



Tilehurst Horticultural Association Newsletter January – March 2018

Dates for your Diary

25 January	Talk by Claire Brown "Herbs for the Table" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall
4 February	Gratwicke Road Shed re-opens 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.
8 February	AGM and Social Evening 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall
3 March	Oak Tree Road Shed re-opens 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon (See below)
4 March	Gratwicke Road Shed Opens 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon
29 March	Talk by Lou Nicholls "Heritage Vegetables" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND SUPER GROWING SEASON IN 2018

Membership – Renewal Reminder

The Membership year is January to December, so the 2018 membership fee is now due. You can pay at the Trading Sheds and at the Talks. May we please ask you to ensure, when renewing your membership, that we have your email address, so that the newsletter and other information can be e-mailed. We can, of course, continue to deliver a paper copy of the Newsletter to your door every quarter but there is much information you may be missing in between the quarterly deliveries.

If you have any queries please contact the Membership Secretary, Sylvia Hickman.

AGM – 8 February 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

This year's AGM will be followed by wine and nibbles and an informal quiz. Please come along and take part in the running of the THA and get to know other members. Some of our Committee members have stated their intention to stand down at the AGM in February, so we welcome any member who would like to join the Committee. If you would like to find out what is entailed, please contact the Secretary, Pauline Sinclair, on 9453658, for more information.

Trading Shed Opening Hours

Feedback from members has indicated a preference for Oak Tree Road shed to open Saturday mornings. In 2018, therefore, we will

open Oak Tree Road from 10 a.m. until 12 noon from March – July, and from 10 a.m. until 11.00 a.m. in September.

Gratwicke Road will re-open as last year, from the first Sunday morning in February. In a slight change to the hours we have opened in recent years, we will open Gratwicke Road shed on Good Friday, 30 March, instead of Easter Monday. This will give members an opportunity to stock up before they start their Easter gardening.

Plant Stalls

The plant stalls which are run at a number of events provide an extremely important element of our income.

We are intending having a stall at an additional event in 2018; this is planned to be at the Discovery Centre at Thatcham in May. This means that we will require even more plants this year than before. Our first Plant Stall outing this year will be to Beanpole Day in April. This year we need, if possible, to include tumbling and cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes and sweet peas to keep up with demand, in addition, to the usual suspects.

Our outing in May should be a good opportunity for bedding plants, for example; geraniums, nicotianas, begonias and cosmos - these should all be coming along by then. Fuchsia cuttings could well be a good size in May.

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 10.00hrs – 12.00hrs .September – 10.00 – 11.00hrs, Closed all other times and for the whole month of August.

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 4 August 2018

Our Show Secretary, Claire O'Brien, would like to thank those members who have been involved in the recent focus groups for their ideas and feedback.

As you enjoy your homemade Christmas chutneys, remember to keep a jar to enter in the Summer Show this year and when the Seville oranges are on sale in January, an extra jar of marmalade for the Show won't go amiss.

A new vegetable class this year will be garlic, there's still time to plant and with 3 good bulbs, the first prize could be yours! And if you want to win the class for the longest stick of rhubarb, now is the time to give your rhubarb a seasonal mulch of compost or manure, but don't completely cover the crown. Look out for the 2018 schedule in the spring and don't be afraid to have a go!

#Grow4THAShow

Beanies

A good idea to keep your head warm whilst in the garden or on the allotment doing early digging would be the THA beanie.



At the time of going to press we had a few left in black or bottle green at £8.50 each, but we have

sold out of navy. For purchase enquiries, email tilehurstha@gmail.com.

Dobies Group Discount Scheme

Thinking of growing for the Annual Show or for our Plant Stalls, don't forget that THA members can receive a 50% discount on seed orders and 15% off all other items by using our special order form or by quoting code **GD1364D** when ordering online at www.dobies.co.uk or by telephone on 0844 967 0303 (calls cost 5p per minute). Please ensure that you give the code at the time you place your order as it cannot be applied retrospectively.

Discounts Available to Tilehurst Horticultural Association Members

[Ashridge Nurseries](#), Online and mail order plant nursery - 10% discount. Enter code HORT10 at the checkout.

[C & G Hardware](#), 27 School Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 5AR - 10% discount on all purchases. Show membership card before sales are entered at the till.

[Collins of Pangbourne](#), 20 Reading Road, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7NA - 10% discount on gardening goods (not compost). Show membership card before sales are entered at the till.

[Dobies of Devon](#) Group Discount Scheme - for 50% discount on seeds and 15% on other items, please use our order form or online code, as above.

[Englefield Garden Centre](#), The Street, Englefield, Nr Theale, Reading, RG7 5ES - 10% discount on plant purchases. Show membership card before sales are entered at the till.

[Hare Hatch Sheeplands](#), London Road, Hare Hatch, Reading, RG10 9HW - 10% discount on selected purchases. Be aware that already discounted items are not eligible for a further discount. Show membership card before sales are entered at the till.

[Wear's Nursery](#), High Road, Brightwell cum Sotwell, Wallingford, OX10 0PS - 10% discount on plant purchases, excluding those already discounted or on a multi-buy offer. Show membership card before sales are entered at the till.

[Royal Horticultural Society](#) We have an RHS card which entitles 1 member + a guest to 30% off the cost of entry to the 4 RHS gardens (not Sunday for Wisley). Call or e-mail Pauline Sinclair – contact details below.

Copy for Next Newsletter should be received by Tuesday 13 March 2018.

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