

Bosham Chidham and District Horticultural Society

July 2009 Meeting Report

We had a wonderful turn out for our July Meeting with some forty members and five visitors attending. Sadly Bud, our chairman, had to report the death of Reg Spragg, a much valued member, who will be missed by us all. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family. Bud thanked Hazel Dean for organising the very successful trip to the National Sweet Pea Collection at Bracklesham and for arranging the visit to the Fittleworth Vegetable Garden next week. He reminded us all that it was getting near to the time when we need to think about the election of committee members for the coming year. We would welcome new committee members and if you are interested please contact him or any member of the present committee. I have been on the committee for nearly a year now and have thoroughly enjoyed it - it is not too demanding of your time and really worthwhile.

We had a wonderful display of competition entries this month and the scent from the sweetpeas filled the hall. Congratulations to Brian Linkhorn who won the Sweet Pea Cup and to Beryl Cooper who won the Mrs Hamblin Cup. The coloured drawing of a bird entered by Rita Gilby was exquisite with amazing detail.

Brian Linkhorn gave us his topical tips for July/August – apparently there is an epidemic of blackfly in West Sussex so don't forget to spray your runner beans and dahlias especially - he recommends you use Provado which is available at most garden centres. Don't forget to feed your dahlias regularly as well. Now is the time to sow your winter carrots, wallflowers and sweet Williams, and to transplant your spring cabbage and swede seedlings.

Mr Roger Grier, our speaker, entertained us with a wonderfully informative talk, with slides, on the subject of Orchids. Orchid growing has been his hobby for over forty years (and yes, he has written a book on them). I think the most important information he gave us was regarding the medium on which to grow them. The best thing to put in the pot is shells, granite chippings, or bark – but nothing peaty that absorbs the water and makes the basis mushy. So look carefully if you are buying branded Orchid compost. His slides were beautiful and I am sure we will all take better care of our orchids at home as a result of his talk.

We do not have a meeting next month but of course we do have our ANNUAL SHOW on August 8th at 2pm in Bosham Village Hall. Our next monthly Meeting is on September 10th with a talk on Poisonous Plants by Mr Chris Howkins.

See you at the Show! Rozie Bradley