

FOUR COLNES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

February 2024 Newsletter

Welcome

There are still a few people who were members in 2023 that have not yet renewed. Details of how to do so are at the end of this Newsletter. Non-members will not get any further Newsletters.

Welcome to first time members, and thanks to those of you who have renewed, for your continued support.

Events 2023

Since our November Newsletter we have had our AGM on 24th November. About 38 members enjoyed the Treasurer and Secretary's reports on the activities of The Society since the last AGM, and then had to suffer free cheese and wine! Steve Heminway from Colne Valley Wines supplied the wines. Rachel Sprunt brought those in attendance up to date on the work of the Incredible Edible project in Earls Colne.

We were sorry that Annette and Ian Crean stood down from the committee but thank them for their contribution over the last couple of years, especially with the raffle on Show Day and organisation of the Suffolk Show trip in 2023.

We are pleased to welcome Robert Barton to the committee. Unfortunately, we are still without a Chairman. Should anyone feel able to join the committee we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to those who said they would be happy to be called upon to help with events.

Proposed Events 2024

FCFS 'events' involving coach hire are priced to break even accepting that we may not completely fill the coach. Any 'profit' will be put into the Society's funds often offsetting subsidies made to support other events/projects. Occasionally the uptake is just too small to justify undertaking the event and it could be cancelled.

At the end of this Newsletter is a form that you can return to express your interest in the proposed events. Approximate costs are indicated. Please return this so we can gauge if a trip will be viable. Please do NOT pay for the event yet.

Events without transport are just the group entry cost. There are usually minimum numbers required to qualify for group entry, so again an indication as to whether people are interested is useful to know if the proposed trip will be able to go ahead.

The trips are for Members of the FCFS. Nonmembers can attend but will pay an additional charge of £5 per trip. They can, of course, become a member for £5 to take advantage of the members' price.

www.fourcolneshorticulturalsociety.com

Secretary, Sarah Adlem, M. 0794 1131164, 110 Colchester Road, White Colne, CO6 2PP

Email: secretary.fchs@outlook.com

March 25th 7.30pm The Atlas Club, Foundry Lane. How to create a Wildflower Meadow.

The FCHS and the Ashwells Amenity Pleasure Ground Trust (AAPGT) aka Brickfields Trust, are working together to create a Wildflower Meadow in an area of the Brickfields in Earls Colne. Come along to this free event to find out more about the project as well as how you could get involved or create your own wildflower meadow. There is a bar in the Atlas Club for you to purchase refreshments.

April 26th 6pm. Get Growing at Olivers Nursery.

Following the success of last years event, our President Oliver Wass, has kindly offered to host another 'Get Growing' session at the Nursery on Coggeshall Road. We would like to encourage you all to come along and get some tips on veg growing, especially marrows! Class 180 in the Four Colnes Show is the Heaviest Marrow, and there will be a sponsored prize this year for this class. Refreshments will be available to purchase from the Blackhorse Café.

May 24th 2pm NGS Garden Visit, Blunts Hall, Witham. £10 including refreshments.

Restored three-acre Victorian garden. Courtyard garden and terrace leading down to lawns with re-instated parterre surrounded by herbaceous borders. Orchard with old and new fruit trees and vegetable plot. Listed Ancient Monument. Woodland walk around spring-fed pond. Fernery. Steps lead down to front lawns recently planted with a yew avenue. Snowdrops and aconites in early spring. Specimen trees.

Our visits to local NGS gardens that ONLY open to Groups have proved increasingly popular. I must say that the last two we've visited have also provided really very good cakes! Car sharing is encouraged, so if you need a lift or can offer one please let the Secretary know.

June 2nd 2pm-5pm Sow & Tell, 14 Park Lane, Earls Colne

Frances & Robert have kindly agreed to open their garden to FCHS members. Please come along and meet a few other FCHS members and enjoy seeing the fruits of someone else's labours'. There is no charge for this event.

If anyone else would like to host a Sow & Tell please get in touch. Refreshments are often provided by the garden owner but the expenses can be reclaimed from FCHS as required.

June 23rd Earls Colne Open Gardens 12-4.30pm.

The FCHS are supporting Liz Taylor with her resurrection of the Earls Colne Open Gardens. She has 20+ gardens committed but anyone else wanting to join in would be most welcome. Funds raised will be donated to the St Andrews Bells fund and the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. Maps will be available from The Church and Rec Club on the day and in advance from Ziel and Ecolnes Refillery. Price £5 per adult.

The St Andrews Church Flower Festival is planned to coincide with the Open Gardens.

July 12th Affiliated Society visit to RHS Wisley. Leave Earls Colne 9am, arrive Wisley about 11am leave Wisley 3.30pm arrive back Earls Colne approx. 5.30pm. Coach Cost £25

As a RHS Affiliated Society we are able to have a group access to a RHS garden for FREE. This trip will therefore be just the cost of the coach. Numbers limited to 55.

August 17th The Four Colnes Show 11am to late

The Show will be organised on similar lines to 2023, with the Rec Club arranging activities that will continue into Saturday evening. Anyone wanting a Stall can contact Claire Smith at Percivals and Co.

Claire@percivalandcompany.co.uk.

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If you have contacts with a local group who may want to showcase what they do in the ring:- dancing, singing, multi sporting, dog agility etc. etc. then please get them to contact Sue Freear at the Rec Club 01787 223584.

Draft classes for the Horticultural Show have been emailed to all last years members, I'm sending again to inform new members, and are including with this Newsletter for those not on email. The printed schedule should be available in May.

The Four Colnes 'postcard' competition. The Society has been asked if one of the classes in the show could be for images of the Four Colnes which may then be used on postcards, greetings cards etc. Further details will be in the Schedule and in future Newsletters.

September 6th 2pm NGS Garden Visit, Polstead Mill, Mill Lane, Colchester, Suffolk, CO65AB - £7 entry only, £15 including Tea/coffee & cake. Carshare encouraged.

The garden has been developed since 2002, it has formal and informal areas, a wildflower meadow and a large productive kitchen garden. The River Box runs through the garden and there is a mill pond, which gives opportunity for damp gardening, while the rest of the garden is arid and is planted to minimise the need for watering.

October TBC - maybe a Talk? Ideas welcome!

November 15th FCHS AGM

The ever-popular Cheese and Wine will be on offer to those that come along to hear what the Committee has been up to in 2024 on behalf of the Membership.

November 30th Christmas at Kew. Leave Earls Colne 2.30pm, arrive Kew for entry at 5pm. Leave Kew at 7.15pm and get back to Earls Colne about 9.30pm. Adults £48, 4-16yr olds £40.

Group discounts are available on parties over 15 and the price indicated is for a 16-seater coach and entry. If there is more interest a larger coach can be investigated.

December 7th Earls Colne Xmas Shopping and Four Colnes Christmas Food & Craft Market. 11am - 4pm.

The FCHS is planning to hold its annual 'Market' to coincide with the Earls Colne Businesses Christmas shopping event. Details are still to be confirmed, but save the date! Contact the Secretary if you want a stall.

Membership 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024.

To renew your membership please contact Membership Secretary, Helen Fryer, Membership.fchs@outlook.com to confirm that your contact details remain the same and transfer £5 to the FCHS bank account: Lloyds Bank; Sort; 30-98-90 Acct. No.; 16373660 Ref; '1st 4 letters of surname' and 'Sub'

Other things you may be interested in....

Growing Opportunity in the Four Colnes

White Colne Parish Council hopes that you will come along to the Village Hall on Bures Road on Saturday 23rd March to help plant its community garden. The Stationmasters Café will be open for refreshments, just turn up 10am-3pm.

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Event (more details in Newsletter above)	FCHS members Number of places required	Non FCHS members Number of places required	Cost per member. Nonmember add £5
April 26th 6pm. Get Growing at Olivers Nursery			No Charge
May 24th 2pm NGS Garden Visit, Blunts Hall Witham. Entrance & refreshments.			£10
July 12th Affiliated Society visit to RHS Wisley. Coach and entrance			£25
September 6th 2pm NGS garden Visit, Polstead Mill, Mill Lane, Colchester.			£7 entry only £15 inc refreshments
November 30th Christmas at Kew (adult). Coach & Entrance			£48
November 30th Christmas at Kew (4-16 yr old) Coach & Entrance			£40
Lead name on the booking			

Please email me the form back indicating which events you are interested in. If you do not have email drop the form to the Secretary or give me a call and I'll make a note. My contact details are in the footer below.