

RHS Advises the Top 10 Jobs to do in April

1. Keep weeds under control
2. Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
3. Tie in climbing and rambling roses
4. Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds
5. Start to feed citrus plants
6. Increase the water given to houseplants
7. Feed hungry shrubs and roses
8. Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
9. Prune fig trees
10. Divide bamboos and water lilies

Feeding and mulching

Mulch rose and shrub beds with a 5-7.5cm (2-3in) layer of organic matter. This will help retain moisture during dry spells, reduce weed build-up and over time improve soil structure. Pay particular attention to mulching around rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias as flowering is impaired if they are allowed to dry out during late summer.

Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a balanced fertiliser (such as Growmore or blood, fish and bone), sprinkling it over the root area before hoeing into the soil surface. This will particularly benefit young, weak, damaged or heavily pruned plants.

Friends of Felixstowe Spa Gardens

The Spa Gardens team are looking to recruit "Friends" willing to help out for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning. If you have a little spare time and would like to get involved, the first Saturday is 18th April from 10-12am - For more information give our Rachel Bischoff a call on 07733 762979; she's planning on having a look at this very interesting project and would welcome some company.

2015 Annual Show

The final definitive schedules for the Annual Show are now available either on line from our website www.felixstowehorticultural.co.uk or in hard copy at our meetings.

Make sure you have your camera ready when you are out and about so you can enter this year's photographic classes entitled "The Beauty of Flowers" and "Felixstowe Ferry".

Visit our website www.felixstowehorticultural.co.uk

Felixstowe and District Horticultural Society

Next Meeting - 14 April 2015



**Anton Deschamp
Stour Valley Organic Lavender +
Spring Mini Show**

Newsletter - April 2015

Phone Queries: Please contact Caroll Wallace 01394 272695

Visit our website www.felixstowehorticultural.co.uk

Chairman's Message

It was great to have both Jeremy and Angela Pratt with us to share pictures and stories of their June 2013 annual holiday to France, in search of Lizard Orchids and Poeticus Narcissus. Their trip began at the Royal Sandwich Golf Course where they found Lizard Orchids about to flower here in the UK, before setting sail for France. There were many wonderful pictures of Orchids and Alpine plants, which we know are a passion of Jeremys. It was also an education to see the late flowering Poeticus Narcissus in full bloom at the end of June. Their good humoured talk included gastronomic recommendations as well as their favourite accommodation in France, also expansive wild flower meadows in spectacular scenery. Their journey was completed with expanse of tall flowering Lizard Orchids, that apparently smell strongly of "billy goat". The final treat of the evening was a set of pictures from their neighbour, who managed to capture the tawny owl chicks who fledged and departed the owl box in their garden while they were away. Thanks for a great evening guys!

Well done to all who brought and bought at Tuesday night's meeting, your generous donations are much appreciated. Thanks also to Rachel Bischoff, Diane Elmes and Caroll for manning the stall on Tuesday night. We raised £67 for Society funds.

I am fully expecting to see a multitude of roses entered in our annual show, now you have had the full benefit of my planting and pruning advice. Don't be shy to prune your plants back hard, now. This will encourage flowering in time for our show. We will have a number of rather nice flower pouches for sale at our next meeting - only £2 each. You might even receive a demonstration of planting up a pouch if I remember.

We are always keen to hear your views on how to improve our meetings, speakers that you think we may like to hear, potential locations for trips out etc - so don't be shy, you can pop your ideas in our suggestion box at our meetings, or speak to one of the committee.

Our April meeting will be another busy one, as our speaker will have lots of lovely lavender products for sale and it is our Spring Mini Show. Hoping it will be a riot of colour with all your daffodils, tulips, hyacinths – don't be afraid to have a go at any of the classes.

Ray Martin

Visit our website www.felixstowehorticultural.co.uk

Spring Mini Show Schedule

All entries taken on the night - No entry fees

Classes

1. Garden flowers in a picture frame - frame provided
2. Vase of 1 (max) Daffodils any variety excluding miniatures
3. Vase of 3 (max) Daffodils any variety(ies) excluding miniatures
4. Vase of 5 (max) Daffodils any variety(ies) excluding miniatures
5. Vase of 5 (max) Miniature Daffodils
6. Pot of Mystery Daffodils (purchased from FDHS)
7. Pot of Mystery Tulips (purchased from FDHS)
8. Pot of Hyacinths (purchased from FDHS)
9. An Alpine plant (max pot size 200mm)
10. 3 sticks of Rhubarb
11. 2 Leeks
12. 4 Butterfly buns
13. 5 Jumbles (recipe in Show Schedule)
14. A homemade Birthday Card
15. Photo entitled "Spring Time" mounted (not framed). Not to exceed 200mm x 250mm overall
16. All Round Spring Flower arrangement (max size 200mm x 200mm)

Entry rules:-

Only one entry in each class

Enter as many classes as you can

Points: 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point

Winner of most points will be presented with the Spring Cup.

All cakes and food items to be offered to members at the break

Coach Trip to RHS Malvern Spring Show

There are **only 2 places left** and this trip is now open to non-members. All outstanding balances should now have been paid to Cynthia. Her telephone number is 01394 272202.

Visit our website www.felixstowehorticultural.co.uk