

Annual Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions of £14 a head are now due and can be paid at our next meeting. For those who cannot attend next meeting, you can contact Sandra on 01394 285577 and arrange to make payment to her direct. We will assume that Members have decided to leave the Society, if they have not renewed by our 10th March meeting.

Bring & Buy Sale at our March Meeting

We will be holding a Bring and Buy sale at March meeting, so please bring along any unwanted Christmas gifts/plants/seeds etc that you think others may like to buy. Supporting events like this help us to keep down costs and annual subscriptions. Any items not sold on the night to be used as Tombola/Draw prizes at the Annual Show (if members are willing).

Suffolk Orchid Society Spring Show – 21st March 2015

St Michaels Church Centre, The Drift, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3UY on 21st March, 10am - 4pm. Contact: Mrs Jenny Gage Tel: 01473 822569, or email: roystongage@btinternet.com. Cultivation tips including potting demonstrations for visitors light lunches and sundries for sale. Admission is £1.

Coach Trip to RHS Malvern Spring Show

Booking forms need to be completed urgently and with £50 deposits handed to Cynthia Merry. As from February this trip is open to non-members. To remind you it is our 3 day, 2 night coach trip to visit the Malvern Spring Show from Friday 8th – Sunday 10th May 2015. Price of £175 per person sharing twin or double rooms, or £215 for single room includes coach, 2 night's bed, breakfast and dinner at Hotel Chateau Impney, as well as all entrances. The balance cost is payable to Cynthia at our March meeting.

Visit our website www.felixstowehorticultural.co.uk

Felixstowe and District Horticultural Society

Next Meeting – 10 February 2015



**Charlie Haylock
An Eccentric Look at Suffolk**

Newsletter – February 2015

Phone Queries: Please contact Caroll Wallace 01394 272695

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Chairman's Message

It was lovely to see so many of you for the start of the New Year, with a number of visitors as well, it was a packed house. Our speaker was Matthew Tanton Brown, who is always popular and gives lots of good tips. Since we last met Matthew he has moved jobs and is now at the Walled Garden by the Aldeburgh turning off the A12. Do check out the Walled Garden who run events throughout the year, more info at <http://www.thewalledgarden.co.uk>.

To summarise some of the key points Matthew gave us on Pruning:

Clematis.

Species forms – cut off 2ft from ground.

Old species forms – selectively prune back third of plant to 2ft above ground, taking out another third next year and final third following year.

Evergreen – prune to shape.

Alpina – spring flowering, prune to shape end January.

Large flowered hybrid – plant deep, up to 2 buds depth. Cut back to ground level.

Montana – rampant coverage of old buildings etc. No need to prune.

Camelias. Obvious flower and growth buds. Prune to a flower bud, outward facing, 4mm above bud.

Reversion of Variagation. Prune out green shoots back to stem. Then prune to shape.

Honeysuckle. Winter flowering, semi evergreen, needs to be planted in exposed site. Cut back each 1 foot of growth to promote side shoots and flower buds.

Cornus. Allow to establish first year, then prune end Feb/March when buds starting to swell. Remove stems less than pencil thickness. Use spare cuttings, plant two thirds deep to create new plants.

Hellebores. Prune off old leaves now to avoid Hellebore black spot.

Primulas. Remove dead leaves.

Heathers. Autumn flowering varieties, cut back old flowers now to compact shape plant.

Box Plants. Shape to requirement.

Hydrangea. Beginning of March remove weak little shoots around bottom and then shape up long shoots.

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Winter Flowering Shrubs. Prune third last year's growth.

Summer Flowering Shrubs. Prune early Spring.

Make sure you use a good pair of secateurs, of a weight to suit you. If just pruned shrubs in an easterly facing position do cover them in a fleece if frosts are forecast. Make sure you feed your hedges at the base just after pruning.

The speaker at our February meeting is Charlie Haylock who is providing us with An Eccentric View of Suffolk. Charlie is well known in Suffolk and has also written a few books, which he will hopefully have with him for sale on the night. I will also have the "show roses" and pots for sale again at the February meeting. There are Gentle Touch (pink) and Sungold (yellow) both at £4 each.

So until February, keep warm and prune your shrubs well.

Ray Martin

Annual Show Preparation

Our Annual Show will be at the Felixstowe Leisure Centre 18/19th July 2015. Jeremy and Angela Pratt are at the helm again, but really do need some willing volunteers to help take on some of the tasks eg, to organise and run the Raffle, manage the cake stall etc. If you feel you can help out, please contact Jeremy and Angela direct to discuss it on Tel: 01394 286649 or email: jemanpratt@btinternet.com.

Also, please take the opportunity to look through the Show Schedule on one of those rainy days that you cannot be out and about. You can plan your exhibits for a large number of the classes now. Seville oranges are currently available, so why not have a go at making up a jar of marmalade to enter in our Household classes. Full tips and guidance on presentation are in the back of the schedule.

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