

TILEHURST HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER: JANUARY – March 2015

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 Jan – Gratwicke Road Trading Shed opens
29 Jan – Talk by Mike McGibbon in Village Hall at 7.45pm
7 Feb – Oak Tree Road Trading Shed opens
12 Feb – AGM in Village Hall at 7.30pm
26 Mar – Talk by Ray Broughton in Village Hall at 7.45pm

AGM – 12 February 2015 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Doesn't the year pass quickly, it seems not that long ago that I was trying to entice you all to go to the 2014 AGM, yet here we are again. As I have advised previously, I leave the committee at the end of December 2014, and the rest of the committee have made alternative arrangements to cover all the tasks that I had taken on over the years; but, the THA belongs to you; take an interest, have a say in how you wish it to be run, agree or disagree, volunteer, it is entirely up to you, the members and owners of the THA. To give some indication of the main changes proposed - who and what:

Pauline Sinclair – General Secretary
Sylvia Hickman – Membership Secretary
Peter Chesworth – Editor/publisher of the Newsletters
Nigel Turner – Staffing of the Trading Sheds.

To find out the rest, you need to attend! As an inducement, there will be the usual Buffet, in the main supplied by the committee, but am sure that if you would like to 'bring and share' some food and/or drinks they will be more than happy to accept. A light hearted quiz will follow to allow you to show your gardening prowess!

Annual Summer Show – 1 August 2015. Too early to give details but, a new class – craft/ knitting – will be introduced. What better way to spend these cold, dark evenings, when you cannot get out into the garden/allotment, than to turn your hand to this; no specific garment is required, be it toy, fashion or 'who knows', up to you. Please do support this, it is many years since something new has been introduced and it deserves to be given a chance, otherwise nothing progresses and it all just 'stays the same' and stagnates.

Talks – January 29th brings us Mike Mc Gibbon, a new speaker to the THA, the subject 'Unusual Herbaceous Plants', but he will adjust his talk to what you raise; so come with your questions, but do know what your soil type is and what aspect you have and want to plant; use the knowledge that he has to your benefit. I have

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.

never done this, just usually buying plants that I liked the look of and didn't have – so many have met their demise in my garden!

March 26th brings Ray Broughton back, what a wonderful speaker and full of knowledge that he is willing to share. His subject this time is 'Seasonal Work in the Fruit and Vegetable Garden'. If only the weather and the seasons turned out how they should! So many gardening instructions are given for the seasonal average, but what if it isn't, Ray may have an answer.

Trading Sheds – The sheds are well stocked and await your visits; however let's be basic about this, the Trading sheds are run by volunteers; without them we could not open. Have lost some volunteers this year, and have no new volunteers! Come on, it only needs you to give 2 hrs a year – to be honest 6 would be better! Either in Gratwicke Road on a Sunday morning or Oak Tree Road on a Saturday afternoon; either as a cashier or a helper, not a lot to ask; it is after all your Association. If you are happy to spend more in Garden Centres etc., then up to you, but who really would. At least in the Trading Sheds you can get the quantities you require – as long as not less than ½ kilo, our scales cannot cope with less! I have seen ½ kilo of grass seed sell in other outlets for more than 1 kilo in ours, and let's not talk about fertilisers and chemicals and, our canes are usually of a much better quality. Use it or lose it, help run it or you may lose it.

Trips – The following trips for 2015 have been arranged by Edna Shepherd, and, if you are interested please give her a call ☎ 0118 9677025

6 June – Eastbourne – cost £17pp. Leaving Valpy St. at 8.45am and Walnut Way at 9am

4 July – RHS Hampton Court Flower Show- cost £35pp which includes the entry fee of £21.50pp. Leaving Walnut Way at 9.15am and Valpy St at 9.15am.

12 September – RHS Flower Show, Wisley – cost £16pp. Leaving Walnut Way at 9am and Valpy St at 9.15am.

Royal Berkshire Show - We achieved considerable success with our entry in the Inter-Village competition at the 2014 Royal Berkshire Show, coming second at our first attempt.

Everyone who took part this year had great fun and is keen to enter again in 2015, but we would like to encourage more members to join in! We will be meeting in March to kick off our entry for 2015. If you would like to find out more then please watch out for details or contact Pauline Sinclair (0118 9453658) or Claire O'Brien (07903 269554).

In the meantime, if you are thinking of growing chrysanthemums or dahlias, our more experienced growers have identified Halls of Heddon as a good place to begin. They offer free growing guides with details on "stopping" & "disbudding"; a wide variety of plants; online sales <http://www.hallsofheddon.co.uk/>; and a mail order catalogue (email: enquiry@hallsofheddon.co.uk or telephone: 01661 852445 to request a catalogue) Happy Growing!

Secretary & Editor

Miss L V Jones ☎9425245

E-mail: tilehurstha@gmail.com

Web Page: www.tilehurstha.org.uk

Acting Chairman

Mrs J Macphee ☎ 9414873

Membership

Mrs P Sinclair ☎9453658