



Tilehurst Horticultural Association Newsletter January – March 2017

Dates for your Diary

26 January	Talk by Gill Franklin "The Apple Orchard" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall
5 February	Gratwicke Road Shed re-opens 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. (more details below)
9 February	AGM & Social Evening 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall
4 March	Oak Tree Road Shed re-opens 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. (more details below)
5 March	Gratwicke Shed opens 10.00 – 12 noon
30 March	Talk by Geoff Hawkins "Growing Vegetables in a Small Garden" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND SUPER GROWING SEASON IN 2017

Membership – Renewal Reminder

The membership year is from January to December, so renewal subscriptions are now due for 2017. You can renew at the Trading Sheds or at our monthly talks. If you have any queries please contact the Membership Secretary, Sylvia Hickman.

AGM – 9 February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

As usual the AGM will be held in the Village Hall. This year the AGM will be followed by a buffet and a chance to socialise with like-minded people, including a light-hearted quiz. Not on the same scale as last year's 75th AGM celebration maybe, but it still promises to be an enjoyable evening. Please come along and take the opportunity to influence the activities of your organisation.

Trading Shed Opening Hours

Due to a shortage of helpers, the Committee has reluctantly decided to re-open both Trading Sheds slightly later in the spring of 2017 following the winter break. The Gratwicke Road Shed will open for trading on Sunday, 5 February 2017 from 10.00 a.m. until 11.00 a.m. (10.00 a.m. until 12 noon from 5 March 2017). Oak Tree Road Shed will be open from Saturday, 4 March 2017 from 2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. As always, the more volunteers we have, the lighter the task becomes and if you can spare a couple of hours to help a few times a year, please let us know.

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.

THA Schools' Gardening Challenge

We are pleased to announce that in 2017 the THA will be running a competition for Tilehurst primary schools to show us what they can do in their school gardens! Prizes for this challenge will be funded from the money given to us in memory of Mervyn Taylor. We feel that this is a fitting tribute to his memory and that, through the generosity of his family, we will be able to encourage our gardeners of the future. Schools will be invited to enter in the New Year, with judging taking place during June.

Trading Shed – Plastic Bags

Just a reminder that as plastic carrier bags are becoming less common, it would be helpful, if you plan to buy loose goods, to bring your own container if possible. However, we still will have bags available if you forget!

Annual Show

It is not too early to start thinking about the Annual Show in August. Although the schedule has not yet been finalised most of the main classes will remain unaltered. If you have not already done so now is the time to order your seeds.

Talks Programme

Not everyone has access to the internet so I thought I would reproduce the review from the website of the last talk in the Village hall held on 24 November 2016:

"Members of the Tilehurst Horticultural Association enjoyed an evening with Derek Leary when he told us how he became interested in photography and gave us tips on how to take better photographs.

As a lad, Derek spent his school holidays with his grandparents who lived in the country near Thame and it was here that his love for the countryside and gardening grew. However it was music that was to become his profession both as an entertainer with the guitar and teaching it. When he was married he came to live for several years in Tilehurst in Overdown Road and to have an allotment in Oak Tree Road. During this time he joined the Tilehurst Photographic Society which met at one time in the Village Hall. He subsequently moved to Goring where he is an active member of their gardening club.

Using a digital projector Derek showed us shots of his earliest cameras which included a "Box Brownie" and an SLR Praktica. Eventually he was converted to digital photography with its advantages of being able to take several shots of a subject and then to select the best and delete all the others. Digital photographs can also be readily edited using a computer program such as Photoshop although Derek recommended Google Picasso as a somewhat easier alternative.

Nowadays the background to a flower can be softened digitally whereas with earlier cameras one might have to place nylon stocking with a small hole cut in it over the lens. One tip was to use a small bean bag as a substitute for a cumbersome tripod and another was to insert a piece of cardboard behind the subject so as to eliminate a distracting background. Other suggestions were to look right into the centre of flowers such as tulips to see wonderful designs and to photograph through perhaps an arch so as to reduce large areas of green. Raindrops or frost on foliage or petals can bring an extra dimension. Light is usually at its best either early in the morning or towards the end of the day.

The evening concluded with a delightful sequence of flower pictures accompanied by restful music."

Bean Pole Day & RBH League of Friends Fete

Bean Pole Day is 22 April and the RBH LOF Fete is 3 June. More details of these events will feature in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Last year plant sales accounted for a large proportion of the Association's finances and helped to fund our Autumn to Spring talks series.

However, the success of these events does not only depend on the volunteers who work on the stall on the day, but also those who grow the plants for sale (sometimes they are one and the same people!) So if you are ordering seeds for next year please consider adding a couple of extra packets to grow on for sale later in the year. At this point it is worth mentioning Vegetableseeds.net who give us 10% discount online and who quite often have special offers, making their seeds even cheaper

I thought that a photo from last year's Bean Pole Day may give an idea of the number of plants we need for a successful event. It's also a reminder that Spring and Summer will not be too far away as the days begin to lengthen.



Copy for Next Newsletter

Copy for the next quarter's edition by Friday 17 March, please.

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