

Unearthed

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PERENNIAL VOLUNTEERS IN LONDON & THE SOUTH-EAST

Issue 5 Autumn 2010

I hope you enjoyed the lovely summer – like many of us it only seems a moment ago and yet the leaves are turning colour and beginning to fall and those nights are definitely drawing in.....

As you may remember we set about our most ambitious plan yet to attend shows and events throughout the region – 27 shows in total, in addition to 8 Special Events and we're not finished yet! – We have 10 wonderful Christmas shows to come; you'll find full details on the back page.

It's been wonderful to see so many of you and some of you several times (you need to be careful – you're starting to enjoy doing this!) and I have a lot of exciting news to share with you. Let's start at the very beginning (a very good place to start!) Our show year began at the Garden Show at Firle Place. From 2011 I'm really pleased to confirm that Perennial will be the official charity for the s

In addition to the stand we will have a Gardeners' Questions Panel, Shopping

Crèche and much more. We will need your help! Easter Weekend 2011 and more details to follow in February's newsletter.



Mike Irwin Cycle Ride Loch Lomond to Wisley Gardens by Bike! That's how Mike Irwin a Plant Area Manager from Loch Lomond decided to raise money for his favourite charity. After arriving in Wisley having covered over 440 gruelling miles, Mike said: "It's been amazing. I've had to cope with horrendous headwinds, a fair bit of rain and some gruelling climbs but by far the most difficult aspect was the very long periods of extreme loneliness. I would happily do it again though - thanks to the many interesting and helpful people I met along the way that helped to turn it into such an unforgettable experience."

We are all in awe of his achievement! Mike, who is 23 and has been working in landscaping and horticulture for 5 years, is

already thinking ahead to his next cycling challenge! Donations in recognition of Mike's achievement can still be made via his Just Giving page, www.justgiving.com/Michael-Irwin.

Hampton Court 2010 What a scorcher! Always the highlight of the year, 2010 was our biggest challenge so far with the inclusion of the GRBS trading stand. We shared the company of over 150 of you through the show. To each and every one of you our sincerest thanks for all your efforts, especially through the soaring temperatures – did anyone still require a “waterproof parasol” from the stand? Our aim was to get sales near to Chelsea levels (our biggest single show) and with your support we achieved more than our highest estimate. A magnificent £8500 was taken on the stand which when added to the donations from the Rose Crèche & Cloakroom your magnificent efforts helped raise over £10,000 from the show.



A special mention must also go to Paul Cooper who organised a team from Unilever to staff all our stands on Show Thursday – Thank you to Unilever and the Team but especially to Paul.

Breaking News.....for all volunteers who have helped at Hampton Court – as a thank you for all you have done for us we are delighted to confirm that we have an exclusive tour of the Palace Nursery arranged for you in May 2011. Please e mail me to reserve your place. The tours are planned for 9th and 10th May but places are restricted. To confirm your place please e mail npalmer@perennial.org.uk. Thank you.

Shows & Events 2010 We often say that “we couldn’t have done this without you” and it is always true, but from 15 shows/events in 2009 (itself a record) to 27 in 2010 we really, really, couldn’t have! As you may already know, GRBS our trading company give all their profits to the charity. We are hoping to put a small show team together for 2011 so you can take a Perennial stand to your local garden show, work with your friends and still raise funds for Perennial. Interested? Please contact me. In 2011 Kathy will be taking on more of the existing shows (she’ll still need your help) and I will be adding some new ones to our plans. We will be at Parham House West Sussex, the New Forest show, (both July) and Edenbridge & Oxted (August Bank Holiday) Full details will be available in **Unearthed** Issue 6 in February 2011.

Special Events – A number of you expressed interest in our Special Events programmes but wanted more details. The events are usually “exclusive” garden visits to some of the greatest gardens all around the UK – you are not restricted to

Thank you for your continued support



London & South East, although we have some of the best gardens here. In 2011, for the first time ever, join us in the French Riviera and enjoy the Menton Lemon Festival and exclusive garden visits with your host Alan Mason.

Back in the region and already in planning for 2011 are Buckingham Palace Garden tour, a summer evening at the Savil Rose Garden, Lady Portsmouth's garden in Hampshire in addition to exclusive tours of the Duke of Wellington's estate and Lady Williams' (F1 fame) Berkshire garden, (still subject to confirmation). We will also be running a rose pruning workshop at Hever Castle and a propagation workshop with 2010 RHS Chelsea Gold medal designer Roger Platts. In 2010 we have extended these events to include Autumn/Winter activities which culminate in a carol concert at Firle in East Sussex with the TV Reverend Peter Owain-Jones. See the website for more details

Perennial announce new Friends Scheme with Toby Buckland - our new Friends Scheme was launched in October with BBC Gardeners World Presenter Toby Buckland as President.

The Friends Scheme replaces our Supporter's Scheme whilst offering a wider range of benefits. You will each receive details of the new scheme with this newsletter. It's a great way to help us and receive some exclusive benefits to

.The Maze Garden delivers for Perennial again..... After last year's record breaking open day for Perennial we were all left wondering how can we ever beat that? So with some anticipation, owners Richard Bushby & Sandra Hamilton opened for an eighth consecutive year for Perennial's benefit. With their incredible team of volunteers around 800 people saw the gardens and treated themselves to tea, cakes and superb local ice cream. This year the open day raised £2271 for Perennial – a truly impressive amount. Our sincere thanks to all the volunteers (friends & neighbours) for all they do and importantly – in the way that they do it, but especially to Richard & Sandra for all the time and effort (over 3000 bedding plants this year alone!) hospitality and generosity. If you haven't been before why not join us in 2011 – details in the February edition.



Thank you for your continued support

Speakers Panel LAUNCH Gardeners' Questions Panel – and they are waiting to come to your local club or society!

Our panels can be hired for the evening with two, three or even more local expert panel members. The members are mainly drawn from our speakers list but other locally well known gardeners will often join us for the evening. If your club or society would enjoy an entertaining and informative evening please do contact me for more information.

Christmas Shows 2010 – If you haven't already got your Perennial Christmas cards and gifts yet we have plenty of chances for you to order them or come and help us at any of the following:

19 -21st November – Garden Show
Christmas Fair Stansted House, Hampshire
27th November – Godalming Christmas Fair

December 4th & 5th – Ham House
Christmas Fair

5th – Alton Christmas Fayre Hampshire
5th – Haslemere Christmas Market
6th – Denbies Christmas Fair Dorking
(evening)
11th & 12th Ham House Christmas Fair
11th – Secretts Christmas Fair Milford
14th – Farnham Maltings Christmas Fair

If you can help with any of the above shows please let me know –
Thank you

Christmas Shop Open NOW

If you are near or in the Leatherhead area you are very welcome to join us at our Christmas Shop which is open every weekday between 10am & 4.30pm

A warm welcome awaits you

Come and see the full range of Christmas Cards, Gifts and Stationary

We finish the year with a Christmas Carol Concert in aid of Perennial at St Peter's Parish Church in Firle near Lewes in East Sussex on Thursday 16th December. Tickets are still available.

Just enough space to wish you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and our best wishes for the coming year. Thank you for your continued support.



And finally, just a chance to let you know why I've been quiet for a little while... In September I became a very proud Granddad. My daughter Amber and new Granddaughter Lara are both doing well and look forward to seeing you at some of the shows in the near future.

Best wishes

Nigel

Thank you for your continued support