

Taunton Deane Horticultural and Floricultural Society
celebrating the 140th Anniversary of the
TAUNTON FLOWER SHOW

Members Newsletter May 2006

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The 2006 Show approaches and the Show Committee has been working hard to provide some different elements for you to enjoy. These are outlined below and I would particular wish to thank the various representatives of the Salvation Army who have been instrumental in arranging for our two very special horticultural guests, Chris Beardshaw and Julian Dowle. Details are given of the Opera Supper to be held on 4th August and this promises to be a most unusual and entertaining evening. We are all looking forward to a very special Show.

Bob Homeshaw
Chairman

A Horticultural Challenge. The challenge to amateur gardeners, craftsmen and women remains at the heart of the 2006 show, as it has over the last 140 years, with 9 competitive divisions embracing 243 different classes and with over £3,000 on offer as prize money. Children might be encouraged to channel their creative energies making items for display at the show, an excellent way perhaps to occupy them during the first two weeks of the summer holidays. **The deadline for entering competitions is as late as Noon on Wednesday 26th July.** Full details and the entry form are published on the Flower Show website: www.tauntonflowershow.co.uk . We therefore would be delighted if Members would assist the Show by encouraging both old and young, expert or novice, to enter, possibly through a local garden club or school.

More Horticulture. New this year is the ‘**Seeds of Knowledge**’ Marquee, located near to the bridge to Wilton Lands and sponsored by Hatchers Department Store. There will be talks on Carnivorous Plants, Garden Design and Vegetable Growing and each afternoon, the Garden Doctors Service, a panel of experts, will provide answers to questions on horticulture. Please note the timings which are detailed in the Show programme.

On the Wednesday, joining the Garden Doctors Service will be **Chris Beardshaw**, the Flying Gardener, who will be attending the opening day of this year’s anniversary show. He will be present at the Salvation Army stand signing copies of his book ‘The Natural Gardener’ and touring the Showground. We are delighted to welcome Chris and hope that as many visitors as possible will have the opportunity to enjoy his contribution to our special celebrations. Great news! Chris Beardshaw won the BBC/RHS People’s Choice award at this year’s Chelsea with the Wormcast Garden.



Thanks once again to our friends in The Salvation Army, 11 times Chelsea Gold Medal winner **Julian Dowle** will be us at the Flower Show on Thursday 3rd August. He will be available for interview on The Salvation Army’s stand and has kindly agreed to participate in our Garden Doctors feature. In 2005 Julian won the first ever hat trick of awards at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with his Chelsea Pensioners' Garden: Gold Medal, BBC/RHS People's Choice and Best in Show. He was The Salvation Army's garden designer for his 25th Chelsea garden in 2004 - the People's choice garden - From Darkness to Light! Further details about Julian are available on his website at www.juliandowle.co.uk



Arena Events



A variety of events will take place in the arena, with the Household Troops Band of The Salvation Army leading the way and this year, besides playing in the arena, they will also be playing in the Bandstand during the afternoons. The Terriers of the B & K Terrier Racing team will provide a highly charged fun-filled racing act, The dogs are incredibly enthusiastic and race over hurdles, run zig-zags, getting up to all sorts of nonsense around the arena and thoroughly enjoy themselves. The X-Treme Trials Display team will provide stunt riding, choreography, and showmanship, whilst the strength of Amanda and Tony Brutus has to be seen to be believed. Audience participation in this act is welcomed!



X-Treme Trials



Amanda and Tony Brutus

Show Gardens and Rural Crafts – Four designers have entered in the Show Garden competition which proved so popular last year, Green Barber Ltd, Sally Leaney Garden Design, Maidenhead Aquatics of Taunton and Wellington Slabs. In addition a special area has set aside for demonstrations of various rural crafts. Activities will include basket and hurdle making, blacksmithing, spinning and weaving and coracle and trug making.

PLEASE REMEMBER Only Assistance Dogs are allowed in the Show Ground

Children's Activity & Entertainment Area on Wilton Lands

In addition to the regular favourites, new activities will include radio controlled model boats, hands on skills including Willow Craft, Casualty Make-up, Mask Making, Face Painting, Nail Art & Body Art and, through the 'Blooming Youth' scheme, container allotments.



The major attraction this year will be the new children's 'Scarecrow Competition' This exciting event is being supported by Mole Valley Farmers and Bathealton Village who are providing several scarecrows from their entry in the 2005 Ten Parishes Festival in 2005 and which will be seen in a variety of places throughout the Show ground, Details of this new competition may be found on the website www.tauntonflowershow.co.uk or from Mrs Coleby (01823 333617). Please help to make this event a success by encouraging your and friends children to enter this competition."

Membership Matters



Membership cards have been sent to all members this year instead of badges. The cards may be displayed in a handy durable plastic wallet, available at the show from the Secretary's tent either with a clip on attachment or with a lanyard as illustrated. The respective costs will be 50p for the clip and £1.50 for the lanyard.

Members are reminded that they will need to show their card when entering the Show ground and on entry to the Members' Marquee area.

Members' Catering Facilities

Full details of the catering facilities are given on an attached sheet. To make sure of a seat for lunch please do complete the reservation slip and send to the caters, Posh Nosh, by Wednesday 26th July. As a musical accompaniment the jazz band will be performing outside the Members Marquee during lunch.

Opera Supper

Rather than a Members Dinner, this year there will be an Opera Supper. Again, full details are show on an enclosed sheet. Do join us for what promises to be a most exciting and unusual event.

Members Car parking – As in previous years, free parking for Members will be on the Richard Huish playing fields. Whilst the Show Committee fully appreciates that this is not the most convenient place for members, particularly for those whose mobility is impaired, regrettably we have no other option open to us. Parking on the cricket ground is controlled by the cricket club and the proceeds from this are used to boost their club funds - we, the Show, have no say in this whatsoever. We had hoped to provide limited parking, perhaps for the disabled, on Wilton Lands but this was refused by Taunton Deane Borough Council. Regrettably, there does not appear to be any other option open to us.

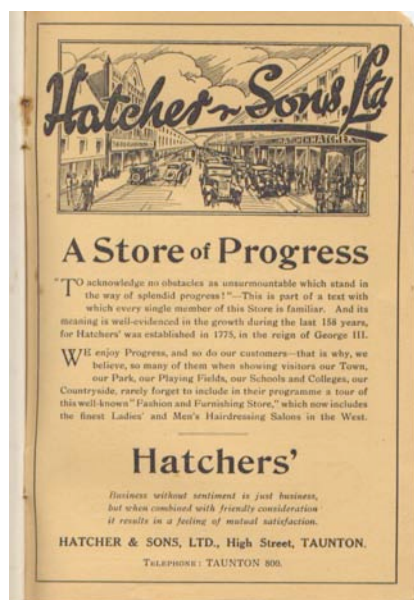
Charging for the Use of Vivary Park

Members will no doubt have read of the charge, £1244, which Taunton Deane Borough Council is to levy on the Flower Show in 2006 for the use of Vivary Park. Many thanks to Hatchers Department store in Taunton who immediately offered to pay this charge. They obviously realise, unlike Taunton Deane, the tremendous benefit the Flower Show, run entirely by volunteers, brings to Taunton and wish it to continue in Vivary Park. Any member wishing to object to this charge should write directly to the Council expressing their concern.

Outings Organiser – we are still looking for a volunteer to act as outings organiser for the Members' events – the coach trips to Westonbirt, Wisley and Kew were very much enjoyed by those who attended them All that is involved is sending information out to members via the Newsletter, booking a coach and the venue, then attending to check everybody in and thoroughly enjoying yourself!

Planning for the 2007 Show is already in hand. Members should note that in future the Show will be held on the first Friday/Saturday in August rather than the Wednesday/Thursday. This will mean that the Show will be held on the 3rd and 4th August in 2007 and we hope will overcome the difficulty that families have met by not being able to attend as a group on a weekday because of work.

Historical Note



This is a reproduction of the back page of the Schedule for 1933. Hatcher and Sons were mentioned in the 1890 schedule as subscribers to the Show and have continued their involvement with Taunton Flower Show by paying the charge levied on the show this year by Taunton Deane.

More information regarding the history of Taunton Flower Show and the Taunton Deane Horticultural and Floricultural Society will be on display in the Seeds of Knowledge Marquee during the Show. Would any member who has memorabilia and who is prepared to lend it for the exhibition please contact Robin Leamon, at robinleamon@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07764 456218.

Useful contacts:

Anne Leamon, Show Secretary	07775 563251
Eliz McLeish, Chairman of Schedule Committee	01984 667324
Adrian Prior-Sankey, Chairman of Marketing	07973 252346
Ken Sankey, Children's Co-ordinator for Wilton Lands	01823 286128
Angela Coleby, Children's Competitions	01823 333617
Maggie Simons, Membership Secretary	01793 710801

Don't forget to visit our web site at www.tauntonflowershow.co.uk . Contact details and information on the Show, plus the schedule are there for you to see.

N.B.

Raffle Tickets enclosed. Please return sold stubs/unsold books, together with money/cheque made payable to Taunton Flower Show to **Mike Welch, Bedrock Barn, Brompton Ralph, Taunton, TA4 2RT** or hand in to the Secretary's tent during the Show.