HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Let's be honest, February is a bit of a rubbish month, and not just for gardeners, it being mainly cold, dank and dreary. But there is hope as the daylight hours very gradually get longer and we can look forward with optimism to the onset of Spring. Whilst there's little to do in the garden, there's plenty of planning to be done such as deciding how to fill in any gaps in the borders and what seeds to sow, whether they be for a profusion of colour, or to grow food for our table later in the year.

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, the first of the New Year being held on January 21 st when Jane Scotchmer gave a talk entitled Parks and Pulhamite — a scenic revolution; this will be reported on in the March issue. Looking ahead, we have a full and varied programme of talks and events for 2025. February 18th sees Stephen Harmer enlighten us on The Arts and Crafts Movement and its Gardens, the closest example to us being at Sissinghurst Castle. This will be followed by a talk from Edward Flint on container plants on March 18th, which will be of interest to those of us with 'difficult' soil or garden layouts who find container planting an ideal alternative. Members will be rewarded with a 20% discount day at Rumwoods Nurseries in Langley on March 20th before making preparations for the Spring Show on Sunday 6th April, to which non-members are invited to participate. Our April speaker will•be Rachael Castle on the history and cultivation of Primula Auriculas.

Taking us towards the Summer months, there's sure to be inspiration from the annual plant sale that will be held on Saturday 3rd May with stalls dotted around the village. Many of the plants will have been grown by our members and all at reasonable prices more details will be provided nearer the time. Nigel Philips will talk about Water Gardens on May 20th — and who doesn't love a water garden, so this is bound to be of interest to many. In June, members will be privileged to have a private viewing of Tram Hatch Gardens in Charing, which is a quintessential English country house and garden. We are promised a breathtaking landscape of both formal and natural settings with beautiful rose gardens and tumbling planted riverbanks, which all sounds rather delightful.

That completes our programme for the first half of the year, and it certainly looks to be entertaining.

Sharon Wright

