

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

We want to wish you all a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS and hope that you can stay warm. It's been unusually frosty for such an extended time and I'm sure that some of you will, like me, have left one or two poor plants out in the cold, thinking there was no urgency.

Well, nothing we can do about it now is there. I managed to get a lot into the greenhouse in the Autumn and found those large collapsible growhouses really useful. They are quite tall and give just enough protection for my slightly less hardy small leaved Salvias. The Love and Wishes family have all gone in the greenhouse though, with the pelargoniums and fuchsias. I always take my dahlias in because they get eaten in the ground. However,



Photo by Catherine Bullock

there's always a mouse that manages to sneak in and take a bit of a bite!. The fox must be hungry as he was roaming the garden in full daylight, taking the fallen bird food and sniffing around the mole hills for some unsuspecting mole! I wonder how many of you have managed to go to a light show in an RHS garden? If you didn't then



Photo by Christine Cox

here are some photos from Leonardslee



Photo by Helen Johnson

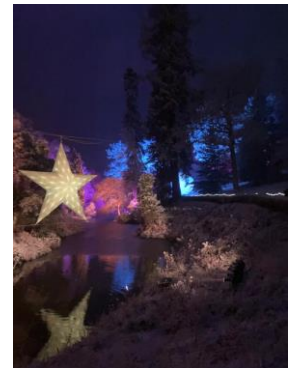


Photo by Helen Johnson

CLUB NEWS

*First of all we would like to welcome Jane Foster to our friendly committee. Jane will be joint membership secretary with Helen Johnson.

*We are into our "winter tasks" as a committee, contacting our advertisers and discount providers and getting our list of distributors ready. The schedule and membership cards are with the printers.

*As explained at the recent AGM, the 2023 membership fee will be increased to £10 to cover ever increasing costs. To help give you even better value for money, we have increased the number of events considerably, and have a very good program for 2023. These events continue to be free for members to attend and are very well received, with your membership fees covering the costs of the speaker, hall hire and drinks. In addition, the discounts of up to 10% that we have negotiated for you with local businesses and garden centres can save you a considerable amount on your gardening costs. To help simplify the membership renewal process, we will be asking for payment in advance this year, rather than relying on our distributors to collect payments from you. Our treasurer, Bob, is setting up a range of options for your payment, one of which we are sure will be convenient for you. He will write to you in early January to explain these.