

MHS Newsletter 2

I hope you are all keeping well and just suffering from boredom after such a long 'home' lockdown. I promised not to send too many Newsletters but your committee does have some good news for you at last. We met in a garden last Thursday – socially distanced of course – and discussed our future events and how to manage them.

Garden Visit

We have been able to re-arrange our garden visit to Pratsham Grange – which you will have appreciated it was not possible to do on July 1st. Those of you who have kept an eye on our website will know that it is now planned to take place on Tuesday August 25th at 2.30pm. Please use the form in your schedule to book a place - this should be sent with your payment to Maureen Newman as stated on the form. However please note the following important points ...

- We **cannot** arrange lifts so ignore all references to lifts on the form
- We suggest you take your mask with you for the safety of all members
- Please pay by cheque or notes – we are avoiding all coinage
- More information will be available closer to the date so keep an eye on the website/facebook

Maureen will look after bookings so be sure to put your phone number on the form in case of last-minute changes. We may need to restrict numbers so book early!

Annual Show

We are trying to re-arrange our Annual Show at another venue but the same date/time. Alison Craze has (foolishly) agreed to host the show in her garden – which benefits from two ways in/out so we can have a structured route round the exhibits. We are obviously going to reduce the number of entry classes considerably and there will be no official judging at all – so no Banksian medal or other awards are likely to be possible. We will restrict entries to fruit, flowers, vegetables and maybe handicrafts. It will probably be judged by all those who attend – as we usually do the Evening Show (cancelled by Covid!). The winner/winners will receive one of our awards I am sure - your committee is still discussing this. We are also working on the more formal arrangements like insurance, risk assessment, reduced entry list, tables, voting ... We can do nothing about some things so this will all be weather permitting on the day - you may need to bring umbrellas!

Other things!

We are trying to see how we can organise the talk scheduled for October and AGM/talk scheduled for November – that room we use at St John's is very small for social distancing! I am investigating whether our speakers have used Zoom or would be willing to try giving us a talk using it. You may have used Zoom yourself over these last months – or may have family/friends who use it? Your committee will be practising/trying Zoom.

We now have a popular Facebook page with nearly 90 followers. Most of these are not members – yet! For our members there is also a private Members Group you can join so maybe give it a try. There are some helpful gardening suggestions and discussions to join in.

I hope some of you have managed a Wisley visit – booking system allowing. It is as lovely as ever but the 2m distancing was tricky so lucky it is 1m+ now. I can recommend the ice cream.

There will be another newsletter at the end of August to give details of the classes for the Annual Show and other arrangements for the Autumn.

Don't forget to visit the [website](#) and/or [facebook page](#) for updates.

Veronica Plested

Secretary