**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDENS SOCIETY**

Website: www.eahgs.org.uk

**NEWSLETTER- AUTUMN 2020**

The sun is lower in the sky, and the evenings are drawing in, Autumn has arrived and it’s time to prepare for the winter. Autumn is the perfect time to plant bare root roses, trees and shrubs to take advantage of the soil still warm from the summer and moist from seasonal rainfall. Onions, garlic, spring onions and broad beans can all be planted at this time of year, and you’ll reap the benefits of fresh veg next year. And don’t forget to plant Spring flowering bulbs or you’ll miss out on those beautiful sunny colours come Spring.

2020 Annual Show

It was with regret that the committee made the decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Show due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However next year’s show is provisionally set for Saturday 4th September 2021  and we hope to see you then.

**Trading Report**

The shop opened again at the end of June following the closure due to Coronavirus. Trading has been quite good since re-opening but it would be nice to see more plot holders support the shop. We are still quite well stocked for this time of the year.

Information will be on the website and notice board at the end of October/beginning of November regarding ordering seed potatoes so please keep a check. You will be able to order in the shop on Sunday mornings in November during opening times until Sunday 29 November 2020 when the shop will close for the winter. Minimum orders will be 1lb and payment taken when ordering.

The amount I order will again be reduced this year as orders were down again last year so please make sure you get your orders in to save missing out.

**From our Site Representative**

The glass on a side window on the shop building was smashed in what was presumably an attempt to break into the shop. A temporary repair has been carried out by the Council.

At present there are no vacant plots at Pippenhall and there is currently a waiting list.

Just a reminder to be vigilant when working on your plots and ensure that the main gate is locked at all times. It will only be open on Sunday mornings during shop opening times.

As winter is approaching and rainfall and wet conditions increase driving down the main path is not recommended. If you do drive down and your vehicle gets stuck it is your responsibility alone to arrange for its removal.

Please keep the paths between and around your plot cut.

The toilets will continue to be closed until further notice.

The water at the site will be turned off for the winter in the next few weeks.

**Did you know?**

A nest of Ivy Bees has been identified on one of the Pippenhall allotments. The Ivy Bee (Colletes hederae) was described as new to science in 1993 from specimens found in southern Europe. The first British records were reported from Worth Matravers (Dorset) in September 2001. The Ivy Bee nests in loose (often sandy) soil and prefers south-facing sites. Pollen foraging is almost always restricted to flowering ivy. Ivy is essential to the success of the bee, and large stands should be allowed to flower. (*Information from BWARS: the Bee, Wasps and Ants Recording Society*.)

**Australian links**

We were approached during lockdown earlier this summer by a garden club near our namesake, Eltham, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, the Hurstbridge Sow and Grow Garden Club. They too were under quite strict lockdown rules and as such had to cancel their regular meetings and events. However, they successfully moved their meetings online using Zoom and asked if anyone within EAHGS would like to share with them in one of these meetings something about our society.

One of our committee members, Brian Greenwood, rose to the challenge and at the beginning of September joined one of their meetings and gave a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which can be downloaded from the events page of the EAHGS website (<https://www.eahgs.org.uk/events/>) .

If you would like to know more about the Hurstbridge Garden Club they have a website which can be viewed  by clicking [here](https://hurstbridgegardenclub.wordpress.com/) (<https://hurstbridgegardenclub.wordpress.com/>).

We also got some publicity because there was a short report about the talk in the October edition of our local magazine SENine.

**‘Here at Glenlea**’

*Our special correspondent writes:* How to get tomato plans for FREE.

If you are growing cordon type tomatoes and you normally rip out the side shoots that grow between the leaf axil and the main stem and throw it in the compost bin, think again. That side shoot can be grown into a full grown tomato plant with the added advantage that it will produce its first truss lower than the mother plant.

To grow on, make sure there is not too much leaf and trim back if necessary. You can put it in a small container of water and watch the roots grow out. You must change the water every three days. The way I prefer to do it is to use a Jiffy 7 Pellet. In this way you could grow an early mother plant and use the side shoots to form the number of plans you want.

Another variation on this is if you have tomato plants that are going leggy, cut of the main stem and grow up a side shoot in its place. I have done this with three plants and you get the same advantage of lower fruit.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

I should like to join/re-join the Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society. (It is not necessary to be a plot holder to join the Society). Subscription to be sent to Roger Brown, 74 Crown Woods Way, Eltham, SE9 2NN, or come and join on a Sunday morning at the shop during opening hours.

Herewith my membership fee for the next 12 months:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other…………………………………………………………………………………………

Address……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Post code…………………………………..

e-mail address…………………………………………………………………………………………………

I enclose a remittance of £4 (£2 for senior citizens), with cheques payable to Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society, together with an s.a.e for reply. I also wish to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the Newsletters and Show Schedule, and so enclose £………with my subscription. Please send me a membership card and arrange for delivery of Newsletters.

By completing this application form, I agree to receive digital communications from the Society, such as Newsletters.

*Please note that your personal details will be held on the Society Register, but in conformity with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, we undertake never to pass these on to any third party, nor to use them for any purpose other than for legitimate Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society business.)*