



Tilehurst Horticultural Association

Newsletter April – June 2017

Dates for your Diary

17 April	Easter Monday Bank Holiday Gratwicke Road Shed open 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon
22 April	Beanpole Day Plant Stall at Caversham Court Gardens
27 April	Talk by Heather Skinner "National Garden Scheme" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall
1 May	May Bank Holiday Gratwicke Road Shed open 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon
25 May	Plant Exchange 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall
3 June	RBH League of Friends Fete Plant Stall at Victoria Rec.
5 August	Annual Show in the Village Hall



Annual General Meeting

This was held on 9 February. Whilst the turnout was not quite as high as for the 75th celebration in 2016 it was still good. It was rather pleasing that the officers' reports were all of good news, overall the Association is in good health. Two officers had been appointed during 2016 and both appointments were ratified – Maria Webb as Trading Secretary and Sylvia Hickman as Talks Organiser.

Radio Berkshire "The Peach Quest"



Four of our members took part in the Radio Berkshire show which was broadcast on 28 January. In the show the "panel" and listeners help Andrew Peach solve clues to a hidden location. I am pleased to say that our team successfully solved the clues and won the challenge. The team who took part was comprised of Terry Bryant, Sylvia Hickman Christine Imber and Jenny Cottee and they are pictured here with the programme host, Andrew Peach.

Beanpole Day

This is the first outside event of the year. As our treasurer noted at the AGM plant sales are now one of our major sources of income. This is why we have adopted the slogan "Plant a Tray for the THA!" By the time the newsletter is out it may be too late to plant specifically for Beanpole Day but perhaps when pricking out you could pot up some of your spare seedlings for sale. If you have any plants to donate could you bring them along to Pauline Sinclair at 24 Wendover Way before the day or contact her on 9453658 or email tilehursttha@gmail.com. Any help to man the stall on the day would be appreciated: please contact Pauline for further details.

Trading Sheds - Opening times -

Sunday - Gratwicke Road: February, August, September, October & November 10.00 – 11.00hrs

March- July 10.00 – 12.00hrs - December and January closed.

Saturday - Oak Tree Road: March – July 14.00hrs – 16.00hrs .September – 14.00 – 15.00hrs, Closed all other times and for the whole month of August.

RBH League of Friends Fete

The League of Friends Fete is on Saturday 3 June 2017 at the Victoria Recreation Ground, Armour Road, Tilehurst and is open to the public from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. It is the League of Friends' 60th anniversary this year and they have asked if we can decorate our stalls with shimmer and sparkle. Any ideas as to how we could do this would be appreciated. Plants for sale are as always very welcome and if you can help out on the stall during the day this would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sylvia Hickman.

National Open Garden Scheme

The Berkshire and Buckinghamshire County booklets are now in large garden centres and libraries.

The Garden Visitors Handbook 2017 is also available and you can get a copy by following the link:

<http://www.ngs.org.uk/shop-online/category.aspx?id=1>

Angela O'Connell who is the Assistant County Organiser, Berkshire NGS said -

"Berkshire NGS gardens raised £62,211 last year which is a 2% increase on the previous year. So thank you for visiting our gardens and eating so much cake!

This year is our 90th anniversary. If you are on Facebook do look out for "Berks National Garden Scheme" to keep in touch with the latest news and to see some super photos of our Berkshire gardens. For Twitter fans follow @BerksNGS."

THA Annual Show

It is not too early to start thinking about your entries for this year's show on Saturday 5 August. There will be a couple of changes to the schedule so it would be advisable to scrutinise the schedule carefully when it is available. Prize money and entry fees have not changed for many years so there will be a slight increase from this year. The prize money has been increased to 1st prize £2; 2nd prize £1 and 3rd prize 50p. Entry fees will be 40p

for adults and 20p for children. Class sponsorship will be £2.50 per class.

Sheila Cox has indicated that she would like this to be her last year as Show Secretary, so a replacement is sought to learn the ropes in 2017. If you are interested in taking on this role please speak with our secretary. Alternatively, if you don't want sole responsibility perhaps you would like to be part of a team to organise the Show.

Plant Exchange

25 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 attractive and labelled plants are sure to be a hit with your fellow plant exchangers.

Trading Shed

As previously mentioned we are pleased to confirm that Maria Webb is our new Trading Secretary – we wish her well.

Nigel Turner, and the committee would like to thank all of the old and new cashiers and helpers for volunteering. Without them there would be no sheds!

Another point from the AGM was volunteers are required for unloading the deliveries at Gratwicke Road – this is a physical job so some fitness is required.

A final note on the shed is that, as part of our trading terms and tax dispensation, it is necessary that members produce their annual or life membership card every time they shop at the sheds – please bear with our volunteer helpers when they ask for sight of your card.

Talk Programme

The final talk of this cycle will be on 27 April. A sneak preview of the 2017/2018 season promises another highly scintillating series of talks. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

Copy for the next newsletter should be received by Friday 16 June 2017.

Chairman

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Membership Secretary

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