



## RAMSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

# Summer Newsletter 2010

### COACH OUTING TO MOTTISFONT

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June.** The cost of the trip is £18.50 for non NT members. The coach will leave from the Square and we shall need to board the coach at 12.45. We hope to be back in Ramsbury around 8.00 pm. Anyone still wishing to go should telephone Sheila Glass on 520409 immediately.

### ROSE & IRIS EVENING & MEMBERS SUPPER

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June,** in the Memorial Hall, at 7.30 pm (Entries required between 6.00 and 6.45 pm or by email to [hortsoc@ramsbury.org](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org) ). Please contact Rosalie on 520261

([rosalie.winter@btconnect.com](mailto:rosalie.winter@btconnect.com)) immediately if you want to attend and have not advised her already.

Looking around at the possible availability of Irises – and observing that there do not seem to be many likely to be in flower (not in my garden at least!) this may not have been the best year to re-introduce this flower into this show. However, there is a new medal, for irises, to win so, if you have any that are in flower, your entry in this class might stand a good chance of winning this new medal! Please also note that there are two new ROSE classes (Classes 6 and 10), to enable the entries of a single specimen bloom for ‘OLD GARDEN ROSES’ and for ‘NEW ENGLISH ROSES’.

### GARDENS OPEN IN RAMSBURY

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July** from 2.00 to 5.30 pm. We are sorry for the previously printed date errors for this event. As usual, tickets, with garden location maps, will be on sale in the Square, during the afternoon, at £3 for ADULTS, £3 for RETIRED persons or for STUDENTS. SCHOOLCHILDREN will be free. Teas will be available at Westfield House. Among the gardens open will be the following:

The Old Mill

The Old Farmhouse

Westfield House

Ramsbury Hill

Millstream

Catherine House, Whittonditch Rd. (This is one of the new houses in front of Greenacres.)

ALSO, for those who would like to view our new allotments – and who might be tempted to take on one themselves – the ALLOTMENTS, off Swans Bottom, will be open to visitors where cold drinks will be on hand.

The bulk of our receipts for this event will be given to local charities and the disbursement details will be published later in the year.

### Volunteers Needed!

Holding an outside event such as the above requires the help of many people. If you can spare an hour or two on the above date we would be very grateful if you would let Di Barnett know on 52133 or to email us on [hortsoc@ramsbury.org](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org). Please advise when you would be available during the afternoon such that we can prepare a rota that will allow you to be relieved and thus to enable you to visit the gardens yourselves.

# SUMMER SHOW

**Saturday 14th August** from 2.00 pm to 4.15 pm in the Memorial Hall

We shall again have an entry desk at the 'Crown & Anchor' from 6 .00 pm until 9.00 pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. August. Schedules are available from the Post Office - or from Diann on 521363 or Allan Davison on 520591. The hall will open at 8.00 am to 10.00 am to enable your exhibits to be staged. Judging will commence at 10.00 am when the hall must be vacated, except for stewards. In the 'Flowers' classes you will find that we have added a new, single specimen class for Dahlias. Dahlias, justifiably, are regaining their popularity - unsurprisingly, given their vast range of and mix of colours, habit and style. For children of years of age and under, REMEMBER that class 109 requires that 'Runner Beans In A Jam Jar', "must be planted on the 1<sup>st</sup>. August".

The one area of disappointment for us, in recent years, has been the 'Teenagers' classes where entries have been more or less non-existent! There are the four classes detailed here which should have some appeal. Class 121 invites entries for a website design and we hope that anyone who can influence our young people to enter this or one of the other classes in this section will do so. Similarly, in the case of the 'Young Person's Press Article', Classes 124 and 125. There is a modest monetary prize for each class, as well as a cup, for the winning entry 'Ideas To Improve the Village for Young People'. Entries must be submitted to the Literature Steward, 'Omorica', Union Street, Ramsbury by the 7<sup>th</sup> August.

## TALKS

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.** At 7.45 pm in the Memorial Hall.

If you have been impressed with the standard of our floral entries and would like to improve your floral exhibits, this is the talk for you. Our regular floral judge, Carol Moore, will have as her subject 'Hints and Tips for Floral Art Showing'.

**FUTURE TALKS.** We are always pleased to receive suggestions on the kind of subject for which members would like us to arrange. One idea we have is for an in-house 'Gardeners Question Time' style of evening. We would hope that this would take place in early 2011. Please hand in your questions for this at the Autumn Show or email us on [hortsoc@ramsbury.org](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org). Any other talk suggestions may, similarly, also be submitted.

## COACH OUTING TO KEW

**Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup>.** Departure from the Square approx 8.50 pm. We have decided that our autumn outing will be to Kew, which, whatever the weather and however many times you may visit it, will always be of interest. The cost will be approx £25. Please advise Shelia Glass ASAP if you would like to be included on this always popular trip.

## SPRING PLANT SALE

Because of the weather (wet & windy) this was held in the Church Room. Despite this we raised a very creditable £640. This being the principle fund raising event, for the society, we are very grateful to all who supported the plant sale (plant donations, staffing, visitors, etc.) and especially to Paul New whose quality plants have enhanced the attraction of our annual sale.

## TOPICAL TIP

Perhaps it is due to the unpleasantly long cold winter that we have had but it seems that the spring flowering shrubs have been particularly showy this year. The only difficulty with shrubs is that many get too large for average sized gardens. However, most spring flowering shrubs are tolerant of being pruned and the period immediately after flowering is usually the best time for this to be carried out. Forsythia and choisya ternata (the Mexican Orange Blossom) are typical examples. In the case of forsythia, all of the flowering wood of this past spring will need to be removed unless you want flowers only at the top of the plant next year. Old stems, cut to the ground, on the choisya ternata is the best method on this, potentially, very large shrub and will encourage better new growth. Philadelphus, an early summer flowering shrub, on the other hand, just needs shortening back, when the flowers are finished.