benfleet and, apart from a time in HM Forces, has lived there ever since. He is Secretary of the Benfleet Historical Society and a member of the group that runs the Benfleet Community Archive. He is frequently asked to give talks about the history of Benfleet and, having become custodian of a vast quantity of slides including many of old Canvey Island and old Southend, he occasionally presents programmes about these areas before they began to develop.

OCTOBER 27th

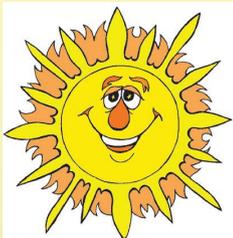
David Williams

Mind The Gap

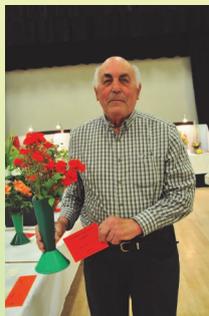
David is a City of London guide and lecturer and has a BA (Hons) degree in history and an MA in sport, history and culture. He talks regularly to groups and societies about London's rich heritage. He has founded LONDON FOOTSTEPS and is constantly learning more about London's past and its prospects for the future, some of which he will share with us.

Everybody welcome — Members £1.50—Visitors £2.50

All meetings are held at St Michael's Church, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh. SS6 9JB Starting at 8p.m.



**THE 2015
 SUMMER
 SHOW**



PHOTOS BY: TONY OLIVER



MAKING RAISED BEDS

If you're growing in raised beds, timber can often be found for free in building skips. Scaffolding boards are ideal. For each bed you'll need three equal-length boards, four short corner posts, a saw, a mallet, a hammer and some nails. Saw one of the boards in half to make the ends. Then arrange the boards into position, setting them about 30mm deep into the soil for stability. With the mallet, hammer a post into each corner then nail the boards to the corner posts to make a rigid bed. When working out the dimensions of a raised bed, bear in mind



that you should be able to reach the centre from each side without treading on the soil (or your crops). The length is less important.



arrested for shoplifting!

No doubt several of the gardens mentioned at May club night were familiar to members of the audience. Some, such as Audley End, Layer Marney, Easton Lodge and Blake Hall were started in Tudor times and continue to this day. Some such as Belhus have disappeared and are now golf clubs or country parks. I hadn't realised that Ingatestone Hall and Thorndon Hall both belonged to the same family, or that the first camellia grown in Britain was grown at Thorndon Hall. Judith Williams also mentioned Warley Place was owned by a Miss Ellen Willmott, and I wondered if the eryngium called Miss Willmott's Ghost was named after her. Seconds later Judith said it was. Miss Willmott sounds like quite a character; she employed 100 gardeners and promptly sacked any who missed a weed. She had a habit of carrying a bag of seeds in her pocket and sprinkling them in friend's gardens, she carried a gun, and in later years was arrested for shoplifting. Certainly not a shrinking violet.

'head count was 2'

June Club Night 'by proxy'

On June Club Night I was in Scotland and my stand-in was poorly. I have therefore picked other committee member's brains and am reliably informed that Nick Dobson was a good speaker who kept his audience both amused and interested. Although it wasn't one of our best attended evenings (holidays?) Nick said as his lowest audience head count was 2 he was delighted with the turnout. He talked about growing fuchsias, pelargoniums and roses and gave his tips to get them to thrive. This was backed up by photo's including some of his garden (apparently very impressive) despite after his marriage his new wife suggesting it would be better to grow vegetables rather than flowers. He brought along a selection of fuchsia plants which sold out. Always a sign of good plants and good value.

Club Night Reports by Page 3 Reporter Pat Hill

Rayleigh Horticultural Society **COACH TRIP**



SUFFOLK COASTAL TOUR

Saturday 12th September 2015

£35 per person

After leaving Rayleigh at about 9.00am we drive to **Woodbridge** where we meet our guide from City & Village Tours and stop for morning coffee (not included in the price). Suitably refreshed we press on to **Aldeburgh** for a look around this attractive seaside town and maybe see where the fishermen still sell their catch from the beach. Onwards to **Dunwich** for a fish & chip lunch (2 courses with tea/coffee included in the ticket price) at The Flora Tea Rooms. After lunch we continue on to **Southwold** which we can explore independently, or go with our guide around possibly the finest mediaeval church in England, and hear all about 'Southwold Jack'. Back on the coach for a 4.30 ish relaxed trip home.

Pick-up Points -

Brookside Tavern, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood - 8.30 -

Websters Way, Bus Layby 8.50 - Rayleigh Station, Bus Stop - 9.00

Tickets available from Rayleigh Horticultural Society

Trading Store (see members' yearbook for opening hours),

also at Club Nights or ring Ann Baughen 01702 527456 - email annbaughen@yahoo.co.uk for further information.

NEWS

FROM THE

TRADING STORE

Your help needed---

Last year we lost so many potatoes and bulbs due to low sales and this is lost revenue for the society, this year again although not as many, we still wasted some, so in order to minimise our losses we are planning to revue our stock levels and the number of varieties in the coming season.

On the bottom of this page is a form requesting your choices for potatoes and autumn bulbs, which may give both you and the society a chance to supply your preferences, so depending on the number of requests this may determine

which varieties and quantities we order, regrettably some quantities may be uneconomical so it will be up to you to make sure we get your request in as soon as you can. (*remember a kilo maybe big to you, to us small, but 25 of you make 25 kilos and therefore viable for everyone*)

Please be sure and read your newsletter, it can be a mine of information.

With planning in mind the same could apply to the trading store opening days, as it is getting more and more difficult to get volunteers to help in the store, so, when there is no one available we may have to close on certain days earlier in the year.

Currently it is becoming necessary for less to do more i.e. fewer volunteers working more hours and days to keep the shop open, so please, if you can spare a little time call Fred on the number below, We really do want to provide the same level of service as we always have done. WE NEED YOU!!!



Back in stock

HUMAX

MULTI PURPOSE COMPOST 60 ltr bags

PLUS

A NEW RANGE OF DARLAC GARDEN TOOLS
ready for the allotment, garden or that special gift

PLUS

OUR USUAL SELECTION OF GARDEN GOODIES, BIRD FEEDS, FABRICS, PEST CONTROLS, POTS & LAWN CARE

Don't forget if there's anything you need to know about the shop, you can get in touch with me 07445786524 01268 952936 . Good luck *Fred*



MY CHOICE OF POTATOES AND BULBS

Detach this form and place in box on counter at the store

NAME.....OR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.....

	VARIETY	QTY
POTATOES		
BULBS		