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St. Stephens Gardening Club



(Formerly St. Stephens Horticultural Society)

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2018

Friday 16 November at 7.30pm
St Stephens Parish Centre, Bricket Wood

FIVE ENGLISH GARDENS
Talk by Amanda Shipman

followed by
Annual General Meeting

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of 2017 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers and Committee
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Resolutions submitted 1 week prior to meeting
9. Any Other Business

Please do your best to attend – it is your opportunity to have your say and make a difference.

AGM - STOCK UP FOR THE WINTER

This will be a chance to stock up on bird food before winter sets in.
Our full range of bird food will be available to purchase at the meeting.

ANNUAL SHOW

After a very difficult growing year for gardeners we feared that entries for the show would be significantly down. But our members were not deterred and we had well over 200 exhibits, which was excellent, especially considering that one or two of our regulars were on holiday. A huge thank you to everyone who exhibited for making this another high quality show. Congratulations go to all the cup and trophy winners and indeed to everyone who entered. Congratulations to Park Street C of E School on retaining the Inter-Schools Competition jointly run by the Gardening Club and St Stephen Parish Council, Parish in Bloom. A special mention to Oliver Getley on winning the Novice Trophy, could this be another gardening Getley in the making. A full list of the winners is on the back page.

Once again we were very grateful to **M. K. Ginder & Sons - Funeral Directors** who again, very generously sponsored this year's show. We would also like to thank the Park Street Camera Club, and the Bricket Wood Art Club for putting on high quality displays of their work and also to Barbara Funnell for her sale of cards for charity. Plus a big thank you to all our helpers. Thanks also to Lily Alley, Burston Nursery, Burston Garden Centre, Aylett's Nursery, Steve Brooks (butcher) and the Co-op (How Wood) for their donations.

GARDEN STORE

The hut will be closing for the winter at the end of October and will re-open on Saturday 2nd February between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. If members require any goods in the interim we will be happy to supply by arrangement (contact Graham Wilson 01727 872718).

The hut itself is in a good state of repair, but we continue to be concerned that areas of the site regularly flood in wet weather. Although we know the cause of the problem it is not so easy to find a solution.

SEED POTATOES

Seed potatoes will be available from the Trading Hut when it re-opens in February.

We will be offering the following varieties:-

First Earlies - Red Duke of York and Swift

Second Earlies- Nadine

Main Crop - King Edward

Salad - Charlotte

Prices are being held again at £1 per kilogram.

We will also be selling Stuttgarter Giant and Sturon onion sets as well as Golden Gourmet shallots.

40% DISCOUNT ON SEEDS

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

Seed catalogues and order forms are available **NOW** from Percy Brazier - Tel: 01727 868541.

Although we are taking orders right through to Spring next year **early orders** will be much appreciated. We need a minimum order to get our discount so early orders will enable us to start deliveries early in the new year

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

PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

This year's membership (fully paid up members) was the lowest for several years, at about 150+ households. This is particularly disappointing since numbers have been increasing over the last few years. The main reason for the decline, believe it or not, is that members "forget to pay".

Unfortunately we do not have the number of volunteers we would need to go round, knocking on doors, collecting subscriptions. And to be fair this is not an activity that appeals to many people. So, we have to rely on you to be pro-active in paying your subscriptions.

Now, you can do this the hard way or the easy way.

The hard way is for you to come down to the hut, if you remember, pay your £3, get a receipt and a membership card. The treasurer then has to record the money received and take it into the

bank. This is time consuming to say the least.

The easy way is to pay by Standing Order. It is easy to set up and once done the bank does all the administration for us and everything happens automatically, not only this year but in future years until you tell us to stop. The most common reason I get for not setting up a Standing Order is that "it's only for £3, so its not worth doing". Can I assure you it is worth doing and it helps us out a lot.

Membership fees of £3 for 2019 will be due in January. Please pay by standing order - it only takes a couple of minutes to do.

For those of you who receive a printed version of the Newsletter a Standing Order form is included with your copy (please ignore if you already pay by Standing Order). Forms will be available at the AGM, the hut or from Graham Wilson - 01727 872718 or Andrew Keates - 01727 872708.

This income is important to us. We use it to pay many of our overheads such as printing costs, RHS membership, insurance etc.

COMING SOON IN 2019

DO YOU ENJOY A DAY OUT

BUT

HATE THE DRIVING

THEN

YOU ARE JUST THE PERSON WE ARE LOOKING FOR.

Join us on our outings, just sit back, relax and enjoy the view. Visit beautiful gardens and interesting events, while letting the coach take the strain. Local pick-up points and attractive pricing make for some great day's out.

In 2019 we will be visiting:

14 MAY - LEONARDSLEE GARDENS.

Famous for its rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, it 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.

20 JUNE - BETH CHATTO & GREEN ISLAND GARDENS

A return visit after several years, plus a first visit to Green Island.
Two gardens at their best in summer.

2 AUG - BBC COUNTRY FILE LIVE at BLENHEIM PALACE

Now firmly established as one of the premier shows of the year

Here is a selection of activities taking place:-

Country File Experience - go behind the scenes and discover how the programme is made and have a live interactive experience with the presenters.

Meet the animals on Adam's Farm.

Get up close to Shire horses and the Shetland pony display team.

Watch the Dog & Duck show, falconry display, gun dogs in action.

Extreme mountain bike display.

Craft display, kitchen marquee, wildlife zone AND MUCH MORE.

Stress free travel by coach with direct access into the show site and main entrance drop-off.

There will also be a 50% reduction on normal admission prices to the palace, park and gardens.

As this is a family event we will be offering places to children (age 4 to 16) who are accompanied by a Garden Club member.

Booking for these trips will open in the New Year - watch out for more details and the booking forms in the next Newsletter

HOLIDAY 2019

We have now had four very successful holiday breaks the latest being to the Gardens of Norfolk. We are now turning our attention to 2019 and planning is well under way. This year we hope to be visiting the Gardens of South Wales, including the spectacular Botanical Gardens of Wales, Aberglasney, Dyffryn Gardens, Tredegar House, plus an opportunity to visit other places of interest in the area.

As with this year it will be a relaxed pace with visits to the best gardens and attractions the area has to offer, We need a minimum of 30 participants for this to go ahead.

We hope to announce the details and open bookings at the AGM.

HELP WANTED

Our band of helpers is always in need of additional volunteers. The more hands we have, the lighter the work.

If you can spare a little time during the year to help in any of the following ways please let me know (Graham Wilson - details below) or sign up at the AGM.

Hut Duty - Saturdays 2.00pm to 4.00pm. If you are willing to do one or more Saturdays, please let us know how many.

Unloading Deliveries - We have about 4 or 5 of these during the year, usually in a morning. It takes less than an hour but you must be capable of lifting a bag of compost.

Delivering Newsletters/schedules etc - 3 or 4 times a year.

Help at the Annual Show. Set up on Friday evening (mainly moving tables) for about an hour or at the show itself (various tasks on offer).

Gardeners Evenings - Help putting out chairs for half an hour before the start.

Help with refreshments at any of our functions.

Last but not least anyone who is a dab hand at the various web site/social media technologies.

CUPS & TROPHIES 2018

Section 1: Vegetables

Gladys Yule Challenge Cup Ian Getley
Macmillan Trophy (Best Exhibit) Derrick Davis
Top Tray Ian Getley

Section 2: Fruit

J.P. Hall Challenge Cup Ian Getley
Bill Stephen Cup (Best Exhibit) Margaret Rolfe

Section 3: Rose/Flowers

Barbara Forward Memorial Trophy Graham Wilson
Green Man Cottage Trophy (Best Exhibit) Graham Wilson
Top Vase Val Brazier

Section 4: Dahlias

St Stephen's Trophy Ian Getley
The Rideout Cup (Best Exhibit) Ian Getley

Section 5: Floral Art

G. E. Clark Floral Trophy Christine Abingdon

Section 6: Domestic

Greensleeves Trophy Margaret Rolfe

Section 7: Children

Godden Trophy (Best Exhibit) Adam Whittaker

Section 8: Inter-School Competition

Park Street C of E JMI

Parish in Bloom

Section 9: Novice

Gwen Stephen Trophy Oliver Getley

Section 11: Photography

Betty Weller Trophy Michael Ironmonger

Section 12: Handicrafts

Falconer Cup David Rankine

Highest Points in Section 1 – 5

RHS Bronze Medal Ian Getley

Highest Points in Show

Joan Ryder Trophy Ian Getley

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Graham Wilson, 51 Mayflower Road, Park Street, 01727 872718
Secretary Pat Holland, 8 Wych Elms, Park Street, 01727 568057
Treasurer Martyn Dadswell, 59 Orchard Drive, Park Street, 01727 872127
Committee Elizabeth Upton, 51 Mount Drive, Park Street, 01727 872150
Colin Leach, 31 Newlyn Close, Bricket Wood, 01923 673019
Andrew Keates, 38 Maplefield, Park Stret, 01727 872708
Derrick Davis, 10 Wych Elms, Park Street, 01727 873657
Bill Whitehead, 19 Spooners Drive, Park Street, 01727 87330
Pat Solomon, 12 Woodside Road, Bricket Wood, 01923 671277
Percy/Val Brazier, 9 Glevum Close, St Albans, 01727 868541