

www.ststephensgardeningclub.co.uk

St. Stephens Gardening Club



(Formerly St. Stephens Horticultural Society)

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2021

ANNUAL SHOW

NEW DATE, NEW LOCATION

Saturday 14 August, 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Greenwood Park Sports Hall, Chiswell Green

Admission Free

Thanks to

**M K Ginder & Sons Funeral Directors
who will be sponsoring the show.**

ANNUAL SHOW

The Show Schedule is included with this Newsletter. Those of you who receive your newsletter via the internet will receive a hard copy of the Show Schedule and copies are available at the hut.

This year's photographic competition will have 3 categories:

- In my Garden
- Flower Power, a single variety of flower
- Red Sky at Night

We have brought the Annual Show forward to the middle of August, which reflects the change to our growing season, thanks to climate change. Consequently you will see one or two changes to the schedule.

Also the show is moving to Greenwood Park, a larger location and an opportunity to attract a wider audience, including those who will be in the park for other reasons.

This is something of a gamble - we don't want a small number of entries looking forlorn in a large space. More than ever success will be dependent upon the number of exhibits, so please try to enter even if it is only one exhibit. MOST IMPORTANTLY, we are all amateurs and enthusiasm is a good substitute for skill. Our hope is that even more members will enter this year. Whatever your expertise your entries will be welcomed and valued. Remember, without

exhibits, we don't have a show. **As an added incentive we will not be charging for entries again this year - YES, IT'S FREE TO ENTER.** We will still require an entry form so that we can prepare the show tables in advance.

The Annual Show is the highlight of the gardening year and is traditionally well supported.. Please take a little time to look through the schedule as we would like you to enter something in the show. If you haven't shown before please consider entering, perhaps in just one or two classes, or perhaps the Novice Class. I can assure you that you do NOT need to be an expert. We are proud to be able to put on a successful show each year at a time when traditional Garden/Horticultural shows are on the decline. Please help us to keep it that way.

HINTS AND TIPS TO EXHIBITORS

- Read the schedule carefully and make sure you keep to the descriptions.
- If you are unsure as to how to present your exhibit the Show Secretary will be happy to give advice.
- When you choose your entries, remember that uniformity is more important than size.
- Wash all root vegetables.
- All fruit should be shown complete with stalks.
- Apples and pears should not be polished.
- Beans must be straight, even shape and size, young and brittle when snapped.
- Beetroot must be of a deep colour and of an even shape and size.
- Cabbage must be similar in shape and size, firm solid heart, good colour and no blemishes.
- Carrots should be young and rich in colour, washed without scratching and presented fan shaped with 3 ins of foliage.
- Onions must be cleaned and scale leaves removed, but not over-skinned (big mistake). Tie the necks with raffia or string.
- Potatoes should be young, unblemished, same size and show their true colour.
- Shallots should be firm and of even size. Tie necks and exhibit on a plate of sand.
- Tomatoes should be just ripe, of even size, rich colour with small green stalk. Cherry tomatoes should be exhibited on a plate of sand.

If you have any questions about what and how to exhibit please give me a call (Graham - 01727 872718) or go to the hut where a free leaflet is available with more hints and tips.

MARTYN DADSWELL - RIP

Martyn joined the Garden Club committee in 2008 and was quickly elevated to position of Treasurer in 2009. He continued in that role until 2018 when he retired through ill health. Martyn was a very active supporter of the club, always at talks and ever present on outings and holidays. A willing helper at our functions, be it the show, Parish Fete or helping at the hut. His sense of humour was unique and could be relied upon to keep us amused. The funeral was held at Garston Crematorium.

BILL WHITEHEAD - RIP

Bill was introduced to the St Stephens Horticultural Society, as it was then known, in the mid 1960's when he entered in the show some "good chrysanthemums" as he described them. From what I can make out he has been entering and winning in the show ever since. His favourite was roses, as any of could tell if you saw his front garden. He also had a great display of daffodils - always the first in the village to open early in January.

In Bill's early days the garden store was located in the grounds of Bricket Wood Social Club with a second outpost in Park Street Lane. He was instrumental in moving the hut to its current location in Drop Lane in 1982 and its subsequent extension in 1989.

He joined the hut rota in 1970, a role that was to last over 40 years. In 1987 he was appointed Assistant Secretary and Chairman in 1995. Somewhere along the road he also became a trustee of the club. His tenure as Chairman lasted 5 years but he continued as a committee member until 2019. His contribution and influence over 50 years cannot be underestimated. He will be sorely missed.

The funeral will be held on Monday 14 June, leaving 19, Spooners Drive at 1.30pm for a funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Frogmore at 2.00pm. Due to COVID restrictions numbers in the church will be limited.

TRADING HUT

The trading hut in Drop Lane is now open every Saturday between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. If you still prefer to order on-line and collect on the Saturday, this service will continue to be available. E-mail your order to graham_g_wilson@hotmail.com by the end of Thursday for Saturday collection. If visiting the hut please wear a facemask and maintain social distancing.

FUTURE OF PEAT BASED PRODUCTS

The government has announced that all peat based products must be withdrawn from sale by the end of 2023. The RHS are campaigning for us all to reduce peat usage now.

We currently stock both peat based multipurpose compost and peat free multipurpose compost. Our experience and feedback suggest that the peat free is a good alternative, albeit a little more expensive.

We have to decide when we discontinue the sale of peat based compost. If you have a view on this please let us know. Currently we have not found a satisfactory replacement for peat based grow bags.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Does the array of fertilisers for sale confuse you? Do you wonder which ones to choose? Well, here is the basic guide:

Fertilisers contain three essential elements:

1. NITROGEN - This boosts green growth. Chicken and horse manure. Growmore will give a quick boosts to lettuce, cabbage etc.
2. PHOSPHOROUS - for root growth. Bonemeal
3. POTASSIUM - to boost flower and fruit production. Tomato feed.

Two general purpose fertilisers for use everywhere are Tomato feed and blood, fish and bone.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

I would like to thank the 150+ members who have already renewed their membership for 2021. **2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES can still be paid - £3 PAYABLE AT HUT or contact Andrew Keates, 01727 872708 for a standing order form.**

You can even push your £3 through our letterboxes.

New members are always welcome so please tell your friends

VISIT TO WISLEY

Thursday 1 July - £15 members, £18 non-members

You may still be able to join us!!

Under the current COVID restrictions we are only allowed to have 30 people on a coach and these places have already been booked.

BUT

As we all know on June 21st the government will be announcing whether the current restrictions are to be relaxed. If this happens we will be releasing a further 20 places on the trip.

This is an opportunity to see the “new look” Wisley following years of development.

The coach will leave Bricket Wood Social Club at 9.00am, How Wood shops (9.05am) and Chiswell Green (9.15am, bus stop opposite Three Hammers).

Please detach the form below and return it with payment in full £15 members, £18 non-members (refundable if we are unable to honour your booking.)

RHS WISLEY GARDEN SHOW- 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 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

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

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