

TILEHURST HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER: APRIL - JUNE 2014

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24 April – Talk by Richard Sandford in the Village Hall at 7.45pm
26 April – Bean Pole Day at Caversham Court
29 May – Plant Exchange in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
7 June – League of Friends Fete in Victoria Rec.
21 Apr & 5 May – (Bank Holidays) Gratwicke Rd Shed open 10.00 – 12.00

Annual memberships are now due for renewal!

AGM – So how did it go, well no-one stepped forward to take on the Chairman role, was that a surprise, well no! Luckily Joan Macphee agreed to continue for another year, but what then! Also Lynne Jones had advised that she would resign at the end of the year. I hate to keep pressing this point, but the THA is dependent upon its members actually taking part in its running. Now I do realise that a lot of members have working commitments, but so did I when I joined the committee in 1997 and became Secretary in 2000. Anyone interested in becoming General Secretary or Chairman then please contact me. Nigel Turner was confirmed as a committee member and Christine Cook elected as the new Talks Organiser. The AGM was followed by a buffet and a quiz, both of which were fully appreciated.

Talks – 24 April and a Talk by Richard Sandford titled 'Nettles, Comfrey & Food Preservation'. Not only will he be telling some of his secrets on how to organically grow great vegetables with anti-cancer properties, but also how to maximise your crop by preservation. Monty Don said that Richard's vegetables were the finest that he had ever seen!!!

Trips 21 June: a trip to Weymouth a beautiful seaside with lots to do and see - £17.

Pickup points – Walnut Way 8.30am, Valpe St, Reading 8.45am.

Returning from Weymouth at 4.30pm

19 July: Beaulieu – £28. This includes admission to Palace House & Gardens, Beaulieu Abbey, National Motor Museum, World of Top Gear, Bond in Motion, Secret Army Exhibition and, rides on the Vintage Bus, Monorail and Wheels!

Pickup points as above.

Bean Pole Day – 26 April, Caversham Court Gardens. We will be having a stall again at this ECONET event, and would welcome any plant contributions, especially herbs & vegetables; if you plan to attend – open 10.00am to 3.00pm – then just bring them along, if not then drop them off before the day at 24 Wendover Way or 33 Victoria Rd. Please do your best to label the plants. If you

Trading Sheds - Opening times -

Sunday - Gratwicke Road: January (from the 3rd Sunday) February, October & November 1000 - 1100hrs - March- September 1000 - 1200hrs - December closed.

Saturday - Oak Tree Road: February & September - 1400 - 1500hrs, March – July 1400hrs – 1600hrs. Closed all other times and for the whole month of August.

could spare an hour or so to help at the stall, that would be appreciated – phone Pauline ☎9453658 or email tilehurstha@gmail.com.

Plant Exchange Evening – 29 May in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Do come along, entry is just a plant(s) and 50p. Your excesses are another person's joy & delight, the recycling of plants is a wonderful thing. In case you haven't been before then this is what happens – you are given a numbered ticket when you pay your 50p, you put your plant(s) out on tables, all tickets are drawn and when your number is called you go and select the plant of your choice. The tickets keep being redrawn until all plants have been taken. Half way through there will be a break for refreshments; now what could be nicer. May be some gardening books & DVDs for sale – if I can remember!

League of Friends of RBH Fete – 7 June in Victoria Rec. The fete actually opens between 11 – 4, but the setting up of stalls commences much earlier and we shall be there at 8am to start doing this. Offers of help during the day would be much appreciated, for setting-up, selling or dismantling. Plants for sale would also be most welcome, if you could bring them along before 10am, would be good or if you cannot make it on the day then drop them off with me at 33 Victoria Rd. Give me a call or e-mail if you can help out.

Summer Show – 2 August. Just a little reminder about the Show, the main classes should be the same as last year, so get to it, decide what you are going to enter and start sowing, propagating, pruning etc.. You may be able to pick up some pointers from the Talk on the 24 April! Or pick up some likely plants to nurture at the Plant Exchange. Don't forget that for the vast amount of £2 you could sponsor a class at the Show. Forms will be available in the Trading Sheds.

Ray Broughton Leaflets – At his last talk Ray agreed to e-mail us some of his information leaflets, as long as we sold them and any profits went to a Charity. The leaflets are now in the Sheds and can be purchased for the grand price of 50p each, and the profits, after printing costs have been deducted, will go to THRIVE.

Aprons – We have purchased some aprons for use by helpers on the plant stalls and volunteers at the Gratwicke Rd Shed. Please make use of them, both to protect your clothing and to make it easier for customers to recognize our helpers.

Discounts – SimplyGro.co.uk has offered a 10% discount to THA members with offer code TILEHURST10%. To check all our discounts go to our web page. RHS Gardens reduced price entry card – 30% discount for THA Member + 1 on entry price except Wisley on Sundays is held by me. Telephone or e-mail to arrange to borrow,

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