**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDENS SOCIETY**

Website: www.eahgs.org.uk

**NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2022**

Spring is well and truly here now with a mix of warm and not-so-warm days but the welcome spring flowers are at their beautiful best and the blossom is starting to appear on the trees. Time to start getting those seeds in and giving the grass a first cut.

The Society’s **Annual General Meeting** was held at Holy Trinity Church Hall on Friday 25 March, the first we have been able to hold since 2019. All the current committee members were willing to continue and Stephanie Comis kindly volunteered her services. Here are the main points from the meeting:

The *Treasurer*, Mike Hill, reported that the Society’s financial position is stable.

The *Show Secretary,* Mike Hill*,* said that the 2021 Show had been very successful with 204 exhibits from 20 entrants.

The *Trading Officer*, Pat Middleton, urged people to make more use of the shop. Price comparisons between our shop and garden centres will be posted on the website and on the noticeboard at the shop. A peat free compost, endorsed by the RHS is also now stocked.

The *Allotment Liaison Officer*, Pat Middleton*,* urged plotholders to be considerate and not use sprays on days when they might contaminate neighbouring plots. This is stated in the tenancy agreement. The water will be turned on after Thames Water has repaired the leak in Bexley Road. Bonfires are still not allowed by RB Greenwich environmental health department.

The *Membership Secretary,* Brian Greenwood, reported that the Committee had put forward two resolutions which were circulated to all members prior to the meeting: (1) to move to a fixed-year membership and (2) to increase subscriptions to £5pa (£3pa for concessions). With a minor change, both resolutions were passed unanimously.

The *Webmaster,* Graham Farrant*,* reported that since it was established the EAHGS website had had almost 60,000 hits. It had recently been updated but if anyone had any ideas on relevant content they would like to see, please let Graham know (graham@eahgs.org.uk). Likewise, if anyone has any articles or content to go on the website, please submit them either as a Word document or as an HTML or free text e-mail. Images to go with articles should be reasonably high resolution (greater than 1m pixels) and ideally in .jpg format.

The *Inter-Society Liaison Officer,* John King*,* reported that he is now a committee Member of the Bexrose Garden Society and the Mottingham Society and will join the Charlton and Blackheath Society when the opportunity arises. He will continue to promote the EAHGS shop and the inter-society competition*.*

**BEXROSE GARDEN SOCIETY** The next meeting will be on Friday 22 April at St John’s Parish Hall, Thanet Road, Bexley. The hall will be open from 7.15pm. The speaker will be Christine Davis on Regent’s Park. There will be a refreshment break at about 8.45pm and the meeting normally finishes at about 10.00pm. You are welcome to attend and see if it is something that appeals to you - Membership is £7.00 pa.

**“HERE AT GLENLEA”** our Special Correspondent, John King, writes**:** We are still talking TATERS. As I am growing for the show bench in addition to the kitchen, I am keen to avoid scab. Research has shown that in addition to watering when the tubers are forming, getting the PH between 5.0 and 5.2 can be useful in keeping scab down. If the PH of the soil or compost is higher adding a good heaped spoonful of Flowers of Sulphur in 3 ltr of water will help to lower it. As I am growing in containers and do not earth up, I shall be putting a mulch of Strulch on to help maintain moisture (Strulch is available from the shop).

**A SUMMER OUTING?** A number of people have suggested that we re-introduce our annual outing which is usually to a garden of interest. Stephanie Comis (fvc1219@yahoo.co.uk) or John King (martinkaren2519@gmail.com) would like to hear from you if you think you would like to take part. The destination and cost (possibly around £30 per head for the coach) have not been fixed yet but if you think you might be interested, please let either of them know. There is no obligation at this point, just gauging interest. You may like to bring a friend who does not have to be a member of the society.

**A CHANGE TO MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS** As mentioned above in the report of the AGM, the Membership Secretary writes: The meeting unanimously voted in favour of the change to a fixed year membership that will run from 1 October to 30 September, and to the increase in fees to £5 per annum (£3 for Seniors). As existing memberships expire and members renew over the next few months, members will be charged the new rate and membership will run until 30 September 2023.  Any new memberships issued before September 2022 will also be valid until 30 September 2023. The easiest way to renew is still in person at the EAHGS shop at Pippenhall on a Sunday morning. If you really cannot get to the shop, please contact Brian (brian@eahgs.org.uk) or call him on 020 8850 6714 to discuss.

**ANNUAL SHOW 2022** The Show will take place on 10 September at St Mary’s School, Glenure Road. For 2022, to involve our younger gardeners, two new classes for children aged 12 and under have been added to the schedule – (1) the largest sunflower head and (2) a miniature garden in a standard seed tray (approx. 9”x15”).

To keep in touch with all the Society’s news, read the full minutes of the Annual General Meeting, shop opening times, price lists and many other items of interest, log on to:

**www. eahgs.org.uk**

**And please remember to:**

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