



# DISLEY & LYME

## Horticultural Society



[www.dlhs.weebly.com](http://www.dlhs.weebly.com)

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### Society News / Recent Events

#### JULY

The 4th & 5th July saw the society taking a weekend jaunt to visit Hampton Court Flower Show & RHS Wisley. We were blessed with great weather and the long road journey was worth the effort and Hampton Court certainly did not disappoint.

St Thomas Church on the A6 in High Lane hosted our July coffee morning where as usual the cakes and plant sales proved very popular.

We had a midweek treat again with good weather, when on the 15th July we took the Disley Community minibus to visit the gardens of sweet pea society enthusiast Tom Atherton. The small group who attended were well looked after by Tom who is infectious in his devotion to growing sweet peas and he had fabulous sweet peas growing in his neighbour's garden, under cover in extensive raised beds, on his patio and on the roof extension to his house!



August is of course show time and this year Lord Newton returned to present the trophies.

We had particular success with the WI challenge completion and the Pet Show and our 108<sup>th</sup> show proved overall to be a great success, attendance were up on 2015 and statistically many of the individual elements which make up the show did very well with a number of records being broken. It will be no surprise to long standing members that the show generally runs at a loss despite generous local sponsors and donations from local outlets. The average annual loss at the show over the last decade has been circa £900 which is sustained by the fundraising we carry out throughout most of the year. However we are very pleased to advise that this year the show broke even and this is giving the committee renewed confidence to consider expanding the attractions on offer at next year's show. We have already secured a face painter for the children, hopefully added further horticultural interest in the form of a specialist society display (to be advised further), a stint from Disley Community Choir and we are actively involved in bringing back live music to the show. However arts, crafts, cookery skills and horticulture will remain at the heart of the show.

#### SEPTEMBER

Sally Smith BBC gardening researcher and horticultural lecturer gave us a very informative talk on organic growing and working with nature to resolve problems with

pests & diseases with the garden environment. An interesting Q&A session completed the talk and I'm sure we will be asking Sally back to talk to us again.

#### OCTOBER

Another glorious October morning saw the society at High Lane Village Hall where we held a Coffee Morning, cake sales, raffle and our annual bulb sales. There was also an opportunity for show winners to pick up their engraved trophies. Whilst bulb sales went reasonably well we had many left over and these have been planted up and will be for sale at the AGM at knock down prices!

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**27<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 7:30pm**

Society AGM Disley Community Centre. This is a free event for members only where you will have the opportunity to have your say about the management of the society over the last year and what the committee considers and develops for next season. Additionally whilst the current committee is happy to continue on block we would be pleased to welcome some new blood onto the committee, so why not come along and put yourself forward to join the committee.

We seem to have developed a tradition that we serve teas, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies at this event but please note the earlier start of 7:30pm.

Chairman: Les Matthews 07860 954405, Treasurer: John Fisher 01663 762993 Gardens Open Days: Ralph Dale 01663 764650 Show Secretary: Dean Stafford 01663 763015, Membership Secretary: Mary Milburn 01663 763271: Volunteers and Newsletter: Christine Raywood 01663 763530, Publicity: Jackie Lowe 01663 763768: Trips Peter Thomas 01663 763302



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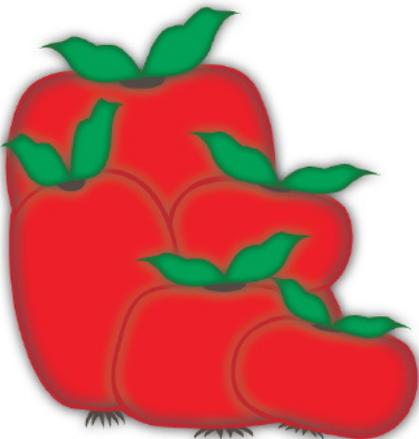
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### 12<sup>th</sup> December – Chatsworth at Christmas

Stockport Horticultural Society have organised a trip to Chatsworth to review their Christmas delights. £30 and a phone call to Peter Thomas would get you onto this trip which is leaving Stockport at 9:30 and picking up on route.

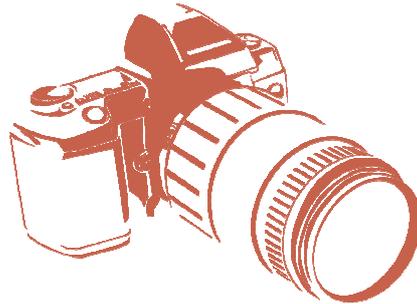
### 2016 NEWS

The committee has been challenged to run a Grand Tomato Plant Extravaganza and at next April's coffee morning we are intending to have an array of different tomato plants for sale, some traditional favourites and perhaps some less well known specials. If you want to join in and donate some seeds or better still grow on a few plants grown in 10cm pots then let Mary Milburn (01663 763271) know. She will also be happy to receive donations at 74 Cromley Road, High Lane.



### 2016 Show:

We are awaiting final confirmations but the 2016 show is likely to be Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August additionally we are happy to confirm the following special show class titles:



**Senior Photography**  
**Garden Visitors**  
**Local Scenes**  
**Climbers**  
**A single flower**  
**Junior Photography**  
**Bug Life**

Reflecting upon next year's Olympics in Brazil both the **Senior and Junior flower arranging classes** will be entitled **"Rio Celebration"**

### Seasonal news

It's getting late but still not too late to get those sweet pea seeds potted up to give them a head start for next season by growing them indoors in a bright position and once you have got them going the seedlings will start to become tall and leggy. You can encourage them to produce side shoots by pinching out the growing tip, simply nip off the top of the stem just above a set of leaves. This will make each plant much bushier and more robust and the more shoots there are, the

more flowers will be produced! Over winter them in a cold frame or cool greenhouse and plant them out when the risk of frost has passed. Sweet peas love rich, moist soil so dig in a couple of buckets of good compost to enrich the soil and to hold in moisture during dry weather. Alternatively you can plant sweet peas out in large containers on the patio but put your plant support frame into position before you start planting out the sweet peas.

### FREE Garden Compost

This is the perfect time to make your own leaf mould. Take a black bin liner and punch a few holes in the side and bottom. Rake up leaves and stuff them in the bag. Sprinkle with water, shake and tie. Store in a shady spot and the leaves will rot down into a rich, crumbly mixture that can be used as mulch. Let the leaves rot down for another year if you want to use as soil conditioner.

### Members Corner

Give Peter Thomas a ring if you are interested in a garden shredder, I think he may have information about a shredder needing a new home.

**Hope to see you at the AGM on the 27th November Disley Community Centre 7:30**

**"Good Gardening"**

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