

## HARTING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### Winter Newsletter 2020

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to you all! A small miracle that the weather was wonderful on Christmas Day after all the rain for what seemed a lifetime before.

The AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> November was well attended. The business of the evening included our Chairman's and our Treasurer's Reports for the year, plus election of officers, for which members agreed to our Chairman and Vice-Chairman changing places for the time being. Subscriptions are to stay the same. What seems to be becoming something of a custom followed, i.e. a Quiz, and the winning team were presented with a small edible prize. Wine and nibbles were enjoyed by all and the evening was a happy one. Thanks must go to all those who contributed and helped to make it a good meeting.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, some 32 people congregated at Elsted Village Hall for a pre-Christmas Demonstration and Decoration Workshop. Matthew Spriggs from Petworth created five stunning pieces echoing the season with mainly foraged foliage, cones, etc., after which mulled wine and a ploughman's lunch were enjoyed by all. The afternoon was taken up with those present creating their own garlands, wreaths, etc., judged at the end by Sally Woodhead and Ken Jacques, the worthy winner being Sue Wright. Grateful thanks to all those who organised the occasion and provided food and wine to make this a really great day.

**The following are important dates for your 2020 diary:** on **7<sup>th</sup> February** at Elsted Village Hall, from 1.30-3.30pm, Pat MacDonald will be giving demonstrations of floral arrangements for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Easter. Details will be found on a poster to be issued shortly. Entry free to members, £5 for non-members. Please contact me (details below) if you and your friends would like to attend, in order that we know how many to cater for.

To brighten us all up in the depths of winter, on **16<sup>th</sup> February** we have arranged to visit **The Down House at Itchen Abbas** in order to see the snowdrops and tour the garden with the owners. If you go to their website at [www.thedownhouse.co.uk](http://www.thedownhouse.co.uk) you will see lots of information, and we are told that there is a very good pub in the village, The Plough, which serves lunches, Tel. 01962 779191 to book. Car parking at The Down House is somewhat limited, so we hope members can arrange car sharing. If you would like a lift or would be happy to offer one, let me know and I will try to link you up. We are booked to arrive at the garden at 2.00pm, but you may wish to have lunch at the pub beforehand, in which case the garden is only 400 yds away. It is important that I know how many people are interested in this outing as the owners need numbers in order to cater for teas. They would be happy with about 20 people.

Other definite dates to put in your diary: the **Spring Show on 4<sup>th</sup> April** at Harting Village Hall, 2.00 to 4.00pm. On **25<sup>th</sup> May, Harting Festivities** from 11.00am where we will have our Plant Stall. On **20<sup>th</sup> June the Midsummer Show** will take place at Elsted Village Hall. On **15<sup>th</sup> August the Summer Show** will take place at the Memorial Playing Field in the afternoon. And on **26<sup>th</sup> November the AGM** will take place at Harting Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Additionally, we hope to have a speaker in April and to make other garden visits in June and July. More details later when these have been confirmed.

Subscriptions are due as from 1<sup>st</sup> November last and if you have not already paid please contact the **Membership Secretary, Pru Barlow, telephone 825341, or [prubarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:prubarlow@hotmail.com), or send a cheque to her at Rose Barn, East Harting GU31 5LT** (£12 per household or £8 per single household).

With kind regards and hope for good gardening weather in the coming year.

Pauline

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