**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDENS SOCIETY**

Website: [www.eahgs.org.uk](http://www.eahgs.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2021**

**FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE (Barbara Crowe)**

I am sad to report the passing of our loyal and hard-working Membership Secretary, Roger Brown. Roger looked after our membership records for many, many years, and guided the Society forward from paper records into the digital age. We acknowledge his contribution to the running of the Society over the years and will greatly miss him.

**ANNUAL SHOW 2021 (Mike Hill – Show Secretary)**

This year’s show was an very enjoyable and successful event with a high standard of entries. The number of entries was almost at pre-Covid levels but there’s always room for more. Thanks to all who submitted entries, all who helped with setting up and clearing up, the refreshment team and especially to Linda, Premises Manager at St Mary’s, for her unfailing and enthusiastic help and support. We hope to introduce new classes next year, including some for our junior supporters, suggestions always welcome. Photos from the show will be uploaded to the website in the near future.

**INTER-SOCIETY COMPETITION (Organiser – John King)**

Thanks to those who submittied entries: Barbara Crowe for courgette relish, David Middleton for apples, and a special thanks to Jackie Flatman who went above and beyond to supply roses for the Mottingham show. And to John Webb for the roses for the Eltham show. Annabel, the Domestic judge, gave Mottingham’s courgette relish the lead by one point. The vegetables judge made his assessment and carried it over to the Eltham show where he decided that Mottingham won. I shall now start working with the Falconwood Society in addition to the Mottingham crew, to look towards next year’s shows.

***OUR SHOW NEXT YEAR WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY,***

 ***10 SEPTEMBER 2022, AT ST MARY’S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL***

**PIPPENHALL SITE REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT (Pat Middleton)**

Please report any damage or breakages on the Pippenhall allotment site to me (details on Pippenhall noticeboard). I cannot make any repairs or improvements if I am not made aware of problems.

**TRADING REPORT (Pat & Dave Middleton)**

The shop is well stocked and has a new supply of 8ft canes. Potato orders will also be taken very soon. Please also note that the shop will be closed for the winter from the last Sunday in November 2021 (28th) until the first Sunday in February 2022 (6th).

Trading hours at the shop will also change next year and will be as follows:

 Sundays 6 February – 31 March 10.00 – 12.00

 Sundays 1 April – 31 July 9.30 – 12.00

 Sundays 1 August – 27 November 10.00 – 12.00

***\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE SUPPORT THE SHOP\*\*\*\*\****

**EAHGS COMMITTEE NEWS**

Greg Hammond has agreed to become the Society’s new honorary General Secretary and Brian Greenwood the new honorary Membership Secretary. Our thanks to them both for taking on these roles.

**“HERE AT GLENLEA”**

Our Special Correspondent writes: Forget fertilisers, we now say *soil amendments*. You may remember that here at Glenlea we are NO DIG, so at the moment I am clearing all my beds and will then cover them with farmyard manure to a depth of around 1 inch. This will be left over winter

to allow the worms to take it down.

This year I added the following soil amendments:

*Calcified seaweed*, a granular soil improver. This is available at the shop.

*Alfafa pellets*, mainly used as animal feed and bought on-line.

*Volcanic Rock Dust* to provide minerals and available on-line.

*Bio-Char*, a form of charcoal made from wood burnt without oxygen (also available on-line). This helps to conserve moisture and is loved by soil microbes

The beds were then given a good soaking with compost tea in rainwater. I shall do the same again next year as I grew some nice veg this year.

Happy Growing!

**DATES FOR YOUR 2022 DIARY**

***EAHGS Annual General Meeting*** will be held at 7.30pm, **Friday, 25 March 2022** at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Southend Crescent, SE9 2SD. All are welcome.

***ANNUAL SHOW***: **Saturday, 10 September 2022** at St Mary’s RC Primary School, Glenure Road SE9 1UF.

**AUTUMN GARDENING TIPS**

Autumn is the season to start putting your garden to bed..…but this doesn’t mean that there is nothing to do until spring! Carry on weeding and tidying borders and paths this season. Remove dead leaves from your beds and turn them into compost. You could plant spring bulbs and seasonal plants to brighten up the end of season garden. Some suggestions are: asters, pansies, chrysanthemums and cyclamen. **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The easiest way to join/rejoin the Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society is in person at the shop at the Pippenhall Allotments, Bexley Road, on a Sunday morning during opening hours (10.00-12.00). But if you really can’t get to the shop, please drop our new membership secretary, Brian Greenwood, an email at brian@eahgs.org.uk or contact him by phone on 020 8850 6714.

At present membership still costs £4 per year (£2 Senior Citizens) and offers great value for money.

 **AND last but not least – Seasonal Greetings to all for Christmas and New Year 2022!**