

TILEHURST HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER: JANUARY - MARCH 2014

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 19 Jan – Gratwicke Road Trading Shed opens from 10 – 11 am.
- 30 Jan – Talk by Ray Broughton on 'The Greenhouse & Vegetables
- 1 Feb – Oak Tree Rd trading shed opens from 2 – 3pm
- 13 Feb – AGM
- 27 Mar – Talk by Michael Keith-Lucas on 'Origins of Garden Flowers'.



A very Happy New Year to you all, and let us hope for a good growing year!

AGM – 13 February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Victoria Road. Oh, not again! A boring AGM, do I really want to go! – Isn't that what you are thinking? Of course you want to go, the THA is yours, see how it is progressing, put forward your ideas and views, and have your say! Get involved, join the committee, fancy taking on one of the Officer posts, then put your name forward to me and let's see where it goes. There are the added attractions of a buffet – any contributions gratefully accepted – and a light hearted quiz.

Think about it, if the THA wasn't around, where would you get free winter talks, gardening supplies at very good prices, the opportunity for trips, and a lot of good advice re vegetables, garden plants etc. Not that I am decrying the Garden Centre staff, but do they actually have the experience!

Talks – 30 January sees the return of Ray Broughton who will talk on making the most of your Greenhouse when growing vegetables, and good greenhouse management. So you may not have a greenhouse, but with Ray, he is always willing to expand into a variety of subjects which gives you a chance with your questions and he is a good speaker! – 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

27 March and Michael Keith-Lucas makes a return to talk about the Origins of Garden Flowers. How much do you know about where our plants came from and the plant hunters who found them? A knowledgeable speaker – do you remember pollination and sex! – In plants that is! Let alone Climate Change and effects on our gardens. – 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

Trips – Once again Edna has produced a programme of trips for 2014. Please do support her; I know that summer seems a long way off and the idea of 'committing' this early a little risky, but you would have something to look forward to! Have a think about it and then, at the AGM let Edna know.

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.

21 June: by special request, 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.

6 September: London Zoo - £34. This is being put forward by special request and may seem expensive, but the entrance fee is £20 (this includes a conservation fee), and when was the last time you went there? Well worth a visit, especially as there was a very successful television programme. The coach has been arranged, but we will see how the tickets sell – so, take the opportunity and book! By coach is so much easier than train, underground and then walking!

The Royal Berkshire/Newbury Show 2014 – The THA is planning a group entry in the Inter Village Horticultural Competition in September 2014. For further information, please contact – Pauline Sinclair ☎ 0118 9453658 or Claire O'Brien ☎ 07903 269554 or e-mail tilehurstha@gmail.com. All volunteers welcome!

Odd little snippets – just to fill up the page!

13 January – St. Hilary's Day: Wrap up warm and protect susceptible plants from frost – this is supposed to be the coldest day of the year.

22 January – St. Vincent's Day: Remember on St. Vincent's Day if the sun his beams display for 'tis a token, bright and clear, of prosperous weather all the year.

25 January – St. Paul's Day: In the 16th and 17 centuries the nation was called upon to pray for a bright sunny day. A dull day was supposedly an omen of war and disaster.

If in January, the sun much appear March and April pay full dear.

2 February – Candlemas: It is said to be the day the hedgehog leaves its winter hibernation to look at the weather.

14 February – St. Valentine's Day: According to folklore, this was the day on which birds chose their mates, and this is probably the origin of sending love tokens and messages in the name of St. Valentine.

24 February – St. Matthias's Day: On this day it was believed that the trees threw off their winter sleep. As the great trees began to stir themselves, the cottagers could look forward to the beginning of spring and the promise of better days ahead.

2 March – St. Chad's Day: Sow peas and beans, be the weather good or bad.

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