



RUISLIP
CENTRAL
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

FLORAL ART

HAPPY New Year to all our members and readers.

I'm always excited at this time of year as it is the very start of a fresh new Horticultural year, and it's like starting with a clean white sheet of paper, gardening mistakes of 2016 are wiped out and success can be repeated. Year-on-year improving things just that little bit more. Just a few hints and tips on what you can be doing before I hand over again to Patricia Swindells. Do not walk on frosty lawns, this will cause damage to grass, keep borders clear of dead foliage and leaves as this is a great place for slugs and snails to over winter and remember on warmer days to air that greenhouse. *Now, over to Patricia...*



Just before the Ruislip Central Horticultural Society went in to hibernation for the Winter there was one last event, the **Christmas Floral Art Demonstration**. The aim is to show that using foliage from the garden and simple equipment anyone can attempt a Christmas floral decoration.

As has been mentioned before there is always a sense of anticipation before any event but this year there was a moment of panic when due to family circumstances our demonstrator, Zoe, had to pull out. However, our Chairperson, Margaret McIntosh, stepped in and ensured that our audience had a great experience made more special by the hot mince pies, stollen bites, tea and coffee supplied during the interval.

Our more than capable chair demonstrated the techniques required to produce a simple log decoration for a table. The centre piece was a candle but the foliage was made up of different greenery from the garden. The murmurs of



approval showed that the audience were already thinking of how they might go about producing their own.

The second example (*above left*) used three Amaryllis'. The main technique here was the use of sticks in the hollow stem to ensure that the flowers stayed upright. Again, the foliage was from the garden. This decoration would be better in a hall rather than on a table. The third example of a Christmas decoration was based on a fir branch that could go over a door or on a mantel piece. It was simply decorated with lights and a few silver stars – very effective and taking very little time to complete.

There must be at least one show stopper and the final example fitted that description. Unusually this featured a globe shaped piece of oasis (*above right*) stuck on to a short thick stick. Around the globe short stemmed roses were placed in colour blocks to produce an eye-catching decoration

To the delight of the audience all of the Christmas decorations were in the raffle. Those who were unlucky were at least able to go home with simple instructions on how to produce their own table decorations.

Next year Margaret McIntosh will be running a workshop so that all who attend will be able to take away a finished product – all details will be on the RCHS website nearer the time.

The **AGM will take place on February 21st** with doors opening at 7.30pm, St Lawrence Church Hall. All members welcome for a social of food and drink

Would you like to join the RCHS? For the small cost of £5 please support us and become a member. Why not fill in the application form below and join today.

See you next month.

Warren



**Application for
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
2017**

Please complete and send a CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO R.C.H.S for £5 with a SAE to:
Membership Secretary, RCHS, 28 Stanley Road, Northwood, Middlesex. HA6 1RG.

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone number (Optional):

Email address (Essential):

Have you been a member previously? YES / NO