



Tilehurst Horticultural Association Newsletter July - September 2017

Dates for your Diary

23 July	Show Trophies to be returned
30 July	Last date for Show entries
5 August	Annual Summer Show at Tilehurst Village Hall
August	Oak Tree Road Trading Shed closed until September
August- November	Gratwicke Road Trading Shed open Sunday 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.
September	Oak Tree Road trading Shed open Saturday 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
16 & 17 September	Royal Berkshire Show (selection of produce 15 September)

Last call to renew your membership for 2017, if you have not renewed by mid-September this is the last newsletter you will receive.

Bean Pole Day 22 April

£550 was raised on the day by our plant stall at the Bean Pole Day event at Caversham Court Gardens, with a further amount raised from the remaining plants at our talk the following week. This beat last year's record figure of £483. Thanks to all those who contributed towards this; it is pleasing to see new faces bringing us plants to sell and helping on the stall. It really does make it a THA effort.

RBH League of Friends 3 June 2017

We had another very successful day. Visitors to the fete appeared to be fewer than previous years, but we still made sales of £455.70 on the day and a further £27.00 on Sunday at Gratwicke Road, where Pauline Sinclair and Clare O'Brien were taking donations for the annual plants that remained. Thanks to those who manned the stall and braved the chilly day. We look forward to doing it all again next year, with perhaps some warmer weather.

Plant Stalls

Our plant sales have realised more than £1,000 this year. Some of the money raised has been invested in a new sign to promote our Association. We hope you agree that the striking

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.

design should attract attention and bring in new members.



THA Schools Challenge

Judging for our Schools Challenge is taking place as we go to print. Whilst we have not received as many entries as we had hoped, the competition has prompted some requests for help with their gardening from local primary schools. At the beginning of May, we were pleased to host a visit at the Gratwicke Road Trading Shed by 60 Reception Class children from Churchend Primary School. We demonstrated how we grow seeds,

the tools we use, how we use the scales to weigh grass seed, how canes support tall plants, and how seeds grow into plants and the fruit they produce. Finally the children's numeracy skills were tested with a purchase. Many thanks to members John Wheeler, Kate Jones, Chris Turner and Nigel Turner who did an excellent job. 'Thank You' letters were received which are on display in the shed.



Royal Berkshire Show 2017

Once again members are growing with an eye on the Inter Village class at this year's Show, which takes place on 16 & 17 September at the Newbury Showground. Selection of items for the THA exhibit will take place at the Gratwicke Road trading shed on Friday 15 September. Please contact Claire O'Brien 07903 269554 or Pauline Sinclair 07711 962049 if you have suitable produce for our exhibit, or for further information. Will this be our year?

The RBC Draft Local Plan

The draft of the new Local Plan has been published and Committee Members attended a Drop In event at which they met with planners to establish any impact on the THA. Should the land on which Gratwicke Road Shed stands be required for redevelopment of Park Lane School, provision remains, as in the previous Local Plan, for premises for the THA in Downing Road.

Membership

The membership year is January to December. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2017 you will receive a letter with this newsletter or an email separately to remind you.

If you do not renew within the next few months we will take it that you no longer wish to be a member. This will be the last newsletter that you will receive unless membership is renewed by mid-September.

Annual Summer Show 5 August

Schedules will be available on the website and in the Trading Sheds & Tilehurst Library around the beginning of July. Please note that there are a few changes to the schedule this year.

If you have not exhibited before why not give it a go? And for our regular entrants, we look forward to greeting you once more on the day. Classes include cookery, photography and knitting, as well as, vegetables, fruit & flowers, and Children's classes.

You can also sponsor a class for £2.50 per class.

As usual we would be grateful to receive donations of plants for the plant stall, cakes for refreshments and raffle prizes. These can be brought to the Tilehurst Village Hall on the evening of Friday 4 August.

Gratwicke Road Shed Break-in

Unfortunately, the shed was broken into at the end of May. Fortunately, a good neighbour alerted the police and the offenders were caught before they could make off. More work will be carried out to ensure added security to the blocked in windows.

Copy for Next Newsletter

It would be helpful if this could be in the hands of the editor by the evening of 12 September.

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