

Dates for the Diary

February 18th

The Dymock Daffodils:

by Beth Adams

Beth Adams is coming to talk to us from the Gloucester Wildlife Trust Conservation group.

March 18th

The Gardens of Italy:

by Duncan Coombes

Mr Coombs is a lecturer in decorative Horticulture at Pershore College. You can keep up to date with his horticultural news, views & plants of the month at **Duncan's Horticulture Blog** on the Warwickshire College website:

www.warwickshire.ac.uk/blogs/duncans_horticulture_blog.aspx

April 15th

Flowers Flamboyant to Demure:

by Dr Ferguson

Dr. Ferguson is a professional botanist who worked in the USA and at RGB Kew for 29 years, retiring as Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium and head of the Pollen Unit. He is a keen gardener, plantsman, photographer and is widely travelled especially in the USA and temperate S. America. He has written articles in *The Hardy Plant* and *The Plantsman* publications.

Looking Ahead

As the society is not organising a 4-day away break this year your committee is planning another Summer Buffet, this time at the end of May rather than in July. At the moment the details are as follows:

Date: Saturday 31st May

Venue: Upton Bishop Millennium Hall

Price: To be finalised but around £15 per head as last year.

To book your place ahead for this popular occasion please give your name/s to **Margaret Willis, Tel. 01989 564967.**

Final details will be included in the April Newsletter.

Special diets can be catered for.

Used Postage Stamps

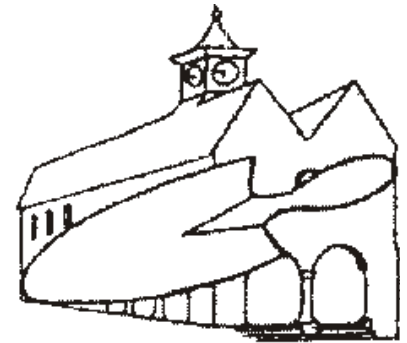
Thank you very much to all of you who have saved used stamps for me over the years. These are sold by an agent and the money goes towards the **Acorns Children's Hospice**. Please keep on saving them - every little helps. *Bridget Forsdike*



Ross-on-Wye

Horticultural Society

(Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society)



Newsletter No. 64 January 2014

**A Happy New Year to you all
and every good wish
for 2014**

Single Flower and 3 Flower Competitions

Congratulations to George Marshall and Eileen Richards for winning last year's competitions.

These will start up again at the February meeting and will continue each month (except August) up to and including October.



Competition Rules

Here is a reminder of the rules: You may enter as many or as few specimens for each competition at a cost of 20p per exhibit. Everything you enter must have been grown at home by you. Each item will be marked out of 10 points on its own merit. **In order to qualify for a prize you must have entered at least three times in different months.**

(Please ask a committee member if you need more information.)

Information Update

At the AGM last November, Heather Lovett and Pete Barley announced their retirement from the committee. We would like to thank them for all the help and input they have given to the society. Margaret Willis has now taken over as Programme Secretary and we know she has organised a very interesting selection of speakers for 2014.

Monthly Meetings Reminder

Bridget would appreciate it if members could have the correct money available for the meetings (£3 for members, £4 for visitors). She is unable to give change for £20 notes and even £10 notes can prove difficult.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Subscriptions

Included below is a form for the renewal of your annual subscription.

Subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2014. **£12 per member.**

If you are paying by post please include a stamped addressed envelope (minimum size 6"x 4½"). Fill in the coupon below and send it to our Membership Secretary, Mrs C Dickson, The Little House, Sussex Avenue, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5AJ.

This January issue will be the last one you will receive if you do not renew your subscription by the end of January.

Mr/Mrs/MissFirst Name.....

Surname

Address

.....

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Subscription £12.00 per member
(Cheques payable to Ross Horticultural Society)

Tips for Photographing Insects

Here are some tips (*from the website www.lightstalking.com*) for those of you who might be thinking of entering the **Members Class 153 - 'Creepy Crawlies'** of the photography division in this years annual show.

1) Have Patience – While many insects such as flies and bees are often easy to spot because they move around so much (making them difficult to shoot), most insects are either slow moving or remain perfectly still. Sometimes this is their normal state of being or they are trying to hide from predators or trap food. If you sit down and stare at a small space of bush, ground or leaves you will often find one or two insects sitting patiently.

2) Hunt Wisely – Each type of insect has a place it prefers to be. While bees and flies like to be on nectar producing flowers. Ants are attracted to anything that dies such as worms or insects. Spiders often live between or on tree branches. Know what you are looking for and go to the most likely places for finding it. Many insects like areas where water collects such as puddles or other stagnant water. Often these can be a rich hunting ground for photogenic insects.

3) Approach Slowly – When you spot an insect to shoot, approach gently so that you don't startle the insect away. The last thing you want is your spider eating a fly to drop his dinner in fright because you rushed up too quickly.

4) Get Up Early – The light is often better in the mornings and can work really well with insect shots. Also many insects are still in the process of waking up so they are moving around slowly. This gives you more time and a much better chance of capturing a good shot.

5) Consider the Background – A good background adds a lot of impact to a macro photograph. Simply by angling yourself so that a colourful leaf or flower is just behind your subject will really make a difference.

6) Shooting Angle – Taking photos of insects from above tends to produce mediocre shots. Get down low to compose your image. Looking into the face of a bug is far more interesting than looking at its back from the top down. For some inspiration and ideas, go onto Google Images and type in '*insect photography*'.

