## TILEHURST HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Oct – Oak Tree Rd Trading Shed closed until Feb 2015

30 Oct – Talk by Maren Talbot on 'Growing Orchids at Home' in the Village Hall at 7.45pm

27 Nov – Talk by Michael Keith Lucas on' Trees' in the Village Hall at 7.45pm Dec – Gratwicke Rd Trading shed closed until 16 Jan 2015

## **Annual Summer Show –** Show Secretary

This year's show went very well; we had an increased number of entries in all classes.

Once again the standard was high and the Judges had their work cut out to make their decisions, our new Judge Hazel Blackburn for cookery and preserves was impressed with all of the effort that had been put into the entries. We did get some heavy downpours during the afternoon but people still came and browsed the display and appeared to like what they saw. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making the event a success and all the wonderful people who entered.

I wish to introduce a new class for 2015 "KNITTING". So all you ladies and gentleman who like this relaxing occupation have a go and produce an item of your choice be it a babies item, soft toy, jumper or anything that takes your fancy. I have a lady who has knitted for the last 65 years who has agreed to Judge and we look forward to seeing your entries.

S/N	Trophy	Winner
1	The Presidents Shield-Veg, Fruit & Flowers	James Keating
2	THA Challenge Cup – Vegetables	Rod Cox
3	The President's Cup - Tomatoes	Rod Cox
4	The Albert Illsley Cup – Flowers	Claire O'Brien
5	The Reading Standard Cup – Fruit	James Keating
6	The Rev. F.W. Lane Challenge Cup – Cactus/Succulent	Leslie Burrow
7	Arthur Francis Cup – Dahlia	Chris Jasper
8	The V Nash Memorial Cup – Photography	Ian Duddle
9	The R Spokes Memorial Bowl – Pot Plant	Claire O'Brien
10	The Fred Keep Memorial Rose Bowl – Flower Arrangement	Claire O'Brien
11	The Barraball Memorial Cup – Standard/Half Standard Fuchsia	Keith Williams
12	The Frank Haynes Cup – Fuchsia	Sheila Cox
13	The Mapstone Memorial Rose Bowl – Cookery	Rod Cox
14	The Tom Holmes Salver - Preserves	Rod Cox
15	The Frank Glover Cup – Junior – most Points	Charlie Burrow
16	The LR Stacey Challenge Cup – Junior – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest Points	Izabella Sullivan
17	Harold Summerfield Shield – Junior Class – Flowers	Georgina Harrison-Lawrence

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Trading Sheds - Opening times -

Sunday - Gratwicke Road: January (from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) February, October & November 1000 - 1100hrs - March- September 1000 - 1200hrs - December closed.

Saturday - Oak Tree Road: February & September - 1400 - 1500hrs, March – July 1400hrs – 1600hrs. Closed all other times and for the whole month of August.

18	Dick Wilcox Shield of Excellence	James Keating
19	RHS Banksian Medal –	Ross Drean
	Best Vegetable –	Rod Cox
	Best Fruit	James Keating
	Best Flowers	Sheila Cox
	Best Pot Plant –	Sheila Cox

**Talks –** The winter series of talks opens on the 30<sup>th</sup> October, with Maren Talbot who will talk about Orchids, the cultivation, watering, feeding, potting on etc. and give a demonstration, after having shown us slides of some of the many thousands of Orchids. You are invited to bring along your orchids, to show or gain advice on any problems that you may be experiencing. Maren runs Heritage Orchids, a small specialist nursery in Bucks & is a member of the Thames Valley Orchid Society and various other organisations. On the 27<sup>th</sup> November we have the return of Michael Keith-Lucas who will give a talk on Trees; the history of our native species and some of the introduced ones, their decline due to climate change, human activity, pests & diseases. Finally a look at what we should be planting and what not!

Attached to this Newsletter is the programme for 2014/15, keep it somewhere safe, but on display, as like me, I am sure that you will want to attend them all.

**Trading Sheds –** The Trading Sheds are well stocked and awaiting your custom! On this point, the sheds need volunteers in order to be able to function; cashiers & helpers are always required. I shall be starting to set the rosters for 2015 in late November, if you would like more information or volunteer, then e-mail tilehurstha@gmail.com, or, if you are on the 'hard shoulder' of the IT highway, give me a call on 0118 9425245.

**Invaders –** The UK is always under threat from pests & diseases from abroad; with the speed of travel the seas no longer protect us; so keep an eye out for: **Spanish Slug –** Arion Flagella. It can grow to 10cm, breeds at 4 times the rate of 'home grown' slugs i.e. 400 eggs as against 100, carries diseases and parasites for which ours have no defence, is a cannibal and, there appears to be no defence; slug pellets and other known methods do not work. Waiting in the wings is Arion Vulgaris, which is causing huge problems in Norway, attacking farms & gardens.

**Asian Hornet –** Vespa velutina nigrithorax - Introduced from China into France, by accident, in 2005 and massing on the coastline waiting to cross! As if our bee colonies had nothing else to worry about! This insect loves honey and will attack bee colonies to gain access. As it does not die when it stings, unlike our bees, it goes in for the kill. Slightly smaller than our 'home grown' hornet, it can be recognised by its black thorax, with a yellow 4<sup>th</sup> segment, ours is banded black & yellow, like a wasp. It should be avoided as its sting is not nice! DEFRA is said to have a plan to deal with it, based on the experience of the French.

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