

## Dates for the Diary

**Tonight's talk**  
(20th October)

**Murder, Magic and Plant Potions from your Garden**  
by Marion Stainton

*From Arrow tip poison to witches flying ointment, Marion will give us a fascination alternative view to the plants we have in our gardens.*

**Tues Nov 17th**

**AGM Followed by "Winter Colour Inside and out"**  
by John Mason

*After the business of the evening, Jon Mason will show us some plants to illustrate winter colour in the garden and how to bring some colour indoors for the darkest months.*

**No Meeting In December**

**2016**  
**Tues Jan 20th**

**Members Social Evening with Finger Buffet plus in-house entertainment.**

*Bring a plate of food to share and your thinking caps, there will be quizzing! Time to renew your membership too. Wine and soft drinks will be available, as will tea and coffee.*

**Tues Feb 19th**

**Snowdrops the Harbingers of Spring**  
by Earnest Bratt

*We start the new gardening year with this much anticipated talk about snowdrops we missed last year when Mr Bratt had to postpone to undergo surgery.*

### Used Postage Stamps - British and Foreign

Many thanks to all of you who saved used postage stamps for me over the past year. Please keep up your good work. I sort them and pass them on to raise much needed funds for the Acorns Children's Hospice. If you have any used stamps I shall be more than grateful to receive them at any of the monthly meetings. Ideally they should be trimmed with a 1/2" margin all round.

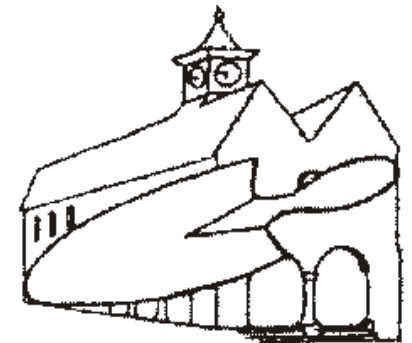
*Many thanks Bridget Forsdike*



**Ross-on-Wye**

*Horticultural Society*

(Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society)



**Newsletter No. 71 October 2015**

### 2015 Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show

Sincere thanks to all of you who helped with the show. Despite fewer entries this year the quality was as good as ever. Many congratulations to all the prize winners. Your committee will be discussing in detail the arrangements for next year, so please come to the **AGM**, we would like to hear your views - your opinion is important to us.

### Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th November

With this newsletter comes a nomination form for next year's officers and committee, please think about putting a name or two forward.

The committee meets every first Tuesday of the month at the Larruperz at 7.30pm. Even if you only join us for a year, please give it some serious thought. It is also your chance to learn of next year's talks in advance of the programme being printed.

This year's AGM will be followed by a short talk on:

**Winter Colour, Inside and Out** - by Jon Mason.



## The Future of the Show ?

As you are aware, the society celebrated its 80th Annual Show this year.

What you may not be aware of is several members who organise and run the show were waiting for this milestone to pass before expressing their wish to retire from their duties for the show. We thank them for many years of hard work and dedicated service to the society for which we are grateful.

It is therefore, a matter of urgency that we find members to replace them. I have on several occasions, the last AGM, at meetings and at the last show asked for volunteers, both from members of the society and members of the public, but unfortunately no offers have been forthcoming. So it is with regret that we have reached this "last chance" situation.

There will be a discussion about the future of the show at this year's AGM. So please attend and let your voice be heard to support and help the society resolve this issue. If there are no firm commitments of help, the committee has decided after much discussion and soul searching that the show will not be able to go on.

It is not my wish to see the end of the show, especially on my watch. So I will finish by repeating what I said in my inaugural chairman's address and misquote John Kennedy, "ask not what your society can do for you but rather what you can do for your society".

**Philip Dennis  
Chairman**

Mr/Mrs/Miss .....First Name.....

Surname .....

Address .....

.....

Post Code.....Telephone No.....

Email address.....

Subscription £12.00 per member  
(Cheques payable to Ross Horticultural Society)



## Autumn Lecture

### Barnsdale after Geoff by Nick Hamilton

The committee decided to have a special meeting, despite the withdrawal of the RHS financial support for a Regional Lecture. Nick Hamilton, son of the revered TV gardening celebrity Geoff Hamilton, was invited to speak about the garden at Barnsdale, in Rutland, which he developed with his late father.

When he inherited the eight acres 19 years ago Nick's policy was to develop them as a visitor attraction. Today, four full-time gardeners and two apprentices are employed, and 28,000 to 29,000 paying members of the public flock each year to see the 38 gardens linked by landscaped borders. Geoff's belief that his gardens should be achievable by anyone is sustained in the philosophy of his son, Nick.

He spoke in detail with the help of many glorious photographs about Barnsdale, which is said to depress men because it gives women too many ideas about what they want done in their own gardens!

Michael Leech, a past chairman of our society, proposed the vote of thanks. This was particularly appropriate as he was a former colleague and friend of Geoff Hamilton.

Since the meeting we have begun to ask if there would be sufficient interest to arrange a trip to Barnsdale, say, in August 2016. The idea would be to go by coach, probably at a weekend, and spend one or two nights in an hotel in the Oakham area. Please may I have your thoughts and reactions to this.

**Thank you.  
Heather Lovett**



### Reminder

*Subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2016. **£12 per member.***

*If you are paying by post please include a stamped addressed envelope (minimum size 6" x 4½").*

*Fill in the coupon on the left and send it to our Membership Secretary,  
Mrs C Dickson, The Little House, Sussex Avenue, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5AJ.*