

www.ststephengardeningclub.co.uk

St. Stephens Gardening Club



NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2020

HUT OPENS SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Friday 21 February at 7.30pm
St Stephens Parish Centre, Bricket Wood

When/How Birds Sing
Talk by Saffron Summerfield

followed by

Annual General Meeting

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of 2018 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers and Committee
7. Resolutions submitted 1 week prior to meeting
8. Any Other Business

Please do your best to attend – it is your opportunity to have your say and make a difference.

GARDEN STORE

The hut will re-open on Saturday 1st February between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

PEAT FREE COMPOST

As a committee we feel that we should be doing more to promote peat free and organic products. We already stock a number of organic products but haven't stocked peat free compost. As from February we will be stocking a 100% peat free compost. As with all peat free composts there is a premium price to pay, a 50 litre bag will cost £5.70. For those of you who are more cost conscious the traditional peat based multipurpose compost will still be available.

SLUG PELLETS

It is illegal to sell the blue slug pellets (the ones normally available at the hut). They can be harmful to pets and wildlife .

We stopped selling these slug pellets last year but I am pleased to say that we have found a supply of an alternative (unfortunately at a higher price), but competitive with high street prices.

SEED POTATOES

Seed potatoes will be available as from 1st February. **All are certified, high quality, Scottish seed potatoes, free from blackleg, blight and virus diseases.** This year we are offering the following varieties:-

HOMEGUARD- First early. Very early. Good flavour, good boiler. Resistant to scab. Plant late March, harvest end of June.

SWIFT - First early. Very early. Good in pots, short stems. Good disease resistance, Plant late March, harvest June.

NADINE - Second early. High disease resistance. Looks good on the exhibition bench. Very high yields. Plant early April, harvest July/Aug.

CARA - Maincrop. Red eyed tough guy with high yields. Disease resistant. Sow early April, harvest July/August.

CHARLOTTE - Salad/Second early. This French bred, highly popular potato is the salad variety of choice. The smooth skinned tubers have a light yellow flesh which has wonderful flavour and delightful waxy texture. Sow late March, harvest June - Sept.

PRICE - All varieties - £1 per Kg.

Once again we have maintained our low prices for high quality seed potatoes. These prices represent outstanding value at an unbeatable price.

We do not supply quantities of less than 1kg but in response to members requests we are happy to provide a 1kg mixed bag (£1.20) to customer requirements.

Each Kg will contain approx 12 - 16 tubers (depending on variety).

Plant 10cms/4ins deep; 30cms/12ins to 38cms/15ins apart; 50cms/18ins between rows except for Cara, 68cms/27ins between rows.

Onion sets and shallots are also in stock.

Shallots (Golden Gourmet)- £1.20 per 250g, £2.20 per 500g

Onion sets -

(Stuttgarter Giant & Turbo) - 90p per 250g £1.60 per 500g

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

A couple of reminders

RECYCLING OF PLASTIC GARDENING PRODUCTS

Please bring your surplus black/brown plastic gardening products (plant pots, seed trays, pot trays) to the hut and we will arrange to have them recycled. Could I please request that items brought for recycling are reasonably clean.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING US ANY HOUSEHOLD BLACK PLASTIC (FOOD TRAYS ETC). - Failure to comply with this request will result in the scheme being withdrawn.

BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER

Don't forget that when buying fertilisers etc at the hut it would be great if you could bring your own container. This will help us reduce our use of plastic bags. As you know - every little helps.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT **ANNUAL SHOW**

Traditionally the Annual Show has been held in early September. In recent years we have noticed the impact of climate change and by early September most gardens are past their best. So this year not only are we moving the date but we are also moving the show to a new venue.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 22 August, in the main hall at the Greenwood Park Community Centre in Chiswell Green.

This is a major move and we hope that all our members will continue to give their support and ensure its continued success.

40% DISCOUNT ON SEEDS

Order your seeds through the Garden Club and enjoy a huge **40% discount** on the catalogue price of Sutton's Seeds and 10% discount on plants, sundries etc.

Seed catalogues and order forms are available **NOW** from Percy Brazier - Tel: 01727 868541.

Although we are taking orders right through to Spring next year **early orders** will be much appreciated. Our next order is scheduled for 1 February so please try to get your orders in before then. Send cash with order and remember - **No order is too small**, thank you.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

The easy way to pay your membership is by Standing Order. It is easy to set up and once done the bank does all the administration for us and everything happens automatically, not only this year but in future years until you tell us to stop. The most common reason I get for not setting up a Standing Order is that "it's only for £3, so its not worth doing". Can I assure you it is worth doing and it helps us out a lot.

Currently 91 members pay by standing order.

Membership fees of £3 for 2020 are now due. Please pay by standing order - it only takes a couple of minutes to do.

Forms will be available at the AGM, the hut or from Graham Wilson - 01727 872718 or Andrew Keates - 01727 872708.

This income is important to us. We use it to pay many of our overheads such as printing costs, RHS membership, insurance etc.

You will, of course, still be able to pay by cash at the hut or at any of our events.

OPTING OUT

There are 200 members in our Gardening Club
But 60 are frail and elderly.
That leaves 140 to do all the work
But 35 are tired businessmen,
so that leaves 105 to do all the work.
But 40 are busy wives with jobs and children.
That leaves 65 to do all the work
A further 25 have most important outside interests,
so that leaves 40 to do all the work.
But 5 live too far away to help regularly,
so that leaves 35 to do all the work.
But 13 are already on the committee
And they do their fair share.
That leaves 22 to do the rest of the work.
Another 20 say they already do their bit for the club.
So that leaves you and me,
And I'm exhausted.
Good luck to you!

PLEASE OPT IN

Our band of helpers is always in need of additional volunteers. The more hands we have, the lighter the work.

If you can spare a little time during the year to help in any way please let me know (Graham Wilson - 01727 872718) or sign up at the AGM.

ANNUAL SHOW

It seems a long time ago now but September saw another successful show with over 200 exhibits which was very encouraging. A huge thank you to everyone who exhibited for making this another high quality show. Congratulations go to all the cup and trophy winners and indeed to everyone who entered. Congratulations to Park Street C of E School on retaining the Inter-Schools Competition jointly run by the Gardening Club and St Stephen Parish Council, Parish in Bloom. A full list of the winners is on the back page.

Once again we were very grateful to **M. K. Ginder & Sons - Funeral Directors** who again, very generously sponsored this year's show. We would also like to thank the Park Street Camera Club, and the Bricket Wood Art Club for putting on high quality displays of their work and also to Barbara Funnell for her sale of cards for charity. Plus a big thank you to all our helpers. Thanks also to Lily Alley, Burston Nursery, Burston Garden Centre, Aylett's Nursery, Steve Brooks (butcher) and the Co-op (How Wood) for their donations.

CUPS & TROPHIES 2019

Section 1: Vegetables

Gladys Yule Challenge Cup	Graham Wilson
Macmillan Trophy (Best Exhibit)	Sue Featherstone
Top Trug	Derrick Davis

Section 2: Fruit

J.P. Hall Challenge Cup	Sue Featherstone/ Chris Dawson
Bill Stephen Cup (Best Exhibit)	Chris Dawson

Section 3: Rose/Flowers

Barbara Forward Memorial Trophy	Graham Wilson
Green Man Cottage Trophy (Best Exhibit)	Percy/Val Brazier
Top Vase	Graham Wilson

Section 4: Dahlias

St Stephen's Trophy	Alan Baggulay
The Rideout Cup (Best Exhibit)	Alan Baggulay

Section 5: Floral Art

G. E. Clark Floral Trophy	Christine Abingdon
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Section 6: Domestic

Greensleeves Trophy	Jan Castle
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Section 7: Children

Godden Trophy (Best Exhibit)	Isobel Day
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Section 8: Inter-School Competition

Parish in Bloom

Section 9: Novice

Gwen Stephen Trophy	Chris Dawson
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Section 11: Photography

Betty Weller Trophy	Barbara Nowell
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Section 12: Handicrafts

Falconer Cup	Pat Holland
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Highest Points in Show

Joan Ryder Trophy

Graham Wilson

COMING SOON IN 2020

DO YOU ENJOY A DAY OUT

**HATE THE DRIVING
THEN**

JOIN US ON OUR OUTINGS

Sit back, relax and enjoy the view. Visit beautiful gardens and interesting events, letting the coach take the strain. Local pick-up points and attractive pricing make for some great day's out.

In 2019 we will be visiting:

14 MAY - EXBURY GARDENS

What better way to enjoy the spring.

Famous for its rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, you will experience a riot of colour seen nowhere else in the country. This garden, full of dazzling colour in May, has to be seen to be believed

14 JULY - COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK & GARDENS

Something a little different. A combination of wildlife park complemented by an amazing display of planting makes this a great day out. The restaurant can get busy so consider a picnic if the weather is good

9 SEPTEMBER - RHS WISLEY FLOWER SHOW

End the gardening year with a real treat. We visited the Flower Show a couple of years ago and make no excuses for a repeat visit. Some of the displays were "out of this world". A must do visit.

BOOKING FORMS FOR THESE VISITS ARE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

VISIT - EXBURY GARDENS
THURSDAY 14 MAY

This is undoubtedly the finest spring garden in the country. The gardens are on a spectacular 200 acre site near Beaulieu, world famous for the Rothschild collection of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, offering a riot of colour in spring. Let the train take the strain on a 20 minute tour of the gardens (included in the price).

Gardens are fairly level and main paths are suitable for wheelchairs.

The cost of the trip is £33 for members, £36 for non-members, which includes coach, driver tip and entry (inc train ride).

The coach will leave Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.15am, with pick-up points at How Wood shops (8.20am) and Chiswell Green (8.25am), bus stop opposite Three Hammers.

Please detach the form below and return it with a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person or payment in full. FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED BY 23 APRIL.

EXBURY GARDENS - BOOKING FORM

Cheques to be made payable to St Stephens Gardening Club and sent to
Graham Wilson 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2QN or
Andrew Keates 38 Maplefield, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2BG, or hand in at the Trading Hut.

Member Name & No (please print).....

First line of address.....

I will be accompanied by.....

Pick-up point
(Please state Bricket Wood, How Wood or Chiswell Green)

Contact telephone number

VISIT - COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK & GARDENS
TUESDAY 14 JULY

Walk on the wild side. The 160 acre park exhibits over 250 species of animals set in wonderful gardens, demonstrating the diversity of the plant kingdom. With glorious landscapes and amazing planting, the gardens are a real feast for the eyes and a treat for the senses.

The cost of the trip is £30 for members, £33 for non-members, which includes coach, driver tip and entry.

The coach will leave Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.30am, with pick-up points at How Wood shops (8.35am) and Chiswell Green (8.40am), bus stop opposite Three Hammers.

Please detach the form below and return it with a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person or payment in full. FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED BY 23 JUNE.

VISIT - COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK & GARDENS

Cheques to be made payable to St Stephens Gardening Club and sent to
Graham Wilson 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2QN or
Andrew Keates 38 Maplefield, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2BG, or hand in at the Trading Hut.

Member Name & No (please print).....

First line of address.....

I will be accompanied by.....

Pick-up point
(Please state Bricket Wood, How Wood or Chiswell Green)

Contact telephone number

VISIT - RHS WISLEY FLOWER SHOW
WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

This is the flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), which captures the imagination with richly planted borders, rose gardens, rock gardens, model gardens, trial fields etc. Our visit coincides with the RHS Annual Flower Show. There will be Plant Nurseries and Trade stands, the National Dahlia Soc Annual Show (100+ exhibits), floral displays and much more, including access to the RHS gardens.

The cost of the trip is £18 for members, £21 for non-members, which includes coach, entry (inc flower show) and driver's tip.

The coach will leave Bricket Wood Social Club at 9.00am, with pick-up points at How Wood shops (9.05am) and Chiswell Green (9.10am), bus stop opposite Three Hammers.

Please detach the form below and return it with a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person or payment in full. FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED BY 14 AUGUST.

RHS WISLEY GARDEN SHOW- BOOKING FORM

Cheques to be made payable to St Stephens Gardening Club and sent to
Graham Wilson 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2QN or
Andrew Keates 38 Maplefield, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2BG, or hand in at the Trading Hut.

Member Name & No (please print).....

First line of address.....

I will be accompanied by.....

Pick-up point

(Please state Bricket Wood, How Wood or Chiswell Green)

Contact telephone number

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Graham Wilson, 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street, 01727 872718
Secretary Pat Holland, 8 Wych Elms, Park Street, 01727 568057
Treasurer Andrew Keates, 38 Maplefield, Park Street, 01727 872708
Committee Colin Leach, 31 Newlyn Close, Bricket Wood, 01923 673019
Elizabeth Upton, 51 Mount Drive, Park Street, 01727 872150
Derrick Davis, 10 Wych Elms, Park Street, 01727 873657
Bill Whitehead, 19 Spooners Drive, Park Street, 01727 873309
Pat Solomons, 12 Woodside Road, Bricket Wood, 01923 671277
Percy/Val Brazier, 9 Glevum Close, St Albans, 01727 868541
Chris Dawson, 135 Mount Pleasant Lane, Bricket Wood 01923 404171
Suzanna Featherstone, c/o 63 How Wood, Park Street, 07710983036
Martyn Dadswell, 59 Orchard Drive, Park Street, 01727 872127