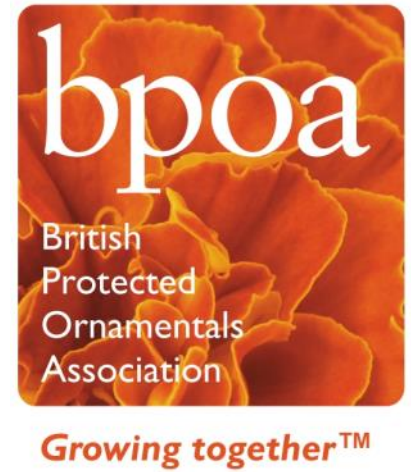




Minette Batters visits our Home Grown display at the Great Yorkshire Show



July 2018

Great Yorkshire Show 2018

Home Grown display wins another prize at the garden show in the Great Yorkshire Show!

Minette Batters, NFU President, visited the prize winning stand on Tuesday 10th July to see the combination of edible and ornamental horticultural produce and chat with the builders of the display which was led by Mike Prest. (also pictured Andrew Clark, Director of Policy NFU)

The object of raising the profile of new plant introductions from BPOA members was discussed as well as the new Scabious varieties under trial and the recently introduced 'Imara' Impatiens which are showing improved resilience to Downy Mildew and robust garden performance.

The display this year was a combi-

nation of edible produce from many growers mainly in the Yorkshire area and 8 growers of ornamental plants in the North and some from the south coast. You can read something about their nurseries in the article Yorkshire Show celebrates 160 years!

<https://www.homegrownplants.org.uk/yorkshire-show-celebrates-160-years/>

Prize-winning display.

The team building the stand pride themselves on their reputation for the quality of the produce they present and the design of the elements within the overall stand. Taking their lead from the Yorkshire NFU campaign 'Pride & Provenance' they displayed the ban-



(Continued on page 4)

Defra Consultation

The Defra consultation which was completed in May, (not the best time to engage with pot and bedding plant growers) was not specifically aimed at the Ornamentals production industry.

Nonetheless, it was a good opportunity to consider the direction and needs of our business. Based on the government 64pp document: 'Health & Harmony – The future for Food, Farming and the Environment in a green Brexit', mention was only made of ornamentals in relation to biosecurity and free trade. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/684003/future-farming-environment-consult-document.pdf

This document raises a number of important issues for the country concerning, amongst other things, land use and technological change as well as training. In turn we have made our response in a shorter

(Continued on page 3)



Would you like to advertise here?

Letter from the Chairman

2018 has not been without its highs and lows.

A great spring saw strong sales lead the season, followed by a long wet period testing the tenacity of the most optimistic growers while we prepared for summer sales. The best bank holiday in May we could have hoped for gave revitalised energy to the Ornamental Sector followed by the ongoing heat wave in the middle of summer putting strain onto gardens and



sales alike. However we can not overlook that during this season of highs and lows, the volume of imported product from Europe has reduced against Home Grown, showing the British flag flies true.

Conference 2019 Plugs & Prop

Following the Technical Committee meeting in June, it was decided to focus the agenda for next year's Conference on the many issues surrounding plug production and cuttings propagation.

Many developments, seen in the recent past in study tours and work from BPPC will be combined with input from international industry speakers - **unmissable!**

While the talk surrounding Brexit continues, Horticulture continue to fight the demands this entails on plant biosecurity and responsible sourcing, labour shortages and the war on plastics.

BPOA work closely through its committees and with the NFU to champion all these topics to ensure your best interests are heard and solutions found.

This has meant while we restructure the Association and make the improvements suggested by you, we have been kept busy allowing us to become more focussed on your needs. We hope you remain as excited as we are to develop a more outward facing association and engaged with the growers.

As ever we remain optimistic by our industry and the changes it brings, attending various seminars and events during the year, talking to growers and associates ensuring we remain up to date on information and sharing this with our subscribers.

True grower optimism never fails, may it continue to be the roots of our passion.

Kersten Catella

Showtime!



Thanks to Ball Colegrave for their excellent Summer Showcase and the lovely garden 'Heatwave', reminding us all of the need to conserve water. Looking forward now to the Kerley & Co variety trials in August!

Living with a hosepipe ban

The offices of **Water UK** was the venue for the meeting held recently to discuss issues of water supply affected by the long dry period this summer. It was an opportunity to get an update on the developing situation and be informed about the imposition of Temporary Use Bans (TUB's= hosepipe bans) that are being planned for the North West area managed by United Utilities and possibly being considered for Yorkshire if the weather conditions do not change shortly.

Rainfall has been plentiful earlier in the year and so ground water levels are good but, due to 50% reduction in early summer rainfall, the western parts of England are showing most shortages currently.

This effect is coupled with higher than average temperatures which again have increased general demand.

The discussion was focussed on the effects on landscape installation (early years) and maintenance also the issues caused by the TUB's on retail trade were referred to which prompted the consideration of the time needed by the trade to prepare for these events. In the long term, growers will have the resources for production but we will need to prepare the retail trade and consumers for short term water shortages and work to develop a more resilient business using technology and plant breeding amongst other tools.

More available on the website:

[https://
www.homegrownplants.org.uk/
blog/drought-gardening-in-
hosepipe-ban/](https://www.homegrownplants.org.uk/blog/drought-gardening-in-hosepipe-ban/)

Simon Davenport

Bursaries & Training

After 5 years of providing the 'Peter Seabrook/ BPOA' bursary to students and trainees coming into the plant production industry, we have reached a point to consider what next? The applications for the bursary have almost dried up and, despite the successes of the recent past and great enthusiasm in the membership, it seems to be less apparent in the academic world. We need to find out why this is happening; we have had some students attending foreign open days with support from the Association and subsequently deciding that a career in horticulture is not for them. This may be inevitable as young people take time to consider their life choices but it demands that we reflect on how we can target the funds more creatively.

Certainly, BPOA needs to get more involved with entrants into the industry and those wishing to advance their careers in order to get more from bursary type schemes. This could entail the development of more long term relationships with training students and apprentices such as that announced by LSA recently.

LSA Charitable Trust

The trust, known for its activities in support of LSA workers is also active in building up future industry leaders.

The LSA Charitable Trust have

bought together a selection of leading horticultural organisations to help shape a Fellowship Scheme which will help cultivate and mature prospective industry leaders, safeguarding our industry's future.

AHDB, British Growers Association, the Horticultural Trades Association, NFU and the Chartered Institute of Horticulture have all pledged their support to the scheme.

The objective of the Fellowship Scheme is to assist developing professionals to become more engaged with the strategic leadership of the commercial horticulture industry.



LSA Charitable Trust
Fellowship Scheme

Throughout the scheme the Fellow will increase their understanding of the role played by trade bodies and their associated committees in the development of industry strategies and communications with government. Knowledge of research currently being undertaken will be gained as will the ability to evaluate the possible impact this will have on the industry. Applications

run until the 17th August 2018.

The programme will accept a maximum of 6 Fellows each year into a programme of activity that will last two years. Bursary availability is subject to the terms and conditions.

"The launch of the LSA scheme is an important step in developing talented individuals to take on key roles within the industry. The industry is dependent for its success on the output from a range of organisations which in turn need grower input. This input ranges from technical to financial, strategic and governance. The LSA scheme is intended to support and develop individuals to take on these roles by giving them the skills and experience to make their time with these organisations rewarding and successful. Just as we would expect to train people to take on roles within a business, the same is equally true for roles outside the business"

Jack Ward, CEO, British Growers

"Horticulture has a really exciting future in post Brexit Britain and the Fellowship will help to ensure that as an industry we have passionate and motivated individuals to lead and shape our future."

Coral Russell, LSA CT Fellowship Scheme Managing Agent

Dates for your diary

Spring Conference & AGM 2019—Tuesday January 16th Stratford

1. **Cut Flower Centre Open Evening** 8th August 2018—Holbeach
2. **Kerley Flower Trials** - Weeks 32-35— Willingham
3. **Four Oaks Show** 4th & 5th September
4. **BPPC North West Study Tour** 5th & 6th September
5. **West Sussex Growers- Automation Conference** 26th October - Bognor Regis
6. **Italian Poinsettia Study Tour 2018:** Week 45/46 - Latina (see p4, details to follow in September)

(Continued from page 1)

Defra Consultation

document incorporating the views and ideas of members via an online survey, which you can read at our website here:

<https://www.homegrownplants.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Defra-Consultation-May-2018.pdf>

GYS 2018



The display features 'Imara' impatiens, Dianthus novelties and 'Scoop' Scabious

(Continued from page 1)

ners for the campaign featuring the great food production within the area and the Home Grown scheme focusing on the local origin of the ornamental plants around the country. This was supported by a leaflet detailing the growers of the plants (kindly supplied by Hortipak); there was also an opportunity to enter a simple draw on the Home Grown Flowers and Plants Facebook page.



Flowers & Plants were supplied by:

- Arden Lea Nurseries
- Avoncross Ornamentals
- Binsted Nursery
- Coletta & Tyson
- Hill Brothers
- National Cut Flower Centre
- Toddington Nurseries

In addition, we were assisted by local nurseries in Knaresborough: Park Nurseries and Moorland Garden Centre. This year a Silver Gilt Medal was won by the group staging the display and the judges commented that the standard had



Hydrangea from Hills



Scabious from Cut Flower Centre

been very high; they wanted to reward the excellent amateur vegetable growers stand this year with the champions trophy.

The display was another opportunity to show consumers and the trade the importance of the Home Grown scheme.



Growing together™



Study Tour Latina-Italy

Poinsettia production in Italy is rather high by European standards and the Italians are the second largest producer in Europe with 17M plants! (For comparison Italy has 60M inhabitants). This autumn there is a study tour planned in either week 45 or 46 to visit Lazzeri (breeder and young plants supplier) in Sabaudia to view the variety trial and other commercial crops, flying to Rome- Ciampino



airport and driving 80k south to Latina which has a large concentration of poinsettia growers. It will be possible to see 6 to 8 growers during the tour. Final information will be available in September from Harry Kitchener.



British Protected Ornamentals Association

PO Box 691

Chichester

PO19 9NA



Email bpoa@btconnect.com

Web www.bpoaonline.co.uk

HG www.homegrownplants.org.uk