



Tilehurst Horticultural Association Newsletter October - December 2016

Dates For your Diary

October	Oak Tree Road shed is closed until February 2016
27 October	Talk by Marcus Dancer "Clematis" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall
24 November	Talk by Derek Leary "Photography in the Garden" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall
December	Gratwicke Road Shed Closed until 15 January 2017

Annual Show



Members of the Tilehurst Horticultural Association put on an excellent Summer Show on 6 August this year. Once again, the unpredictable weather impacted on the number of vegetable and fruit entries, but those that were exhibited were of an impressive quality. Of particular note were Rod Cox's onions, which won him the award for Best Vegetable in the Show.

There were, however, plenty of flower and pot plant entries, also of a high quality, and together with the Flower Arrangements, Tilehurst Village Hall was filled with the scent of flowers in bloom.



Entries in the Cookery and Preserves classes were also high, with lots of members attempting the recipe for Cherry Cake.

In the afternoon there were a large number of visitors admiring the exhibits and enjoying the social occasion over a cup of tea and cake, and purchasing plants from the plant stall.

At the end of the afternoon, the President, Lynne Jones, presented the trophies. In addition to Best Vegetable in the Show, Rod Cox was presented with several trophies, including the Banksian Medal for the highest number of points in the Horticultural classes.



The prize for Best Fruit in the Show was awarded to James Keating for his outstanding redcurrants and Claire O'Brien took the award for the Best Vase of Flowers in the Show with her gladioli. Sheila Cox's begonia won the Best Pot Plant in

Trading Sheds - Opening times -

Sunday - Gratwicke Road: January (from the 3rd Sunday), February, August, September, October & November 10.00 – 11.00hrs - March- July 10.00 – 12.00hrs - December closed.

Saturday - Oak Tree Road: February & September – 14.00 – 15.00hrs, March – July 14.00hrs – 16.00hrs. Closed all other times and for the whole month of August.

the Show, and this also earned the Dick Wilcox Shield of Excellence. Finally a new trophy, the Alec Simmons Trophy, was awarded to Sylvia Hickman for the Best Flower Arrangement in the Show.

Royal Berkshire Show



For the third year a team from the Association put an entry into the Inter Village Competition at The Royal Berkshire Show in Newbury on the 17 and 18 September.

The overall entry came second, an excellent result and even better our entry of apples won "Best Dish of Fruit"



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). Use the "Contact Us" page on our Website or call Pauline Sinclair (0118 9453658) to borrow the card.

Discounts

The following discounts are available for members of the THA -

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.

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.

White Tower Nursery, Station Road, Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4LD - discount offered on plant purchases (not Christmas Trees). Show membership card before sales are entered at the till.

Vegetableseeds.net - 10% discount on all orders for THA members. Enter code AD486 in your Shopping Cart and click "Apply".

Trading Sheds

Nigel Turner will start organising the rosters for 2017 in November. As always we are looking for new Cashiers and Helpers for both of our trading sheds. The time commitment is not too great; a minimum of 6 hours a year of your time helping out would make all the difference. If you feel you could help please give Nigel a call on ☎ 0118 9414 102.

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Tilehurst Horticultural Association

Talks Programme 2016 - 2017

27 October 2016, 7.45pm

Marcus Dancer

Clematis

Marcus has a nursery at Sandleheath, Fordingbridge, where he grows and stocks a wide range of clematis, together with shrubs and perennials. The nursery is open by appointment only but his plants are available at farmers' markets and rare plant sales throughout the South of England. Marcus will tell us all about the many varieties of clematis, their usage, care and pruning. There will be plants for sale.

www.clematisplants.co.uk

24 November 2016, 7.45pm

Derek Leary

Photography in the Garden

Derek is a member of the Henry Doubleday Research Establishment, The British Fuchsia Society and the Hebe Society. Derek is co-founder of Village Greenfingers, Goring on Thames. Derek will be giving us an entertaining glimpse into the plant world through a photographer's lens, with basic photographic tips.

26 January 2017, 7.45pm

Gill Franklin

The Apple Orchard

Gill was the owner of Cross Lanes Fruit Farm from 1978 until August 2015, when the farm, with much regret, was sold and the Farm Shop closed. 60 varieties of apples, plums and pears were grown at the farm. Gill will be talking about the history, varieties, pruning, care and husbandry of apple trees.

9 February 2017, 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting / Social Evening

30 March 2017, 7.45pm

Geoff Hawkins

Growing Vegetables in a Small Garden

Geoff was head gardener to the private estate of Mill Court, near Alton, Hampshire, until his retirement in 2012. He was a regular expert on LBC's Weekend Matters and has also appeared on local radio programmes. Geoff will give an illustrated talk showing how even the small garden can produce home grown produce.

www.geoffhawkins.org.uk

27 April 2017, 7.45pm

Angela O'Connell

National Garden Scheme

Angela is the Assistant County Organiser, Berkshire NGS and her talk tonight will cover the history of NGS from its Victorian roots to the present day. There will be slides of gardens and explanation of how the money donated helps nursing and caring charities. Angela will also cover how you can prepare and open your garden for the NGS.

www.ngs.org.uk