

[www.ststephengardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.ststephengardeningclub.co.uk)

St. Stephens Gardening Club



(Formerly St. Stephens Horticultural Society)

## NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2019

### GARDEN STORE OPENS 2 FEBRUARY

Welcome once again to the start of a new gardening year and the spring edition of our Newsletter, together with our Programme of Events for 2019.

#### GARDEN STORE NEWS

#### RECYCLING OF PLASTIC GARDENING PRODUCTS

As you are no doubt aware St Albans District Council do not recycle black/brown plastic garden products, such as pots and trays.

We are pleased to announce that we have come to an arrangement with a local Garden Centre for the recycling of black/brown plastic gardening products (plant pots, seed trays, pot trays). With immediate effect we will accept these at the hut. In the first instance they will be made available to members free of charge before going for recycling.

Could I please request that items brought for recycling are reasonably clean.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING US ANY HOUSEHOLD BLACK PLASTIC (FOOD TRAYS ETC).** - Failure to comply with this request will result in the scheme being withdrawn.

Don't forget that when buying fertilisers etc at the hut it would be great if you could bring your own container. This will help us reduce our use of plastic bags. As you know - every little helps.

#### SEED POTATOES

Seed potatoes will be available as from 2nd February. **All are certified, high quality, Scottish seed potatoes, free from blackleg, blight and virus diseases.** This year we are offering the following varieties:-

**RED DUKE OF YORK** - **First early.** Wonderful strong flavour, general purpose but best fried, roasted or mashed. Resistant to scab. Plant late March, harvest end of June.

**SWIFT** - **First early.** Very early. Good in pots, short stems. Good disease resistance, Plant late March, harvest June.

**NADINE** - **Second early.** High disease resistance. Looks good on the exhibition bench. Very high yields. Plant early April, harvest July/Aug.

**KING EDWARD**- **Maincrop.** Excellent flavour suitable for wide range of uses, especially roasting. Resistant to scab. Sow early April, harvest July/August.

**CHARLOTTE - Salad/Second early.** This French bred, highly popular potato is the salad variety of choice. The smooth skinned tubers have a light yellow flesh which has wonderful flavour and delightful waxy texture. Sow late March, harvest June - Sept.

PRICE - All varieties - £1 per Kg.

Once again we have maintained our low prices for high quality seed potatoes. These prices represent outstanding value at an unbeatable price.

We do not supply quantities of less than 1kg but in response to members requests we are happy to provide a 1kg mixed bag (£1.20) to customer requirements.

Each Kg will contain approx 12 - 16 tubers (depending on variety).

Plant 10cms/4ins deep; 30cms/12ins to 38cms/15ins apart; 50cms/18ins between rows except for King Edward, 68cms/27ins between rows.

Onion sets and shallots are also in stock.

Shallots (Golden Gourmet)- £1.10 per 250g, £2.00 per 500g

Onion sets -

(Stuttgarter Giant & Turbo) - 80p per 250g £1.50 per 500g

#### **40% DISCOUNT ON SEEDS**

Order your seeds through the Garden Club and enjoy a massive **40% discount** on the catalogue price of Thompson & Morgan seeds.

Seed catalogues and order forms are available **NOW** from the hut.

We will be taking orders right through Spring. Hand your order in at the hut or give it to Percy Brazier, 01727 868541.

Please send cash with order and remember - **No order is too small**

#### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Membership fees for 2019 are now due, £3, payable at the hut when it re-opens. Alternatively you can pay by standing order, which would help us enormously. Standing Order forms can be obtained from Andrew Keates 01727 872708 or at the hut.

#### **TEA & TALK - MONDAY 25 MARCH**

##### **DELPHINIUMS**

A talk by Graham Austin - Home Farm Plants

2.30pm, Parish Centre, Bricket Wood

This is a rare opportunity to listen to one of the country's leading delphinium growers.

Home Farm Plants, based in Bovingdon, specialises in the Elatum species of Delphinium. These tough, hardy perennials can withstand very cold winter temperatures and are reliable garden perennials.

Graham won best in show in 2011 and 2015 at the Delphinium Society Show at Wisley and was awarded a silver gilt medal at RHS Chatsworth 2018.

A selection of delphiniums will be available to purchase at the talk.

We can look forward to a very entertaining afternoon. This is no tone to be missed.

**AND THERE'S CAKE.**

## **HELP WANTED**

We are very short of helpers at the hut on a Saturday afternoon, between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. We will be so grateful if anyone is able to help for just one or two afternoons between February and October.

If anyone can help please speak to any member of the committee. Thank you.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The meeting was preceded by an enjoyable and colourful talk on Five English Gardens by Amanda Shipman.

The AGM was attended by 45 members.

The Chairman welcomed all members present and told the meeting on the whole it had been a successful year with membership remaining roughly unchanged, gaining some new members while losing a few old members. Hut sales were not brilliant, sales of general fertilisers and seed potatoes were poor while composts (which we don't make a profit on) and bird seed were good. The trend of declining hut sales needs to be addressed - use it or lose it springs to mind.

The Annual Show was, once again, a success with excellent entries even following on the very hot, dry summer. A very big thank you to Ginder & sons for their continued sponsorship of the show. The chairman continues to represent the Club on the Parish in Bloom initiatives and we once again sponsored the Inter Schools Competition, which was won by Park Street school. It was disappointing that some schools chose not to participate.

There were three, well attended, excellent talks during the year and three very successful outings. In June our "Gardens of Norfolk" 5 day tour was thoroughly enjoyable and this year we will be going to South Wales.

Help is always needed at the hut and we will also need helpers on our stall at the Parish Fete on Sunday 20 May.

## **REMEMBER - MORE HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.**

Thanks to the committee for their hard work and support, volunteers on the rota and other helpers during the year plus thanks to the Parish Council for their help and support. Graham thanked all our members for giving their support in various ways.

Martyn Dadswell, our Treasurer for the last 10 years has decided to step down from the position due to health problems. Graham proposed a vote of thanks for all his hard work over many years. Graham presented the financial report and the audited accounts were unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Andrew Keates was elected as the new Treasurer and existing committee members were re-elected (see end of Newsletter for details). In addition Suzanna Featherstone was elected onto the committee. The chairman also thanked our auditor, Mrs Johnson, who is also standing down after many years.

A committee proposal to move the financial year end from 30 September to 31 December was approved unanimously. Next years AGM will be held in early 2020, date yet to be set.

There being no other business the raffle was drawn and the meeting closed

**VISIT - LEONARDSLEE GARDENS**

**TUESDAY 14 MAY**

Famous for its, azaleas and camellias, Leonardslee is re-opening to the public after being in private ownership for several years. This garden, full of dazzling colour in May, has to be seen to be believed. One of, if not the best spring gardens in the country.

The cost of the trip is £25 for members, £28 for non-members, which includes coach, driver tip and entry to the gardens

The coach will leave Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.45am, with pick-up points at How Wood shops (8.50am) and Chiswell Green (8.55am), bus stop opposite Three Hammers.

**Please detach the form below and return it with a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person or payment in full.**

**FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED BY 30 APRIL.**

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**LEONARDSLEE GARDENS - BOOKING FORM**

Cheques to be made payable to St Stephens Gardening Club and sent to  
Graham Wilson, 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2QN or  
Andrew Keates 38 Maplefield, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2BG, or hand in at the Trading Hut.

Member Name & No (please print).....

First line of address.....

I will be accompanied by.....

Pick-up point .....  
(Please state Bricket Wood, How Wood or Chiswell Green)

Contact telephone number .....

**VISIT - BETH CHATTO & GREEN ISLAND GARDENS  
TUESDAY 25 JUNE**

Beth Chatto transformed a wasteland into one of the UK's most famous gardens with many of the plants available to purchase.

Green Island is a 20 acre private garden laid out as a series of gardens with a huge range of trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs - a gardeners paradise

The cost of the trip is £31 for members, £34 for non-members, which includes coach, driver tip and entry to the gardens.

The coach will leave Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.15am, with pick-up points at How Wood shops (8.20am) and Chiswell Green (8.25am), bus stop opposite Three Hammers.

**Please detach the form below and return it with a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person or payment in full.**

**FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED BY 8 JUNE.**

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**BETH CHATTO & GREEN ISLAND GARDENS - BOOKING FORM**

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Member Name & No (please print).....

First line of address.....

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Pick-up point .....  
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Contact telephone number .....

**HOLIDAY 2019**  
**GARDENS OF SOUTH WALES - 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> JULY**

Holiday 2019 will be our fifth garden tour and we would like you to join us on what has proved to be a very enjoyable and successful venture for the Gardening Club.

Stay in a three star Best Western hotel midway between Cardiff and Swansea. The hotel is located in a semi-rural location, but only half a mile from Bridgend town centre. Facilities include indoor heated pool, sauna and spa. Lift.

The trip includes:

- 4 nights bed, breakfast and evening meal.
- All coach travel and driver gratuity.
- Entry to all attractions during your stay.

The cost is £450 per person based on two people sharing a double/twin room. A number of single rooms are available at an additional cost of £50. A booking form is attached. To make a booking please complete the form and return to me together with a deposit of £60 per person (non-returnable).

Final payment due by 31 May 2019. Cheques payable to St Stephens Gardening Club.

Seating allocations on the coach will be on a first come, first served basis unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Contact Graham Wilson 01727 872718 for further details.

The itinerary includes:-

**ABERGLASNEY GARDENS**

Aberglasney was made famous by the BBC television series “A Garden Lost in Time” which followed its restoration. Today it is one of Wales’ finest gardens. A renowned plantsman’s garden with a unique cloister garden at its heart it offers an opportunity to explore more than 10 acres of magnificent gardens.

**CARDIFF CASTLE**

In the heart of the city the castle is an extraordinary Gothic fantasy palace. See the fairy tale apartments, rich with carvings, stained glass and marble. You will go through some of the most amazingly opulent, highly decorated rooms you will ever see.

Please note that areas of the castle are not suitable for wheelchairs and involve a number of steps.

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**DYFFRYN GARDENS**

Covering more than 55 acres they feature a stunning collection of intimate garden rooms, including a rose garden, Pompeian garden, several ponds, seasonal bedding, a large glasshouse and an arboretum.

**NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF WALES**

The most visited garden in Wales, having the world’s largest single span glasshouse, housing a fabulous display of Mediterranean plants. There are over 8000 different plant varieties, plus a range of themed gardens, plus lots more.

**St FAGAN’S CASTLE & GARDEN (Nat Museum of History)**

The museum stands in the grounds of the castle, a 16C grade 1 listed manor house. The gardens are the best kept secret of St Fagan’s giving an insight into the lives of Welsh people throughout history.

**TREDEGAR HOUSE & GARDENS**

Situated within 90 acres of beautiful gardens and parkland Tredegar House is one of the architectural wonders of Wales. The three formal gardens each have their own distinctive character and the walled gardens are some of the most important 18C garden landscapes of their kind.

Please contact Graham Wilson for further accessibility details, including wheelchair and mobility scooter availability.

**GARDENS OF SOUTH WALES TOUR - 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>st</sup> JULY .**  
**BOOKING FORM**

**Person 1**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

TEL NO.....

Pick up point: Bricket Wood    How Wood    Chiswell Green

Delete as appropriate

Accommodation will be in a double/twin room (indicate preference) with en-suite facilities.

Total Cost £450 per person.

Single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £50.

I require a single room **YES/NO** (delete as appropriate).

I am a member of the RHS - **YES/NO**,            NT - **YES/NO**

**Person 2**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

TEL NO.....

I require a single room **YES/NO** (delete as appropriate).

I am a member of the RHS - **YES/NO**,            NT - **YES/NO**

I enclose a deposit of £60 per person (non-returnable), payable to St Stephens Garden Club.

Please send to:Graham Wilson, 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street, St Albans. AL2 2QN.

Final payment due by 31 May 2019

**VISIT - BBC COUNTRY FILE LIVE at BLENHEIM PALACE.**

**FRIDAY 2 AUGUST**

Firmly established as one of the country's premier shows featuring meet the animals on Adam's farm, meet the presenters, shire horses, Duck & Dog show, falconry, gun dogs, craft display, wildlife zone, kitchen marquee AND MUCH MORE.

The cost of the trip is £40 for members, £27 for children (age 4 to 16, who are accompanied by a SSGC member) £43 for non-members, which includes coach, driver tip and entry to the event.

The coach will leave Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.15am, with pick-up points at How Wood shops (8.20am) and Chiswell Green (8.25am), bus stop opposite Three Hammers.

**Please detach the form below and return it with a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person or payment in full.**

**FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED BY 30 JUNE.**

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**BBC COUNTRY FILE LIVE - BOOKING FORM**

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Member Name & No (please print).....

First line of address.....

I will be accompanied by.....

Pick-up point .....  
(Please state Bricket Wood, How Wood or Chiswell Green)

Contact telephone number .....

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Graham Wilson, 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street 01727 872718  
Secretary Pat Holland, 8 Wych Elms, Park Street, 01727 568057  
Treasurer Andrew Keates, 38 Maplefield, Park Street, 01727 872708  
Committee Colin Leach, 31 Newlyn Close, Bricket Wood, 01923 673019  
Elizabeth Upton, 51 Mount Drive, Park Street, 01727 872150  
Derrick Davis, 10 Wych Elms, Park Street, 01727 873657  
Bill Whitehead, 19 Spooners Drive, Park Street, 01727 873309  
Pat Solomons, 12 Woodside Road, Bricket Wood, 01923 671277  
Percy/Val Brazier, 9 Glevum Close, St Albans, 01727 868541  
Chris Dawson, 135 Mount Pleasant Lane, Bricket Wood 01923 404171  
Suzanna Featherstone, c/o 63 How Wood, Park Street, 07710983036  
Martyn Dadswell, 59 Orchard Drive, Park Street, 01727 872127