

Report about meeting of NNHS Affiliated Societies on 17 May 2021.

The meeting fell into 2 sections with Lesley Webdale giving updates followed by a general discussion about the impact of Covid 19 on Affiliated Societies and thoughts about life after restrictions.

1.Lesley.

The monthly Zoom talks have been going well. The next one is on 24.5.21. The talks will be continuing through the rest of the year, although there are hopes of physical events later in the year, too.

Future Meetings

21.6.21. Summer Solstice Zoom Meeting which will include a quiz.

July '21. There will be no Zoom talk but hopefully President's Evening can be held. This has yet to be confirmed as is the actual venue.

23.8.21. Jonathan Mosely, the renowned floral designer, will give a Zoom presentation on flower arranging.

This will be a joint meeting with the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association (RNAA). It will probably mean booking via Eventbrite but details are to follow.

The RNAA is planning for a normal Royal Norfolk Show in 2022 and is very keen to strengthen links with NNHS who have traditionally arranged the Flower Show.

12.9.21. This will be a Members only event possibly including a table show. Exact details, including venue, will be included in the next edition of the "Norfolk Gardener" the NNHS journal. October 2021. Zoom talks will resume. Matt Biggs has been provisionally booked to talk about the History of Kew.

November 2021. Zoom talk by Simon Harrap of "Natural Surroundings".

14.11.21. Late Autumn Show and brief NNHS AGM.

Obviously things like shows depend on Covid restrictions in place at the time.

Future Events.

Lesley is in contact with Ed Pitchers of Avanti Coach Holidays about future trips. At the time of the meeting, Government Guidelines for coach companies were not available.

It is hoped that a coach trip will be available to RHS Hyde Hall on 5 August. Details to follow.

With regard to holidays, including the proposed NNHS one in September, much uncertainty remains with regard to hotels.

2. Affiliated Societies Discussion.

This was focussed on how to get Clubs up and running once Covid restrictions allow. Of particular concern was the anticipated loss of Members. Clubs outlined the efforts they have been making to keep in touch with people.

Examples were

- Plant Sale which raised £574
- Telephoning members to actually speak to them
- Newsletters on club websites and delivered in hard copy to members not using IT
- Now that things are easing, arranging visits to NGS gardens which open for private groups (see yellow book for details of which will do this). A visit has also been arranged to a local flower farm.

- Members opening own gardens and inviting people to call for a cuppa. This was done by each of those opening their gardens sending the invitation to approximately 6 people. This was done last summer and proved very popular.

Looking ahead

There is a general concern about the ageing membership of Clubs and how to refresh Clubs now. The view was that this was an ideal opportunity to take stock and “do different” in future if that looked to be how to keep Clubs alive. Younger gardeners are wanting to learn “how to do” things - Clubs have experienced gardeners so get them to help people learn the basics. “Get your hands dirty” was a clear message. Everyone was clear that effort was going to be needed to revive Clubs. Lesley reminded Clubs that their events can be put on NNHS website. She encouraged each Club to have a nominated person to do this. Publicity is crucial.

Some Clubs have decided to start up again eg Drayton meeting for real on 5 August. Hellesdon have decided to start meetings again, too. They have had to move venue to make this possible but have gone for it! They are also planning to have their Annual Show.

Next Meeting of Affiliated Society Reps - 19 July 2021.