

# NAYLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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## Secretary's Report 2024

### Report on 2023

On Tuesday **14<sup>th</sup> March** our **Spring Speaker**, Roger Hance, an award-winning photographer, gave an interesting talk with some beautiful photographs on "Landscapes of the British Isles". Sadly, very few people came along to the Church Hall to hear him.

Our annual **Spring Flower Show** on Saturday **25<sup>th</sup> March** was also poorly attended. The number of entries and visitors were fewer than they had been in past years. Despite this we had a number of visitors during the morning who were able to enjoy the beautiful floral entries, as well as having some refreshments and a chat. Our thanks to the judge and helpers on the day. Joint winners of the Olive Noakes cup were Hazel Gardner and Trevor Smy.

The **Annual General Meeting** on **18<sup>th</sup> April**, was followed by a horticultural-themed Fun Quiz organised by Trevor.

The **Morning Market** on the **13<sup>th</sup> May** was a great success. There were lots of flower and vegetable plants for sale, as well as home-made cakes and preserves, and we had a steady stream of visitors during the morning. Sunflower plants and seeds were also handed out, so they can be grown on for our Summer Flower Show.

On the **21<sup>st</sup> June** we travelled by coach to **Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens** in Norfolk. It was a very enjoyable day, with plenty of activities to explore. All of the passenger train rides, both diesel and steam, were including in the cost of the outing, and many of us enjoyed travelling on them round the perimeter of the gardens. Also enjoyed was the 'Galloper' roundabout. Bressingham is the home of a Dad's Army exhibition, comprising a recreation of Walmington on Sea (the fictional home of Captain Mainwaring and his men).

Our **41<sup>st</sup> Flower Show** on the **5<sup>th</sup> August** was very well supported. The weather on the morning of the show was kind, and the torrential rain in the afternoon did not put off the many visitors, who came along to view the entries and to enjoy the refreshments.

We received entries from 50 people this year, with 260 individual entries, which was a brilliant result. It was great to see our loyal regular exhibitors once again, as well as a number of new exhibitors which enabled us to put on a good show.

Our thanks to the judges, who did not have an easy job as the standard in some classes was very high. The flower and floral arrangements were stunning, and although we had reduced the number of classes in the dahlia section, we still had 14 entries altogether.

Once again this year we had a pleasing number of children entering the Show and it was wonderful to see how much effort had gone into each of the exhibits.

During the Flower Show the winners of the Tallest Parish Hollyhock and the Tallest Sunflower were announced. From the entries we received, Sally Dalton had the Tallest Parish Hollyhock and Karen Freeman the Tallest Sunflower.

Dawn Harris presented prizes to the winners of the Parish Council's best kept allotment competition: 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Gardiner; joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Jo Reed and Jenny Hoskins, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anna Easdown. Our thanks to Terry Bannister who very kindly came along to present our trophies. Many thanks to the committee for all their hard work, also to Guy for manning the raffle, Sheila and Shirley for their efforts in the kitchen, providing refreshments, and to Colin and Anne for manning the entry and produce tables. We must not forget our gallant band of helpers either who set up on Friday and dismantled after the Show. Finally, a big thank you to all our entrants and we hope to see you all next year.

On the **24<sup>th</sup> October**, our **Autumn speaker**, Jacqueline Aviolet, came to the Church Hall to deliver an entertaining talk on "Spices (a super spicy story)".

Hort Soc would like to thank everyone for supporting our stall at the Nayland **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday **2<sup>nd</sup> December**, whether donating items, manning the stall or purchasing items. This helped us raise funds for society activities.

## **2024**

Our first event this year will be the annual **Spring Flower Show** on the **23<sup>rd</sup> March**. Details are in the Community Times and on our website. This is being held in the Church Hall and promises to be a colourful occasion, so come along and enjoy the displays of spring flowers and relax with refreshments. For those interested in exhibiting, full details and entry forms are in the Community Times, or can be downloaded from our web site. Entry forms to be submitted to the Hort Soc Box in the Mill St. Deli by the Tuesday before the Show or to Star Cottage, 81 Bear Street CLO6 4LA. Entries for the show should be brought along between 8.15 am – 9.00 am on the 13<sup>th</sup>, as judging will need to take place before the public display and coffee morning opens at 10.00 am. Winners of each class will be awarded a certificate and the Olive Noakes Cup will be awarded for the most successful exhibitor.

The **Morning Market** on the **11<sup>th</sup> May** will be held in the Church Hall between 9.30 and 12 noon. For sale will be plants, including bedding and vegetables. as well as home made cakes and preserves. Refreshments are available and there will be a raffle (draw taking place at 11.30 am). Donations of items for sale or raffle prizes would be very welcome and may be brought to the Hall from 8.30 am on the Saturday morning or left with a committee member during the week leading up to the event.

On the **12<sup>th</sup> June** we have a coach outing to **Hyde Hall**. Further details will be in the Community Times.

Our **annual Flower Show** this year is on the **3<sup>rd</sup> August**. Schedules for the Show are being distributed in March and are also available in the Mill Street Deli, or can be downloaded from our website. The Hort Soc are grateful to the advertisers in the schedule who enable us to fund this promotion.

On the **13<sup>th</sup> November** we have a coach outing to **Polhill Garden Centre**.

Once again, this year we will have a stall at **Nayland Christmas Fayre** on the **7<sup>th</sup> December**.