

Q1 2023

LHS Newsletter

Enter the show

The Spring Show

Our Spring Show and AGM is coming up fast and will be held on Wednesday the 15th of March at Leatherhead Parish Church Hall, in Church Road.



So, grab your new handbook, have a look at the show details from page 9 and decide what you are going to enter. Even if you have nothing to show, please come along anyway, enjoy the Daffs, spring flowers, posies, houseplants and flowering tree stems that will brighten your heart and remind us that Spring has sprung!

18.45 - hall opens for exhibitors,

19.20 - hall closes to exhibitors, judging commences,

19.45 - hall opens for attendees on the AGM,

20.15 - judging completed and AGM commences.

We are able to provide refreshments again post Covid, so please bring some cash (sorry, no cards).

The Annual General Meeting

The AGM will follow the show. LHS urgently needs more people to help to run the Society. We currently have vacancies for the posts of:

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Show Secretary
- Membership Secretary

As well as other Committee Members to help the Society to continue to thrive. Please support those who are already keeping your Society going by considering how you too could help.





Buy your potatoes now!



You can send any questions in advance by Friday 10 March to communications@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk

We'd Treasure a Treasurer

Our current treasurer also manages the Stores. To allow him to concentrate on supplying us with quality gardening supplies at unrivalled prices, we'd like someone else to assist and then take over the treasurer's role. The work consists of some weekly checking of the bank transfers against the receipt book summing up the financial status for our committee meetings and an annual treasurer's report and accounts.

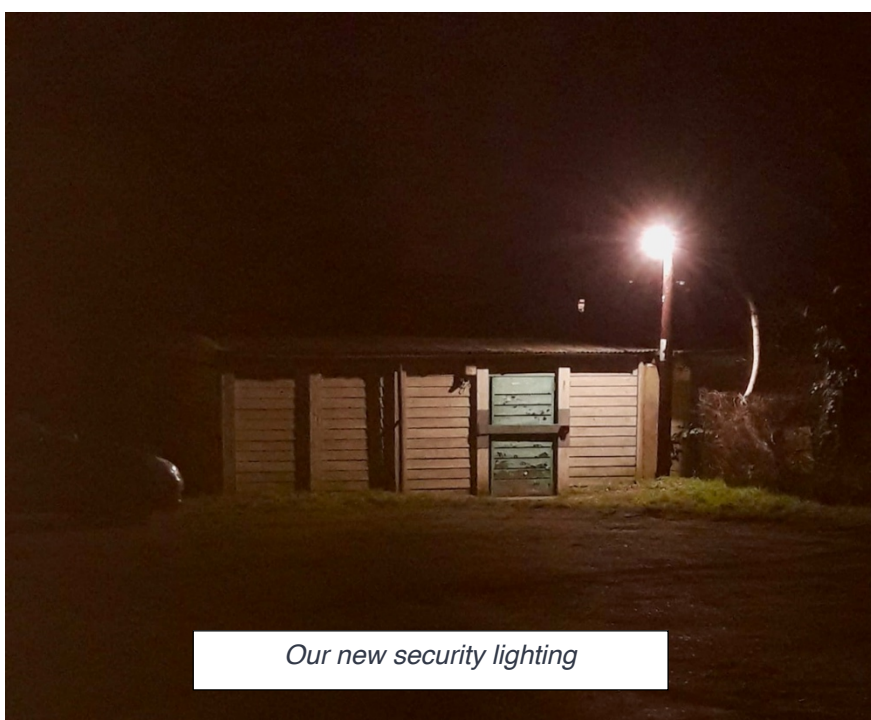
Activities Across Surrey

There are a variety of talks and other activities run by the various horticultural clubs and societies around Surrey. This link takes you to a page where you can choose the ones you would like to go to - [click here](#).

The Stores

After some hard work by Peter Wilson, ably assisted by Euan Niven, a new security light has been fitted at the Stores. This should help reduce both the risk of break-ins and some anti-social behaviour in the car park that we sometimes see evidence of (don't ask!).

We keep our prices low by running the Stores with volunteers. This benefits all our members. It's a sociable and worthwhile way to spend just one or two (or more) Sunday mornings each year.



Our new security lighting



An early season growing update...

from our committee member Phil Smith.



At our home in Dorking, we're lucky enough to have our allotment 'on site'!

Two greenhouses and the unseasonably warm start to the year has enabled me to get ahead with sowing for early crops this year.

My wife saves toilet roll inners which are ideal for sowing early peas.



Here are Early Onward {R} and Climbing Yellow Mangetout {L} are hardening off in front of resplendent Euphorbias. (Note the extensive use of Enviromesh in the background – a vital component of early and late season crops and pest control)

Tomatoes, Peppers and Aubergines (Czech Early) have germinated and are now growing on in the warmest greenhouse.

Leeks (Monstreux de Carentan) and Spinach (Clarinet F1) are almost ready for next stage, potting on. The leeks are supplied by Real Seeds www.realseeds.co.uk – my 'go to' small supplier of tasty and unusual Heritage



seeds based in Pembrokeshire. They supply a super beetroot called Sanguina! The Stores also has a good supply of seeds from DT Brown

I also grow 'Cello' (F1) Spinach, which I have found to be a super early variety.

Broad Beans (Bunyard's Exhibition and Aquadulce) are now hardening off.



By the 21st of February I was able to plant out both sets of peas. Note how the toilet roll inners permit the individual planting of each plant with no root disturbance and the cardboard will eventually biodegrade!



Based on last year, I will expect to have eaten our first crop of mangetout peas (which are yellow and grow as high as climbing beans) before the end of May, thanks to Enviromesh for keeping them cosy and warm in the cold weather when it comes!

I hope your gardening year is off to an equally exciting start.

Phil Smith

If you have any gardening updates that you'd like to share, please send them to us at communications@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk

Renew Your Membership

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to come down to the Stores and renew. It's just £4 for the year, and that's per household, not per person. That gets you access to the Stores for the year where prices are lower because it's run by our members and for our members. You also get the Spring and Summer shows, our newsletters and of course a very friendly bunch of people.

Don't forget, there's always room for more, so encourage your friends and family to join up, use the Stores and enter the shows as well.

Another Winter Over....

So don't forget to start planning and growing your entries for the summer show, and we look forward to seeing you at the Spring Show and AGM next week.

And finally...
