



RUISLIP  
CENTRAL  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



## LOOKING FORWARD

**A very happy New Year to all readers and a warm greeting to all those members of the RCHS. We at the RCHS Committee hope you have a fantastic horticultural 2016.**

We had a fantastic year in 2015 with more talks and events than ever before, we had **Christine Walkden** from BBC's *One* show kick the year off, and also as well as many talks throughout the year we had three fantastic and successful shows - 2015 saw the most visitors to the shows ever and also the most number of new entries.

*Our society is once again growing, and in 2016 we have some great things lined up...*

We have many speakers throughout the year, we start with **Jim Buttress** from Channel 4 and later on in the year **Pippa Greenwood** from BBC Radio 4 *Gardeners Question Time*. Please remember that becoming a member allows you access to most of these events at a reduced cost (*see below*).

To begin the year, I would like to introduce to you once more **Patricia Swindells** who is the Society's Show Manager, and organiser of our final demonstration event in December last year by Zoe Bulkeley, of "*Floral Art for Christmas.*" With only 17 shopping days to go before Christmas it was very heart-warming to see the number of Ruislip Central Horticultural Society members who chose to opt for a relaxing afternoon watching another member do all the work!

The event was a demonstration of how to make a Christmas Wreath and two table decorations. Zoe Bulkeley, a trained *City & Guilds* Florist as well as a member of the Society, gave her time and materials for free for the benefit of the Society. She is very experienced in running workshops but this was the first time that she had done a demonstration before a large audience. She found herself 'volunteered' and she made the afternoon very enjoyable.

Zoe started the demonstration with the basics of putting the moss around the wire ring assuring the audience that this was simple and easy to do. The audience was

encouraged to ask questions and to come out and get hands on experience. It was very encouraging to see the structure take shape very quickly. The audience appreciated the step-by-step approach and the extra information on what types of foliage were best and the use of colour to bring out the design.

At the end of the hour all could see a finished wreath that everyone in the hall would have been pleased to take home.

Festive treats e.g. warm mince pies, delicious chocolate cakes, gingerbread men, tea and coffee were available and were much appreciated by the audience. The second half of the afternoon was devoted to showing how two simple table decorations could be made either with groups of foliage and accessories. Once again Zoe made it all look very simple.

The final part of the event was the raffle and three lucky people took away the Christmas decorations – everyone was hoping that they held the lucky numbers!

The warm and enthusiastic applause at the end of the afternoon showed how much the audience had enjoyed the whole experience. Some members said that this was the best demonstration that they had attended; others said that it had inspired them to try a Christmas decoration although all agreed that it would take them longer to complete! This was the Society's first afternoon event and was put on in response to the views of the members who took part in the Society survey at the last AGM. The committee will be looking at the possibility of other afternoon events.

**Next month** we will start to hit hard into the garden, and talk about what you can be doing in the month of February, planting and organising. Also we will be bringing back our popular MAILBAG, so please email any gardening or plant related questions you have to [rchstalks@gmail.com](mailto:rchstalks@gmail.com)

*Warren*

### WHY NOT JOIN US IN 2016!

Please remember it is only £5 a year to become a member of the RCHS. Membership includes all the talks and events, PLUS it also gives you a fantastic **10% OFF ALL YEAR ROUND** at Ducks Hill Garden Centre, Ruislip (some items are excluded). Please visit the website for further details at [www.ruisliphorticultural.org.uk](http://www.ruisliphorticultural.org.uk)