RAYLEIGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Newsletter MARCH 2025 www.rayleighhorticulturalsociety.co.uk e-mail peskypixie@supanet.com Tel: 07 572 360 795



from the Chairman

Hi All,
Hope you have been keeping well, and have been taking the opportunity during these depressing, dull days to start planning what you are going to be growing in 2025. Even if you don't normally grow vegetables, there's nothing better than growing your own tomatoes, cucumbers and other salad—David has a good selection of seeds in the Store, and of course, we have had the seed potatoes in since January—so hurry, as at the time of writing, they're going fast!

If you've not yet renewed your membership, you can use the postal form on page 4 and send it in—or go and renew at the Store or Club Meetings.

Also, don't forget the Plant Sale in May— which now has a change of day to Sunday, 11th May (see advert opposite).

Finally, if you are hoping to enter some classes in the Shows this year, go to the Store and ask for a Show Book (as these are only available for members wishing to enter in a Show).

Enjoy your gardens and allotments and hope you all have a good growing year.

Colin Andrews

It's Show Time

With spring just around the corner it's time to prepare for our next show in April.

There are no charges for submitting your entries and winners prizes. Furthermore I have sponsored the floral categories £20 as we need more entries in the section.

I hope these benefits will encourage your participation and new exhibitors are most welcome.

I look forward to seeing you soon and if you'd like to volunteer your time we always need more assistance in running the show.

Kind regards Shaun Cox,

SHOW Manager

Plant Sale at THE STORE SUNDAY 11th May

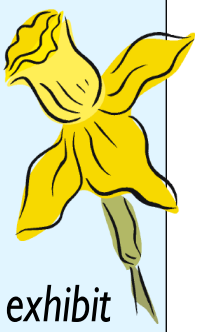
Open 10.00 to 12.00

Anyone wishing to book a table to sell plants, see David at the store or phone Colin 07 572 360 795



SUNDAY 6th APRIL SPRING SHOW

Mill Hall, Rayleigh



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

(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)

2025 SHOW BOOK AVAILABLE AT THE STORE

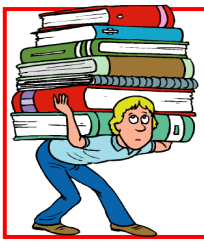
Children's Competition

My copy of a Banksy

See page 4 of the SHOW BOOK

ALL AGES UP TO 16 YEARS

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



BOOKS & MAGAZINES

We have a selection of donated gardening books and magazines in the store which members can borrow, and return for *FREE*, or donate more.

and maybe a small donation into one of our charity boxes?

STORE NEWS

Welcome to the New Year – and so far, you are more than welcome to it!! However, the store is looking good at the minute, packed with potatoes, onions and garlic, (listed below), together with a wide range of beautiful dahlias, lilies, begonias and more, all waiting to take their place in your garden/allotment:



First Earlies – *Foremost, Lady Christi, Pentland Javelin, Rocket, Winston*

Second Earlies – *Estima, Kestrel, Nadine, Sagitta, Charlotte (salad) & Caledonian Pearl (Salad).*

Main Crop – *Cara, Desiree, King Edward, Picasso and Setanta.*



Onions – *Stuttgarter Giant, Turbo & Rumba*

Shallots – *Golden Gourmet, Yellow Moon & Topper*

Garlic — *Vigour White (Soft Neck)*

Keep warm and safe. See you on your next visit to the store. *Kind regards David Baughen*

Would you like to help members at the Store?

The store opens Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for two and a half hours a day, and we are looking for members who can stock shelves, serve customers and enjoy the company in a horticultural environment, even if it is only one day a week/ month.

If you are interested and would like to help please contact: David Baughen 01702 527456 or Les Cooper on 07599 970686

Rayleigh in Bloom 2025 competition.

Do you have a beautiful garden, vibrant hanging baskets, a well - kept allotment or a shared community space full of flowers? ***Show off your green-fingered skills in the Rayleigh in Bloom competition!***

Entry welcome from 1st April - 31st May. Forms will be available to collect from:

The Pavilion, King George V playing Field, Bull Lane. SS6 8JD

Rayleigh Horticultural Society Shop

Rayleigh Horticultural Society Spring Show

Online at www.Rayleightowncouncil.gov.uk or email karen.gaiger@rayleightowncouncil.gov.uk

For more details see your Nov 2024 RHS newsletter back page

Society's Archives

Are you good at ...

Filing?

Keeping Records?



The society is looking for a keen member to keep the clubs records up to date from about 1900

Would suit someone who is not able to get out much but would be interested in research and history

Contact Viv Irvine 01268 747418

Email vivienirvine688@gmail.com

Volunteer Secretary Needed

Are you one of those people who miss life at "the office"? Would you like to be part of a team, using your note-taking and other office skills working with Rayleigh Horticultural Society? If the answer to the above is "yes" then read on.

We are looking for a secretary to join our Team. To take notes at our Committee Meetings – usually 4 or 5 per year, and to send out occasional correspondence. Some keyboard skills would be useful, but you don't have to be a computer wizard.

If you are interested and would like to find out more about the role, please contact: Ann Baughen, on 01702 527456.

Upcoming EVENTS

Our first social afternoon of 2025 was well supported, thank you to those members who turned out on a really horrible wet afternoon. It was also the Trophy Presentation for those people who won an Award at either of the shows in 2024. Watch this space for further news about future Trophy Presentations.

4th April David Williams
The Great Fire of 1666



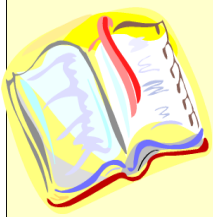
After one of the most devastating events in London's history, the City recovered to become the most influential commercial and financial trading centre in the world. This story plots the events before, during and after those tragic days of September 1666.



2nd May Peter Jones
Zeppelins Over Essex.

Peter brings to life the account of how Essex fought off the menace of the skies threatening our freedom.

6th June Bobbie Derbyshire
A Beginning, A Muddle and an End



Bobbie is the winner of the 2008 Fiction Prize at the National Academy of Writing. After a varied working life, she is the author of five novels and her talk shows us where her inspiration comes from.

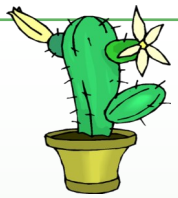
Ann Baughen

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH

Are there any gardeners who would be willing to help out in the church gardens for an hour or two each week, any days morning or afternoon. On Monday mornings at about 10.00 Ann Jolly and Terry will be around to meet any prospective volunteer/s in the church offices at the back of the church by the car park.



Despite power washing the wooden bird table small slugs were still coming out and leaving slime over the bird food - which the birds then wouldn't eat. Google said slugs don't like aluminium foil so we glued a square of kitchen foil in the centre of the table and put the bird food on that, and it



Do any of these apply to you?

You enjoy taking cuttings of your favourite plants.

You end up with too many small plants when sowing a packet of seeds?



If you spot a nice self sown plant in the flower bed do you pot it up?

If so, please support our annual Plant Sale which this year is on Sunday, 11th May, from 10 to 12 at the store. We have run this event for many years but several members who used to have a table are no longer able to, so we are looking for more people to sell their excess plants. We are **not going to charge for tables this year** (but it was only £2 in the past!) but would like a booking to be made in advance to know if this event is still viable. It is really nice to be able to show your 'babies' off to other members who come to buy - and you will go home with a little pot of money to spend on more plants.....

Please consider if you can help to make this event a success.

Book your table at the store, our staff will add your name to the list or phone 07 572 360 795

Help Make Rayleigh Bloom

Rayleigh Town Council is looking for gardening volunteers and volunteer coordinators to help us take on more gardening projects around the town, there's so much we want to do but we need your support to make it happen.

If you enjoy being outdoors and want to see Rayleigh at its blooming best, we'd love to hear from you. No experience needed - just enthusiasm.

Get in touch at
karen.gaiger@rayleightowncouncil.gov.uk



Help Needed

Show days are very busy for a short time, so we are looking for willing people to load the van at the store and set up tables and equipment at the Mill Hall first thing on show morning and break the show down late afternoon and return it all to the store for the next show.

If you are interested and would like to help please contact: Shaun Cox on 07947 403149 or Peter Collier on 07745 594786

Club Meeting reports by Pat Hill

"drunken debauchery"



By now the last Club Meeting of 2024 will be a distant memory but it was entitled 'The weird and wonderful of Christmas'. Jane Piper certainly concentrated on the weird part. She told us how St Nicholas became known as Santa Claus in Holland, and that 'Father Christmas' first appeared in Henry VIII's court. In the 1500's in England it was adults who celebrated with plenty of drunken debauchery and it was not really a festival for children. Iceland had some really gruesome traditions, eastern European countries had Big Foot legends of creatures who catch anyone out of their house at night, and Germany had living scarecrows who terrorised naughty children. All became a bit less scary in Victorian times after helpful elves began appearing in Norse mythology, until we reached the traditional Christmas we know now, although I'm sure we could all do without the commercialisation and Christmas cards appearing in the shops in September.

Essex was a' hotspot'



Our first Club afternoon of the year was combined with the presentation of trophies won by our members in last year's shows. It was also wet and cold so we were grateful so many people turned out. The talk was on Witches, Myths & Mystery and Chris Jeffries pointed out only women were termed witches although there must have been many men around who either suffered from physical deformities or were odd in some way - which seems to have been the criteria to be branded a witch. Essex was a 'hotspot' for witches with over 100 unfortunate women hanged, which often qualified as an exciting day out for the onlookers. Matthew Hopkins was termed the Witchfinder General and despite coming from a good background he became sadistic in his pursuit, lasting merely 3 years, of many women who just looked different, some of whom today we would view as herbalists. These unfortunate women were often blamed for everything that went wrong in the village and accused of being witches merely because they had upset their neighbours. This all seems long ago but the last trial for witchcraft in England was in 1944 when spiritualist Helen Duncan was convicted on the basis that she might pass information to the enemy in WW2. This would probably make a good Pub Quiz question!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL POSTAL ONLY FORM for 2025

Name……..

Address……

……..……

Post Code……

Telephone number……

e–mail……

MEMBERSHIP FEE £8.00

Per household per annum.

Send this form with a cheque made payable to "Rayleigh Horticultural Society"

To: The membership secretary,

Rayleigh Horticultural Society,

Mr. & Mrs. C. Andrews, 339 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7LH

IMPORTANT

Rayleigh Horticultural Society works hard to keep your personal data secure. As a membership organisation we do not and will not share your data with any other organisation or individual who is not a member of our Committee.

PLEASE SIGN HERE to agree to the society contacting you, i.e. Sending newsletters etc.

Signed……

NEWSLETTER NOTICE……

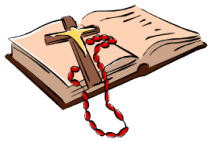
From January **2026** the society is putting the newsletter on the website, which means the printed copy will not be produced anymore, this is due to the ever increasing price of stamps and print costs, so please make sure we have your e-mail addresses soon, send them to

peskypixie@supanet.com

However, we do understand that for some members this may not be possible, so a limited number of photocopies will be available, if this is you, please phone

07 572 360 795

quoting your membership number and name



Kenneth Keeble

A long standing member who loved his garden has sadly passed away, our thoughts are with his wife Christine, family and friends

Editors: Janet & Colin Andrews, 339 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7LH
email: peskypixie@supanet.com. Phone: 07 572 360 795