

23 February 2016

Dear members and those considering joining IPPS European region,

The European group of horticulturists has been meeting up for over 6 decades, with the committee doing their best in providing forums for us to pursue our interests, to learn and to share experiences.

This year has seen 9 regions from USA, China and Japan welcomed and included within the International website – link: <http://www.ipps.org/>.

You can also access the European site from here, which is regularly updated by our Secretary Graham Bryant, (whose business provides training in land based industry in the South East). He has been an enthusiastic supporter of IPPS for many years and I would like to thank him and his colleagues for their tireless work since last August.

I would also like to thank Kirsty Lane who kept us afloat for 18 months (prior to Graham becoming the Secretariat) and thank her for hanging on, even when there were other pressing commitments.

We are now well placed to look forward to a strong future as a society. The committee is able to accept some resignations from those who have served in their roles beyond the normal term, giving their time and invaluable experience. We are also very pleased to welcome some young members to bring fresh ideas and energy to the committee.

This year we will be meeting for our conference near Telford in the West Midlands and I look forward to meeting as many as can possibly make the time to come; it starts on Wednesday 28 September with a full day of presentations and visits. Again, details are kept up to date on the website; please put one, if not all three conference days in your calendar now.

Area meetings are being arranged with a visit to Northern Germany on 17 June, (organised by the Scandinavian area), to look at field and container growing of trees. Study days are happening, some in association with local growers' groups - such as an evening meeting in March with the Southern Growers Club <http://www.ipps.org/events-regional> . Keep checking the News page!

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Next year the European region is the privileged host for the International conference, when delegates from all of the Regions will come for a pre-conference tour of the South East of England. The tour will be on Sunday 2 July 2017 (due to geographical necessity) before travelling to the Netherlands for the conference, which is Wednesday 12 July to Friday 14 July. There will be another tour, visiting nurseries in Germany, to take us through to the 18th July. This happens in our Region only every eighth year and is a great opportunity to make contacts with like-minded people from around the globe. Please keep looking for the chance to join in for an evening meal with our guests or on a day of visits with them.

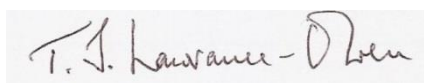
I am keen to see more and more dialogue with young horticulturists hoping to advance their careers in growing. Often there has not been an easy connection between students or career changers and businesses. We are working hard at this and seeing more action now, not least stimulated by the 6 Packer scheme giving 6 young people a place at the conference each year. Details of how to apply for this year will be available on our website in March. Please apply or nominate someone who would benefit.

If you have found it difficult to pay your subscription or have any doubts about how to get an invoice for your business to pay for you – any queries – Graham is happy to guide you at admin@ippseurope.org or on 01243 216278.

Thank you all for your support and commitment to this Society.

Together we can enjoy our shared times and experience.

Kind regards,



IPPS European Region President