

## STEDHAM WITH IPING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

- Hort Soc now in 42<sup>nd</sup> year** - and a few original members still actively participate. Membership List has 50 names - of which a good 35+ regularly participate in our activities.
- Communications** – use 2 Village Notice Boards, plus temporary Roadside Boards to attract visitors to events. Members regularly receive mailshots, and electronic monthly Newsletters through the COVID Pandemic. We shall resume having a formal Membership Card for 2022.
- Programme** - varied to suit all tastes, levels of interest, and ages.  
**Talks** - on gardening related educational and interesting topics. We have missed these this last 18 months of course.  
**Garden Visits** - pre-booked visits to specialist gardens are planned during summer months. These may be pre-booked NGS gardens or organised by other fundraising bodies, ie Bramshott gardens. Shared car travel has been the norm for these.  
**RHS Wisley** - being an affiliate society this provides us with an opportunity to visit “free” once a year. Members may bring a friend along as part of our group at no extra cost to them.
- Competitions** - a variety of challenges are launched each year, ie Grow a Potato in a Pot, or a Fuchsia cutting, or a Daffodil, etc. ~~In future it is hoped we can re-start the annual School Competition of “seeds grown in a pot”.~~
- Special Events**  
The AGM is in January each year, with minimal time spent on business matters, followed by lots of fun, chatter, a good game or quiz, but more importantly delicious canapé style eats and wine. This is always the best attended meeting of the year !! I wonder why ??
- Plant Bring & Buy Sale** - in mid May, you need to come early to pick the best bargains. Herbaceous plants, Annuals, Perennials, etc, and various Veggies are contributed by members. This year the May 2021 sale was absolutely fantastic in terms of number of people attending wishing to buy, and the funds raised for H/Soc were significant. Thank you to all who contributed.
- Flower Show** - this year the end July Show was scaled down significantly and only included classes for Flowers, Fruit & Vegetables. The number of entries was excellent, and the Judge commented on the very high standard of exhibits. There were over 110 individual entries to look at as the Show Doors opened at 3.00 pm, with free entry to all. The simplification and scaling back of the programme was required to comply with COVID regulations in a public building.
- Autumn Show** - a new activity designed specifically for the Cooks and Floral Arrangers who could not be included in the Summer Show this time round. This is at end November (is advertised on Notice Boards) and will include the ever popular “People’s Choice Cake Tasting” class when members vote for the “best”.
- Discount Schemes** - members are entitled to a 5% discount on many regular stock items at both Aylings Garden Centre and Rotherhill Nurseries, on production of the Annual Membership Card.
- Subscriptions** - still only £6.00 per annum per household membership payable in January. Entry to most events through the year is free, except outside visits where there is an entry ticket cost. *plus Village websites.*
- Contact Details** - displayed on Memorial Hall Notice Board / Chairman – Hannah Stanley, Secretary/Treasurer – Shirley Rosser.
- Any questions** - at close of meeting. Hannah Stanley on behalf of Swithl Hort Soc, Nov 2021.