



Tilehurst Horticultural Association Newsletter October - December 2017

Dates For your Diary

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| October | Oak Tree Road Shed is closed until February 2018 |
| 26 October | Talk by Jan Lambourn on "Soft Fruits" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall |
| 30 November | Talk by John Negus on "Tulips and Much More" 7.45 p.m. in the Village Hall |
| December | Gratwicke Road Shed Closed until 4 February 2018 |
| 8 February 2018 | 2018 AGM 7.30pm in the Village Hall |

THA Beanie Hats

An ideal Christmas or birthday present for that important gardener in your life! Warm Beanie Hats bearing the THA logo are now available to purchase at Gratwicke Road Shed and at our October and November talks. They come in black, navy or bottle green and cost £8.50 each. See them here modelled by three willing Committee Members!



2018 AGM

It has been necessary to change the date of next year's AGM we publicised previously. The 2018 AGM will now take place on Thursday, 8 February at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

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.

Annual Summer Show

Our annual Summer Show took place this year on 5 August 2017 in Tilehurst Village Hall, Victoria Road, and members of the THA and Tilehurst residents enjoyed exhibiting their produce.

Despite a lower number of entries in the vegetable and junior classes there were a good number of entries in the Flowers, Flower Arrangements and Photography classes. Cookery and Preserves held their own, with a high standard of exhibits presented.

Two novelty classes were introduced this year, one for the longest stick of rhubarb and the other for a margarine tub of home-made compost. These classes generated a good number of entries and much interest.

This was the last Show to be arranged by our current Show Secretary, Sheila Cox, and at the beginning of the trophy presentations Chairman Terry Bryant presented her with a bouquet of flowers in thanks for her contribution over the last five years.



She will be replaced by Claire O'Brien who was learning the ropes at this year's Show.

Best in Show winners were as follows:-

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|--------------------|---------------|
| Vegetables | Rod Cox |
| Fruit | Leslie Burrow |
| Pot Plant | Sheila Cox |
| Flower Arrangement | Alice Fisher |
| Flowers | Sheila Cox |

Sheila Cox was also awarded the Dick Wilcox Shield of Excellence for Best Exhibit in Show for her flowers.

Newbury Show

We were third this year at the Newbury Show but did manage 10 points for our dahlias, 10 for presentation and 9 for the begonia. This was very creditable given that at the committee meeting a few days before there was concern about being able to put an entry together at all.

Oak Tree Road Trading Shed

The THA Committee would appreciate feedback regarding the shed at Oak Tree Road. We want to make sure that you are able to get the most out of the trading shed and the benefits it has to offer and to make sure that you are aware that it exists if you do not use it.

Firstly, are you an allotment holder at Oak Tree Road and do you use the THA trading shed there?

Secondly, would you like to see the OTR Trading Shed open on Saturday mornings or would you still prefer it to open in the afternoon as it does presently. Suggested opening times could be from 9.30 am - midday, or 10 am - midday for the morning slot, and 1 - 3 pm or 2 - 4 pm for the afternoon.

If you could provide feedback please to any Committee Member or by email to tilehurstha@gmail.com before Tuesday, 31 October, we will discuss the responses at the next Committee Meeting to be held in November and let you know as soon as we can what the opening hours will be.

Dobies Group Discount Scheme

We will be repeating the scheme we started last season with Dobies of Devon. 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. Catalogues and order forms are available in the trading sheds or at our talks, and goods ordered are delivered direct to your address. This really does offer a good discount on quality products, so we hope you feel that this offers good value to our members.

Schools Challenge 2017

Following the kind donation from the collection at the funeral of former allotmenteer and horticultural judge Mervyn Taylor, we decided to use the money the THA received to encourage our gardeners of the future. We invited primary schools to take part in a challenge, looking for the best school garden in Tilehurst.

The winners of the Challenge were Springfield Primary School, closely followed by Moorlands Primary School. Both schools received a certificate to mark their achievement, together with a cheque to spend on their garden, and Springfield were also presented with a cup.



Trading Sheds

In November Nigel Turner will start organising the rosters for 2018. 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. It is a great way of meeting new people and swapping knowledge too. If you feel you could help please give Nigel a call on ☎ 0118 9414 102.

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|----------------------|--|-----|---------|
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Tilehurst Horticultural Association

Talks Programme 2017 - 2018

26th October 2017 7.45pm

Jan Lambourn

Soft Fruits

Jan has been a professional gardener for over 17 years and spent 8 years in the Fruit Department at RHS, Wisley. Currently Deputy Head Gardener at Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens, Jan will be talking about all things relative to getting the best out of the Soft Fruit Crop.

30th November 2017 7.45pm

John Negus

Tulips and Much More

John trained at Wisley and is a gardening journalist, writing for Amateur Gardening. He gives lectures to many clubs and societies, and regularly broadcasts on local radio. John will be speaking about the bulb gardens of Holland, with a joyous meander around the Keukenhof Gardens in Spring.

25th January 2018 7.45pm

Claire Brown

Herbs for the Table

Claire managed Garden Centres, including RHS Wisley, for many years and ran her own gardening and design business before deciding to grow and sell cut flowers to Florists and the public. Claire will be speaking on having a variety of herbs all year round, places to grow and how to control pests and diseases.

www.plantpassion.co.uk

8th February 2018 7.30 pm

Annual General Meeting / Social Evening

It has been necessary to change the date of next year's AGM we publicised previously. The 2018 AGM will now take place on Thursday, 8th February at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

29 March 2018 7.45pm

Lou Nicholls

Heritage Vegetables

Lou trained at Garden Organic and has a deep passion for working in tune with nature. She ran the vegetable garden at Sissinghurst Castle, then progressed to Assistant Head Gardener at Hole Park. Currently working as Head Gardener on private gardens, Lou will advise on why Heritage Vegetables are important, types and varieties, and seed saving.

loujnicholls.wordpress.com

26th April 2018 7.45pm

Linda Petrons

**Gardens for Children's
Hospices**

Linda has worked for charities from some 15 years and is currently Head of Fundraising and Communications for the Greenfingers Charity. Linda will talk about the Charity, how they raise funds, and all that is involved in the design and build of gardens for children's hospices.

www.greenfingerscharity.org.uk