

# **STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETINGS**

In a friendly and welcoming atmosphere,  
the Society organises  
INTERESTING TALKS on a variety of subjects  
and offers good GARDENING ADVICE.

There are two ANNUAL SHOWS,  
SOCIAL EVENINGS,  
OUTINGS,  
DISCOUNTS on SEED ORDERS,  
and discount entry to RHS GARDENS.

**10% DISCOUNT at RUMWOOD  
NURSERIES, GOLDEN HILL  
NURSERY and FRANKIES  
(Excluding special offers).**

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £10**

Non-Members are welcome at all times

Contact the Secretary on 07740 655666

# **STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HANDBOOK 2024\***



Affiliated to  
THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
and also to the  
KENT FEDERATION of HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETIES

## **SPRING and AUTUMN SHOWS**

Held from 2pm to 4.15pm in the  
NORTH HALL of the Community Centre  
Admission by donation  
Presentations at 4.00 pm by the Society President

**TEAS   CAKES   TRADING TABLES  
RAFFLE**

\*FOUNDED IN 1941 as THE VICTORY GARDENING CLUB



## **SHOW COMMITTEE**

All enquiries should be addressed to any of the following:-

### **Show Secretary**

Jo Skewes  
21 Sergison Crescent, Staplehurst  
07790 494051 jo@jamical.com

### **Deputy Show Secretary**

Sylvia Eccles  
Tower House, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst  
01580 891427 smeccles@hotmail.co.uk

### **Assistant Show Secretaries**

Maureen Brice  
17 Oliver Road, Staplehurst,  
01580 891842

Judith Coombs  
The Pines, Station Road, Staplehurst,  
01580 891657

Susan Marklew  
8 Pinnock Lane  
07462 661744

Winners are reminded that all TROPHIES should be returned  
to the SHOW COMMITTEE one month before the next  
relevant show is due to be held

# SOCIETY RULES

1. The title is STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.
2. The objectives are to further interest in horticulture, provide a programme of informative talks on related subjects and encourage members' and non-members' participation in shows.
3. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in December.  
Elections will be held for:-
  - a) The Executive Officers of:- Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
  - b) Up to nine additional non-executive members.  
(Nominations for these posts must be received by the Secretary by the November meeting).
  - c) The Executive Officers may co-opt additional committee members if there are vacancies.
4. Annual membership and visitors' fees will be agreed at the AGM and become due in January for the calendar year. Children under 16 have free membership.
5. The Chairman's Report and Financial Accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> October will be presented at the AGM.
6. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month usually at 8pm with the exception of the AGM.
7. The committee may appoint a President and invite members to become Vice Presidents or Life Members.
8. The Executive Officers may act in an emergency, the Chairman having a casting vote.
9. A decision to 'wind up' the society may only be taken by a majority of the members attending an AGM or an extra-ordinary AGM called for that purpose for which at least two calendar months' notice has been given.  
Members present will determine the distribution of the Society's assets.

## SHOW RULES

1. All horticultural exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor. The Show Committee reserve the right to investigate if an objection has been lodged. All cookery and floral arrangement entries must be prepared by the exhibitor.
2. Exhibitors must notify the Show Committee of the classes they are entering by completing an entry form by 6pm on the Thursday preceding the Show, accompanied by the entry fees of:- Members 20p per entry, Non-Member Affiliation fee £2.00 plus 50p per entry. Members only classes and children's entries are free. The Show Committee reserve the right to refuse late entries.
3. Entrants may enter only one exhibit per class.
4. Novice classes are for those exhibitors who have not won a similar class in any previous Show of this Society.
5. Entries must be staged between 8.00 am and 11.00am on the morning of the Show.
6. Exhibitors will receive numbered slips on the morning of the Show and one of these must be displayed on the table with each exhibit.
7. The Judges' decisions are final. They may withhold prizes if they consider the exhibits are of insufficient merit.
8. Points awarded are:- 1<sup>st</sup> =3 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup>=2 pts and 3<sup>rd</sup>=1 point.
9. Entries must not be removed before 4.15pm without permission. If you would like to donate your exhibit for sale after the show, please inform the Show Secretary. Any exhibits not removed by 4.30 will be disposed of by the Show Committee.

## SHOW ADVICE

Please note the classification advice for Narcissi and check the number of vegetables, fruit or flowers required for each class as otherwise disqualification is likely.

Decoration is not permitted in vegetable classes.

In floral art classes, natural plant material should predominate, accessories and drapes may be used and entries may be prepared at home.

Variety names displayed adds interest to exhibits.

Society vases are provided for the floral classes (but not for the floral art). Prize giving will be at 4.00pm.

## SPRING SHOW 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2024

### Class A MEMBERS ONLY

Maximum pot size 18cm/7", variety 'Juanita'; as supplied by the Society.

1<sup>st</sup> = £6      2<sup>nd</sup> = £4      3<sup>rd</sup> = £2

The FOUR SEASONS TROPHY donated by Mr B P Lees will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in the daffodil classes 1 – 13.

The HIGHLAND CUP donated by Mr & Mrs W A Scoble will be awarded to the best vase in daffodil classes 1 – 13.

SHOULD YOU KNOW THE VARIETY OF YOUR ENTRY, PLEASE STATE THE NAME CLEARLY.

- 1 one bloom, division 1 – trumpet
- 2 one bloom, division 2 – large cupped
- 3 one bloom, division 3 – small cupped
- 4 one bloom, division 4 – double
- 5 one bloom, division 8 – tazetta
- 6 one bloom, division 9 – poeticus
- 7 one vase, three blooms, division 1 – trumpet
- 8 one vase, three blooms, division 2 – large cupped
- 9 one vase, three blooms, division 3 – small cupped
- 10 one vase, three blooms, division 4 – double
- 11 one vase, three blooms, division 8 – tazetta
- 12 one vase, six stems (not miniature or species)
- 13 one vase, three stems, miniature or species

14 NOVICES. One vase, three blooms. The winner receives a certificate awarded by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners.

## STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### AUTUMN SHOW ENTRY FORM

7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

Please circle the numbers of the classes in which you intend to compete and forward it to one of the Show Committee detailed below on or before the THURSDAY preceding the show. Entries may be staged from 8.00 am until the hall is cleared for judging at 11.00 am.

Members entry fee – 20p per entry.

Non-members - £2.00 affiliation fee plus 50p per entry.

Children's entries free.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 21A 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42  
43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 58 59 60 61 62 63  
64 65 66 67 68

Members only classes A B C (free entry)

Total number of entries ..... Entry fees total £... ....

Name

.....

Address

.....

.....

Phone

Age if under 16

.....

Please return your completed form to one of the following:-

Jo Skewes

21 Sergison Crescent, Staplehurst, TN12 0FP

Sylvia Eccles

Tower House, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, TN12 0RD

Judith Coombs

The Pines, Station Road, Staplehurst, TN12 0QG

## Description of Divisions in Daffodil Classes

Division 1 –Trumpet      Division 2 – Large Cupped

Division 3 – Small Cupped      Division 4 – Double

Division 8 - Tazetta      Division 9 – Poeticus

The COMMITTEE CUP will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 15-21.  
SHOULD YOU KNOW THE VARIETY OF YOUR ENTRY, PLEASE STATE THE NAME CLEARLY.

- 15 five floating hellebores
- 16 one vase, three tulips
- 17 foliage pot plant
- 18 flowering pot plant including bulbs (excluding orchids)
- 19 one vase of spring flowers
- 20 one vase, three stems, shrubs
- 21 three sticks of rhubarb

The COOKERY CUP donated by Mr & Mrs A Wadey will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 22-27. Classes marked \* are to be made with the recipe supplied.

- 22 3 Vegetarian Vol au Vents, Own Recipe, List ingredients
- 23 Frittata, Maximum size 8 inches, Own recipe. List ingredients
- 24 \* Easter Biscuits, 5 pieces. See recipe page 13
- 25 Chocolate Sponge Tray Bake. 5 pieces. Own recipe. List ingredients
- 26 Fruit Cake, Own recipe. List ingredients 8-inch round or 7-inch square
- 27 12oz//1lb (375/500g) jar of lemon curd, list ingredients.

NO TRADE TOPS

The FLORAL TROPHY donated by Mrs N Mather will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 28-31.

The LAMPARD CUP will be awarded to the best exhibit in classes 28-31.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR EXHIBIT IS WITHIN THE SPACE ALLOWED

- 28 An arrangement in an egg cup, Spaced allowed W15.24cm x L15.24cm x H15.24cm (6")
- 29 Inspired by a song, Space allowed W30cm x L30cm x H45cm (12"x 12" x 18")

# STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SPRING SHOW ENTRY FORM 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2024

Please circle the numbers of the classes in which you intend to compete and forward it to one of the Show Committee detailed below on or before the THURSDAY preceding the show. Entries may be staged from 8.00 am until the hall is cleared for judging at 11.00 am.

Members entry fee – 20p per entry.

Non-members - £2.00 affiliation fee plus 50p per entry.

Children's entries free.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

Members only class A(free entry)

Total number of entries ..... Entry fees total £... ....

Name

.....  
Address

.....

.....  
Phone .....Age if under 16 .....

Please return your completed form to one of the following:-

Jo Skewes

21 Sergison Crescent, Staplehurst, TN12 0FP

Sylvia Eccles

Tower House, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, TN12 0RD

Judith Coombs

The Pines, Station Road, Staplehurst, TN12 0QG



## **Victoria Sponge**

225g butter at room temperature, plus a little extra to grease tins

225g caster sugar

4 large eggs

2 tsp baking powder

225g self-raising flour

Strawberry or raspberry jam

**STEP 1.** Preheat oven to 180C /Fan 160C/Gas 4 and grease and line two 20cm/8in sandwich tins.

**STEP 2.** Break eggs into large mixing bowl, add sugar, flour, baking powder and butter. Mix until well combined with an electric hand mixer.

**STEP 3.** Divide the mixture between the two greased cake tins lined with baking paper.

**STEP 4.** Bake the cakes on middle shelf for 25 minutes, checking them after 20 minutes. The cakes are done when golden brown and coming away from the edge of the tins. Press them gently to check –they should be springy to the touch.

**STEP 5.** Set aside to cool in their tins for 5 min. Run a palette knife round the inside and turn out onto a cooling rack.

**STEP 6.** Sandwich together with strawberry or raspberry jam and dust with caster sugar.

30 Afternoon Tea, an arrangement on a cake-stand. Space allowed W30cm x L30cm x H unlimited (12” x 12”)

31 Yellow and Cream, Space allowed 25cm x 25cm x 25cm (10”)

A CHILDREN’S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 32-35. Age under 7

A CHILDREN’S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 32-35. Age 7 – 16

All entries must be the child’s own unaided work unless stated. Prizes in each class:-

1<sup>st</sup> = £4.00    2<sup>nd</sup> = £3.00    3<sup>rd</sup> = £2.00

32 Jam Tarts, 5 pieces, Own Recipe, List Ingredients. Adult supervision allowed

33 Easter Hat

34 Garden on a tea plate

35 Grow your own Hyacinth - plant around 1st Jan 2024

## ***PHOTOGRAPHY***

Photographs should not exceed 20cm x 15cm (8” x 6”)

36 View through a window

37 Across the generations

## ***AUTUMN SHOW 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024***

The RHS BANKSIAN MEDAL will be awarded to the MEMBER with the most points in classes 1 – 43.  
(Competitors may only win this once in three years.)

The CRAMPHORN CUP donated by Messrs Cramphorn Ltd will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 2-22.

The TRADERS TROPHY will be awarded for the best exhibit in classes 1 – 43.

The DIPLOMA IN HORTICULTURE. awarded by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for the best exhibit in classes 1 – 17.

1 A basket or trug of vegetables to be judged by content, quality and arrangement.

Prize (class 1) 1<sup>st</sup>=£6      2nd=£4      3rd=£2

- 2 three beetroot
- 3 three carrots
- 4 three onions
- 5 three potatoes, white or red
- 6 a collection of 4 different vegetables
- 7 six shallots
- 8 six runner beans
- 9 one truss of tomatoes
- 10 three courgettes (under 15cm/ 6")
- 11 five tomatoes
- 12 five fruited plum tomatoes
- 13 five small fruited cherry tomatoes (under 3.5cm/1 3/8")
- 14 three different salad vegetables
- 15 herb in a 15cm/6" pot
- 16 collection of five herbs displayed in pots provided. Name varieties

## **Easter Biscuits**

### **Ingredients:**

225g unsalted butter, softened  
175g golden caster sugar, plus 3 tbsp for sprinkling  
1/2 lemon, zest  
1 large egg  
1 egg yolk  
350g plain flour, plus extra to roll  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp mixed spice  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
good pinch of ground cloves  
50g ground almonds  
50g chopped mixed peel  
100g currants

### **Method:**

1. Cream together the butter and 175g golden caster sugar, until pale and fluffy. Beat in the lemon zest, egg and egg yolk. Sift in the flour, baking powder, spices and a good pinch of salt, then add the remaining ingredients. Mix until it forms a smooth ball. Flatten into a disc, wrap in cling film and chill for 2 hours, until firm.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C, gas mark 4. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out 1/2 the dough to 0.3cm thick. Using a 7cm cutter, stamp out biscuits from the dough and arrange on parchment-lined baking sheets. Repeat with the remaining dough.
3. Sprinkle the biscuits with 3 tbsp sugar and bake, a tray at a time, in the middle of the oven for 10-12 minutes until crisp. Cool slightly on the baking sheets, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely.

A CHILDREN'S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 63 - 68. Age under 7.

A CHILDREN'S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 63 - 68. Age 7 – 16.

All entries must be the child's own unaided work

Prizes in each children's class -

1<sup>st</sup>=£4.00                  2<sup>nd</sup>=£3.00                  3<sup>rd</sup>=£2.00

- 63 a flower arrangement in a courgette
- 64 Allotment on a tray, no larger than 15cm x 22cm (6 X9 inches)
- 65 3 Rock Cakes own recipe. Adults supervision allowed
- 66 Cork Bug
- 67 Milk Carton Bird House
- 68 Christmas Tree Decoration

Class A – MEMBERS ONLY. Heaviest crop of potatoes from one seed potato supplied by the Society and pot grown.

1<sup>st</sup>=£5      2<sup>nd</sup>=£3.00      3<sup>rd</sup>=£2.00

Class B – MEMBERS ONLY. Plant as supplied by the Society grown in an 18cm/7" maximum pot.

1<sup>st</sup>=£5      2<sup>nd</sup>=£3.00      3<sup>rd</sup>=£2.00

Class C – MEMBERS ONLY. An unusual container with growing plant or plants, space 30cmx30cm/12"x12". To be judged by the public. 1<sup>st</sup>=£5

PLEASE NOTE:- All trophies must be returned to the Show Committee four weeks before the next appropriate show.

Prize Certificates are awarded for all winners in addition to the trophies and prizes stated.

17 any other vegetable minimum of three except one of marrow

18 oddest shaped vegetable

19 longest runner bean

20 ten soft fruit

21 one dish of five top fruit (fruit that grows on trees, including apples, pears and plums)

21A one dish of five soft fruit (includes all the berries plus grapes)

22 any other fruit, minimum of 3

The HOUNDHURST CUP donated by Mr A S Bourne will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 23 – 26.

The MRS PARRINGTON'S MEMORIAL TROPHY will be awarded to the best exhibit in classes 23 – 43.

All exhibits to be displayed in Society vases provided, except for the Floral Arrangements for which you use your own.

23 one vase, three cactus/semi-cactus dahlias

24 one vase, three decorative dahlias

25 one vase, three ball or pompom dahlias (over 52mm/2" diameter)

26 one vase, seven mixed dahlias

The MR H G SIMS MEMORIAL TROPHY donated by Mrs E A Sims will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 27 – 43.

The MARSHALL CUP donated by Mrs C G Marshall will be awarded to the best rose exhibit in classes 28 and 29

Rose prizes for classes 28 and 29 - 1<sup>st</sup> = £8 2<sup>nd</sup> = £4  
Kindly donated by Rumwood Nurseries

27 one vase, three roses

28 one rose

- 29 one stem of multi-headed roses
- 30 a rose in 3 stages (bud, open, full bloom), three vases
- 31 one vase, three hydrangea stems one variety
- 32 one vase, six stems, one variety of perennials
- 33 one vase, six stems, one variety of annuals or bi-annuals not elsewhere in schedule
- 34 one flowering pot plant (maximum 20cm/8" pot)
- 35 one foliage pot plant (maximum 20cm/8" pot)
- 36 one pot or bowl, cacti or succulent
- 37 one vase, mixed garden flowers
- 38 one vase, three stems, flowering or berried shrubs
- 39 one pot, fuchsia, including standard (maximum 20cm/8" pot)
- 40 one vase, six stems of grasses, may be mixed
- 41 one exotic flowering plant (maximum 20cm/8" pot)
- 42 a decoration of fuchsia heads on a saucer
- 43 a bind of hops

A TANKARD will be awarded to the competitor winning the most points in the Novice Classes

1<sup>st</sup> prize £6

44 one exhibit of any 3 vegetables

45 one vase, 3 blooms

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The LOVING CUP will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 46 – 49

A certificate awarded by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners will be awarded to the best exhibit in classes 46 – 49

Natural plant material should predominate, accessories and drapes may be used and entries may be prepared at home.

46 'Back in time' an exhibit – medium. Space allowed 25cm x 25cm x 25cm (10 inches)

47 'Arrangement of grasses and seed heads' an exhibit – large. Space allowed 45cm x 45cm – (18 inches) height unlimited

48 'Autumn Glory' an exhibit – medium. Space allowed 25cm x 25cm x 25cm (10 inches)

49 'Seaside memories' an exhibit in a shell – small. Space allowed 15cm x 15cm x 15cm (6 inches)

The NICHOLS SHIELD donated by Mr & Mrs D F Nichols will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 50 – 55

### No Trade Tops please on any jars

Classes marked \* are to be made with the recipe supplied

50 One 12oz/1lb (375/500g) jar of fruit jam. Principal fruit to be named. List ingredients

51 One jar of chutney. List ingredients

52 \*Victoria Sponge (recipe page 14)

53 One individual hedgerow crumble in a ramekin, own recipe - list ingredients

54 Cheese palmieres - 5 Pieces own recipe - list ingredients

55 Jam tarts 5 Pieces own recipe - list ingredients

The LINCOLN CUP will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 56-60. Not previously shown.

56 a knitted or crocheted item

58 any cross stitch or item of embroidery

59 a painting/drawing

60 any handicraft other than in previous classes not exceeding 61cmx61cmx61cm (24"x24"x24")

61 photography - 'Historical Staplehurst' - 20cm x 15cm or 8 x 6 inches

62 photography - 'Water' - 20cm x 15cm or 8 x 6 inches