

TILEHURST HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER: April–June 2015

Dates for your Diary

Monday 6 April	Easter Monday Shed Opening 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon Gratwicke Road
Saturday 25 April	Beanpole Day Plant Stall at Caversham Court Gardens
Thursday 30 April	Talk by Paul Cumbleton - A Miscellany of Tips, Tricks & Technology 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall
Monday 4 May	May Bank Holiday Shed Opening 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon Gratwicke Road
Thursday 28 May	Plant Exchange 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall
Sunday 31 May	Walk 2.00 p.m. meet Sulham Estate (TBC)
Saturday 6 June	RBH League of Friends Fete Plant Stall at Victoria Rec.
Saturday 6 June	Trip to Eastbourne

Membership fees for 2015 are now due!

AGM The AGM was a little strange as this was the first AGM without Lynne Jones as secretary since 2000. After thanking our many helpers particularly those behind the scenes workers, our chairman, Joan Macphee, used her chairman's address to pay tribute to Lynne's stewardship as secretary. When Lynne took over as secretary the future of the association looked very uncertain but Lynne's commitment and enthusiasm to the Association means that it is stronger now than when she took up the reins. Pictures of the presentation made to Lynne can be seen on the website. With Lynne's retirement there needed to be some reorganisation of the committee. Pauline Sinclair was elected as Secretary, Sylvia Hickman as Membership Secretary & Chris Turner to the Committee. Joan Macphee is retiring as Chairman at the next AGM, so we need to recruit a new Chairman. Please contact either Joan or Pauline if you would be prepared to undertake this vital role. Many thanks to Terry for his extremely enjoyable quiz and to the Committee for the buffet.

Beanpole Day 25 April at Caversham Court Gardens 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. This ECONET event is now a firm fixture in our calendar and we will have a Plant Stall for the fifth year. We welcome any plant contributions - vegetables and herbs do especially well at this event. If you plan to attend, then just bring them along, if not, then drop them off before the day at 24 Wendover Way. Please do your best to label the plants. If you could spare an hour or so to help at the stall, or if you are able to help us transport plants, etc., that would be appreciated – phone Pauline ☎ 9453658 or email tilehurstha@gmail.com.

Talks Paul Cumbleton will give a talk in the Village Hall at 7.45 p.m. on 30 April entitled **A Miscellany of Tips, Tricks & Technology** – Paul has a background in RHS Wisley, now retired. His talk will cover such aspects as compost making; mixes that do what we want them to; why we should use a conductivity meter; light & shades & much more. More a practical demo than a slide show!

Plant Exchange 28 May in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Do come along for a social evening and leave with some plant bargains! Entry is just a plant (or more) and £1.00. Your surplus plants may be just what someone else is looking for.

RBH League of Friends Fete The League of Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital Fete is on Saturday 6 June at Victoria Recreation Ground, Armour Road, Tilehurst. The Event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with set up from 8 a.m. Offers of help during the day would be much appreciated as would the donation of any spare plants you may have for sale. Please contact Sylvia Hickman on membership.tilehurstha@gmail.com if you are able to help set up/take down, man the stall, donate plants or any combination of the four. Thank 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.

Tables We have bought some new, lightweight but extremely strong, blow moulded vinyl tables for our Summer Show and Plant Stalls. We are offering our old tables to members in exchange for a small donation to the THA funds. The tables are 8' x 2' and consist of a wooden table top and two trestles. If you are interested in one (or more) of these tables, please email tilehurstha@gmail.com or call in at the Gratwicke Road shed between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon on Sunday. I'm afraid we can't offer to transport them. First come, first served!

Gazebo Hire If you're planning a summer party or event, don't forget that we hire out our gazebo to members. In addition, our new tables are also available for hire. For further details, please email tilehurstha@gmail.com or ☎ 9453658

Trading Shed News Due to an excessive price rise our supplier no longer stocks Vitax Q4. We have obtained an alternative, Flower and Vegetable Fertilizer, which is now in stock.

Trips Once again, Edna has arranged an interesting programme of day trips, so please do support her. All are welcome, including friends and family.

6 June	Eastbourne £17.50 p.p.
4 July	Hampton Court Flower Show £35.50 p.p., including the entry fee of £21.50 p.p.
12 September	RHS Flower Show, Wisley £16 p.p.

☎ Edna Shepherd - 9677025

Summer Show It is not too late to start planning your entries into the summer show on 1 August in the Village Hall. The schedules should be available from early July from the sheds or from Tilehurst Library. Schedules will also be available to download from the THA website.

Walk THA member, Linda Bostock, a practising Medical Herbalist is conducting a Herb walk for members of the association. The walk will take place on the 31 May at 2 p.m. The most likely venue will be a field on the Sulham Estate, but we will confirm the meeting point nearer the time. We will be limited to 25 people and please be aware that you will undertake the walk at your own risk and neither THA nor Linda will accept any liability for any loss, damage or injury you may incur on the walk. The walk is free of charge and will last about an hour. We will look at and talk about medicinal plants growing in the countryside. Herbal Medicine is our most ancient form of medicine and it is fascinating to see the plants that can help us with our health growing on our doorsteps!

You will need to wear suitable walking shoes/boots as the fields can be rough and muddy. If it is a bit drizzly, wear wet weather gear. If it is absolutely pouring we will have to re-arrange.

If you would like to come on the walk please email tilehurstha@gmail.com or call 0118 9453658 leaving your name, telephone number & the number of walkers.

Aquilegia Downy Mildew As your aquilegias waken up this spring, please do keep an eye on them for signs of Aquilegia Downy Mildew, a very real threat to the Aquilegia (granny bonnets) so common in our cottage gardens. The holder of the national collection, Carrie Thomas of Touchwood Plants has put together a useful guide to the symptoms and possible control of this infection, typified by yellow patches on the leaves followed by fluffy white growth on the underside of the leaves, and distorted flowers. More information is available on her website <http://www.touchwoodplants.co.uk/aquilegia-downy-mildew.htm> and that of the RHS <https://www.rhs.org.uk/Advice/Profile?PID=866>

Next Newsletter If you have any items you wish to have considered for publication the deadline for the next edition will be Thursday 11 June. E-mail newsletter.tilehurstha@gmail.com

Chairman	Joan Macphee	Tel	9414873
Secretary	Pauline Sinclair	Tel	9453658
Membership Secretary	Sylvia Hickman	Email	membership.tilehurstha@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Peter Chesworth	Tel	9429066
General Email	tilehurstha@gmail.com	Email	newsletter.tilehurstha@gmail.com
Website	www.tilehurstha.org.uk		