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St. Stephens Gardening Club



(Formerly St. Stephens Horticultural Society)

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As Spring gives way to Summer we are all busy in our gardens and praying for a little rain after a dry Spring. It is also a busy time of the year for your Gardening Club with a number of events during the late Spring/early Summer. These events do not run themselves and on occasion we call for help from some of our members, in particular at the Jubilee Vintage Gala (not in our original Programme of Events) and the Open Gardens day.

In the following articles I have indicated where a little help is needed. If you can help in some small way your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

On a positive note we have had two excellent and well supported talks on the diverse subjects of "Aphids" (did you know that aphids are born pregnant - no wonder we get so many) and "Coffee - from Tree to Cup".

I am also pleased to report that our "Gardens of North Wales" tour is fully booked - all we need now is some untypical Welsh weather.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE VINTAGE GALA & PICNIC

3rd June, 12.30 to 4.00pm, Park Street Recreation Ground.

We are running a stall at the gala, selling plants and a selection of products normally on sale at the hut. We will also be hoping to sign up some new members.

We would like a few helpers on the day. If you can spare an hour between 12.30 and 4.00pm to help man the stall, please contact Pat Holland on 01727 568057 or e-mail patriciaholland50@gmail.com with your availability.

OPEN GARDENS DAY - 31 JULY - 2.00 to 4.30pm

This year will hopefully see the return of our Open Gardens Day. To achieve this **we need a few volunteers** who are willing to open their garden for the rest of us to enjoy. This is not as onerous as it might appear, we are not looking for spectacular show gardens. I look at it as a multi location social event with an opportunity to meet fellow members in pleasant surroundings.

This is a charity event with all donations going to charity.

To register your interest or get more information please contact Derrick Davis on 01727 873657 or e-mail derrick.a.davis@btinternet.com.

VISIT - EXBURY GARDENS - 17 MAY

We still have a few spaces available on this trip so it's not too late to visit the finest spring garden in the country with 200 acres of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias.

The cost is £33 for members. This includes coach, driver's tip, entry and train ride round the gardens.

Coach leaves Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.15am with pick-up points at How Wood Shops and Chiswell Green, opp 3 Hammers.

Contact Graham Wilson on 01727 872718 or

e-mail graham_g_wilson@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL SHOW - Saturday 20 August at Greenwood Park

What's new this year - The show schedule will be published soon but here are a few of the changes to expect as a result of us moving the show to an earlier date:

Apples, pears and plums have been removed from the fruit section

Chrysanthemums have been removed from the flowers.

We have simplified the novice section to encourage those who haven't shown before.

The floral art theme is "Fit For a Queen".

This year's photographic competition will have 3 categories:

- Water

- Beauty of Plants

- Blue Skies

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. Whatever your expertise your entries will be welcomed and valued.

Remember, without exhibits, we don't have a show.

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 when you receive it, 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 and it's free to enter. I know many of you will look at the entries and think "I could have done that", so this year why not just do it.

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.

GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

4th June, 2.00 to 4.00pm at the Trading Hut

If you have any surplus plants bring them along to sell, or we can sell them for you. Or just come along and purchase a plant or two.

The hut will be open for normal trading

VISIT - COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK & GARDENS - 14 JULY

Walk on the wild side. This 160 acre park has over 250 species of animals set in wonderful gardens, demonstrating the diversity of the plant kingdom With glorious landscapes and amazing planting, the gardens are a real treat.

The cost is £30 for members, £33 for non-members.

Coach leaves Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.30am with pick-up points at How Wood Shops and Chiswell Green, opp 3 Hammers.

Contact Graham Wilson on 01727 872718 or

e-mail graham_g_wilson@hotmail.com for more information and booking

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

I would like to thank the members who have already renewed their membership for 2022, especially those who have chosen to pay by standing order..

2022 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