

The Horticultural Society holds a second virtual Autumn Flower Show

Once again, it wasn't possible to hold what would have been the Horticultural Society's 290th show on 5th September, but, with one virtual show under their belts, committee members were ready to organise a second one. This virtual show was more ambitious and there were 41 classes to choose from with over 125 individual entries.

Instead of bringing fruit, vegetables and flowers up to the Free Church Hall, entries had to be photographed at home and emailed to the membership secretary. Nine of the classes were then kindly judged by Suburb News Editor, Shelley-Anne Salisbury. The winners were Yvonne Oliver, who won three classes (Cut Flowers, 5 Fuchsia Heads and Just for Fun), Ruth Beedle (A Vase of Mixed Berries), Marjorie Harris (A Posy), Jenny Bunn (A Dish of Fruit), Chris Page (A Trug of Mixed Vegetables), Jackie Murphy (Photography: Flowers by Water) and David Broome (Photography: The Weather Outside is Frightful).

The largest number of entries received in the flower classes were hydrangeas, pot plants, posies and roses, and in other classes tomatoes and cucumbers also did well. The photography classes proved popular too. There won't be any cups or prizes awarded for this show, but

through creating these virtual shows, the society will have a lasting record of some very attractive entries in what has proved to be a very challenging horticultural year.

In 2021 membership will be free and hopefully the events that should have taken place in 2020 will now do so in 2021.

MARJORIE HARRIS



Suburb rainfall

Rainfall – the trouble comes when there is too much or not enough of it or if it comes at the wrong time.

This year all three things have happened, leaving farmers and organisers of outdoor events with problems. In the first nine months of 2020 there was only just over 15 inches which compares with an

average of nearly 21 inches. If February is excluded the shortfall was even more marked. Then along comes October with the 'wettest day ever recorded' at 2.37 inches. In the whole month there were 5.27 inches, not quite the highest ever but more than twice the average, but the rain was extremely welcome as the first nine

months of 2020 saw only three quarters of the amount normally expected.

This report only repeats what we are being told from all over the world and again confirms the climate crisis is indeed a crisis and we humans must use all our ingenuity to try to mitigate it.

DIANA IWI FROM MEADWAY

Horticultural Society 2020 medal award

In 2020 no medals or prizes were due to be awarded at the Horticultural Society's AGM, held

on Zoom on 10 November. Nevertheless, the committee secretly decided that one

exception would be made at the virtual meeting.

So, as his last function before handing over chairmanship, Chris Page announced that the prestigious Banksian Medal would be given to David and Caroline Broome, with the certificate citation reading 'in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Society and its membership during the Covid-19 pandemic 2020 through a variety of online initiatives.' As membership officer, David had circulated information in an informative and amusing way to keep people in touch with the Society, and Caroline had masterminded the two virtual shows. Caroline Broome, gardening correspondent of Suburb News, was also elected as the new Chairman of the Horticultural Society, with Chris Page being thanked for his inspiring 7-year chairmanship.

MARJORIE HARRIS



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My virtual calendar

It's been such a strange year, and not being able to share my garden with like-minded enthusiasts has been an isolating experience. So, I've decided to compile a virtual calendar of the most striking plant in my garden for every month of the year. So many gems, so little space! Seasons Greetings, readers, and a Happy, Healthy 2021 however it unfolds.

CAROLINE BROOME

JANUARY 2020



Corsican Hellebore Not one of your usual hellebore hybrids, but this species, as well as its cousin Hellebore Foetidus, offer all year-round foliage, winter flowers and striking architectural value, self-seeding happily around the most inhospitable areas of your garden.

MAY 2020



Iris No-one should be without this iris, for its sheer intensity of colour.

SEPTEMBER 2020



Rudbeckias The oldest perennial in my garden, robust rudbeckia Goldsturm has now been joined by stella Prairie Glow; if you like verbena bonariensis, you'll love its airy, open habit. Flowering for weeks, rudbeckias look great against the dark backdrop of pittosporum Tom Thumb.

JUNE 2020



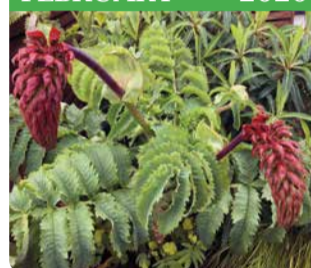
Unknown rose A sumptuous repeat flowerer, lemon scented peach blooms contrast with dark foliage and stems. If anyone knows what it is, please let me know.

OCTOBER 2020



Knifophia Limelight What a last hurrah! Arched curling leaves have sent up over 20 flower spikes of this luminous red hot poker. Well worth waiting for.

FEBRUARY 2020



Melianthus Major Surprisingly hardy, this striking trifid takes pride of place in my north facing front garden. But beware, it wants to take over the world!

JULY 2020



Tree lily On maturity, these 8 ft tall stunners tower above the summer border on stems as thick as a broom handle! Every colour, multiple blooms the size of dinner plates, fragrance to die for. Reliably hardy in London clay.

NOVEMBER 2020



Miscanthus grass The centre-piece of our autumn garden, coppery satin tassels transform into crimped silky plumes, atop fiery seasonal coloured foliage.

MARCH 2020



Sorbaria Seb Much maligned, this arching shrub looks best as its new colourful growth emerges. It practically grows in the dark, spreading around in a woodland understory.

AUGUST 2020



Rosa For Your Eyes Only I make no apology for including another rose, this repeat flowerer, loved by the bees, is a Must Have. Compact, glossy foliage, lovely with salvias.

DECEMBER 2020



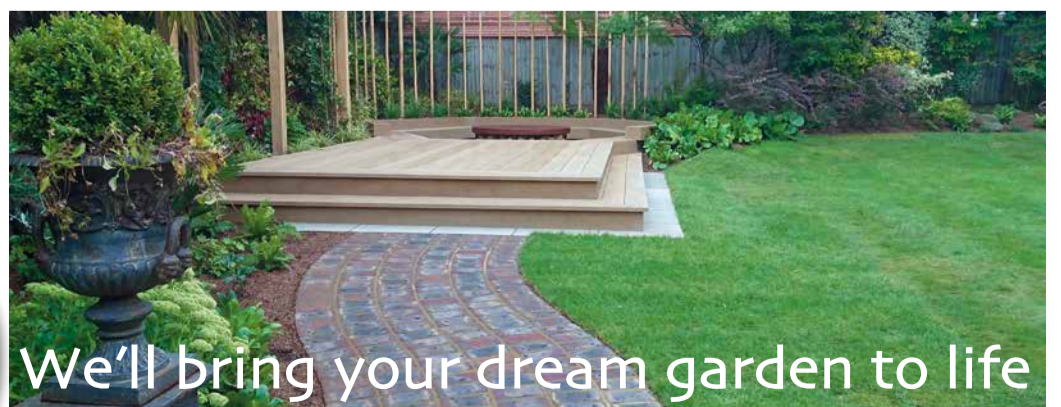
Hydrangea quercifolia Little Honey Even in shade this compact semi evergreen hydrangea never loses its chartreuse yellow foliage. Why isn't it more readily available?

APRIL 2020



Tree Peony Blowzy tissue paper flowers – not as fleeting as herbaceous peony blooms – a true spring showstopper.

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