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St. Stephens Gardening Club



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**NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2024**

**IT'S SHOWTIME**

**ANNUAL SHOW 2024**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**2.00pm to 4.30pm**

**Greenwood Park Leisure Centre**

**Chiswell Green**

**Admission Free**

**Thanks to**

**M K Ginder & Sons Funeral Directors**

**who will be sponsoring the show.**

The premier Funeral Service serving the villages in St Stephen Parish.  
The Olde Bakery, Lye Lane, Bricket Wood 01923 893372

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

As many of you will already know, at the last AGM I announced that I will be standing down as Chairman at the next AGM, although hopefully I will remain on the committee.

This will be an opportune time to look at how the club is structured and run, but one thing is obvious if the club is to continue to thrive we need a few more committee members and this is getting ever closer to being a real issue. A few more willing volunteers on the committee will make any restructuring much easier and less onerous. All you need is a bit of enthusiasm and a willingness to help where you can. I assure you committee experience is not required.

The committee meets six times a year at Greenwood Park.

PLEASE, if anyone out there is remotely interested and wants to find out more, give me a call on 01727 872718. I will be more than happy to chat with you.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Just a reminder to those of you who have not yet paid your subscriptions. It is still only £3 (less than a cup of coffee) and you can pay at the trading hut (every Saturday 2.00 to 4.00) or better still pay by standing order and make life easier for you and us. Standing order forms are available at the trading hut.

## **FACEBOOK AND WEB SITE**

At long last we are trying to get to grips with technology. We are now on Facebook, search St Stephens Gardening Club and join up to hear about all our events and activities.

Shortly we will be re-designing our web site so watch out for more news on that.

## **OPEN GARDENS 2024**

### **SUNDAY 28 JULY, 2.00pm to 5.00pm**

We are pleased to announce that the following gardens will be open for members to visit:

12 Woodside Road Bricket Wood

38 Maplefield, Park Street

41 Burston Drive, Park Street

49 Mayflower Road, Park Street

3 Tennyson Road, Chiswell Green

16 Stanley Avenue, Chiswell Green

Burydell Allotments will also be open for visits. A welcome addition to the event.

Refreshments will be available at some gardens.

There is no charge to attend but a charity collection will be available for those willing to donate. All monies will go to Keech Hospice Care.

## **VISIT TO LEEDS CASTLE - 16 SEPTEMBER**

Discover the glamour of the 1930's in the castle. Stroll through the gardens, explore the maze, see the falconry display and birds of prey centre.

The cost is £38 for members, £41 for non-members. This includes coach travel, drivers tip and entry.

The coach leaves Bricket Wood Social Club at 8.45, with pick-ups at How Wood shops and Chiswell Green (opposite 3 Hammers).

PLEASE NOTE - there are only 10 places remaining on this trip.

## **ANNUAL SHOW - IT'S COMING SOON**

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the Show Schedule and entry form for this year's annual show.

Last year we had one of our largest number of entries with several of our members showing for the first time. I would like to hope that this year we can do even better. So come along everyone, try to put at least one entry into the show, there are lots of categories to choose from, growing, baking, photography, crafts, to name but a few. Remember:

### **IT'S NOT WINNING THAT COUNTS, BUT TAKING PART**

We also had a record number of visitors through the door (I do hope it wasn't just the free cake that was the attraction).

There will also be exhibitions of work from local organisations as well as things to buy.

It's all free so bring along your family and friends.

## **NOTE – THE TROPHIES WILL BE PRESENTED BY:**

**The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City & District of St Albans**

So all the more reason for us to put on a good show.

## **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.

#### **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    Derrick Davis, 10 Wych Elms, Park Street, 01727 873657  
                   Michael Webb, 30 Hollybush Ave, Chiswell Green 01727 830954  
                   Chris Dawson, 135 Mount Pleasant Lane, BW, 01923 404171  
                   Andrew Keates, 38 Maplefield, Park Street, 01727 872708  
                   Brian Hillman 15 Homestead Close, Park Street, 01727 873041  
                   Pat Solomon, 12 Woodside Road, Bricket Wood, 01923 671277  
                   Stuart Flack, 18 Ringway Road, Park Street, 07775 942435