

High Halden Horticultural Society (Growers Makers Bakers)

Last season for our Horticultural Society was a busy one. We are thriving, with over a hundred members. The Committee is friendly, approachable, enthusiastic and hard-working and our members, both old and new, come to our events for the social side of things as much as the shared love of flowers and plants.

As well as our regular events: Spring, Summer and Autumn Shows; two quizzes; the Christmas workshop and the annual garden visit, we have introduced several more. In April we have a plant swap, together with a coffee morning, in the Memorial Hall, which is hugely popular. We have had speakers in to talk to us about various aspects of gardening, which were well received and enjoyed. We have also changed the format of our AGM by holding it on a Saturday morning, in the Memorial Hall, combined with a coffee morning. We find that our members like to have the opportunity to chat as well as supporting the Society! There is always a real buzz at our events!

Covid took its toll on events for a while but, last year, everything was more or less back to pre-Covid normal. It was lovely to see so many beautiful flowers at the Spring Show and it bodes well for the next two! We have changed the way we run the shows, partly to encourage new gardeners who may be daunted by the thought of a "Flower Show" and partly because the lack of availability of RHS judges makes it hard to run the shows the way we used to. Many members are happy with the voting system to find the winner in each class at the shows, but one or two would rather go back to judging. We are always open to different ideas and suggestions, and we are constantly tweaking timings etc. Our target for this year is to encourage the younger members of the village to take part, and we are introducing a children's corner for the Summer Show so that they can see what goes on and it also gives the grown-ups the chance to look round without worrying.

We thank you for your continued support for all our events. If you are a member and haven't collected your Schedule yet please contact one of the Committee. If you would like to join ask a member of the Parish Council and they will point you in the right direction. There is a lot of information about the society on the village website, highhalden.org.uk.

We're looking forward to the new growing year and all the joy that a flourishing garden brings. We are hoping that the weather is a bit kinder than it has been in the last couple of years!

Pat Sargent
Chair