

*Dear Members,*

*What an unusual and challenging year this has been so far regarding the weather it has dealt out to us! In spite of this we managed to run a successful Summer Show and Fete in August with some very fine entries, although some classes, notably the dahlias, were very thin on the ground. Now every fine day that allows us to get into the garden is a bonus and enables us all to finish the jobs that really should be completed before the onset of winter. One of those is the planting of bulbs. We have bought daffodil bulbs which we will sell at the October meetings and we hope this will encourage you to enter the Spring Show next year. April 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 is the date to remember for this event.*

*Once again we shall be placing an order for D.T.Brown's seeds and we hope to have a similar discount to that obtained last year which is 50% on all orders of seeds and 10% on all non seed items. Of course this is dependent upon the number of orders. I feel I should remind you that we do not make any profit for handling this order, but instead pass the whole discount on to our members. Our thanks are due to Maureen Ridler for agreeing to take it on again this year. Orders will need to be given to Maureen by December 1<sup>st</sup> and she should have spare copies of the catalogues available at forthcoming meetings.*

*The Aylesbury Gardening Society run an excellent Trading Store and it is the subject of an article in this newsletter. Any of our members are welcome to join this Society as 'affiliated members'. This costs £3.00 or £2.00 for those who are 60 and over. The Store is open from 9a.m. to 12 noon each Sunday and from 6.30p.m. to 8p.m. on Thursday evenings during April and May. Their range of items for sale is very large and the prices are always extremely reasonable. Do go and see for yourselves. I will have some of their forms for ordering potatoes at the next meetings and you may well decide to use their service.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Sue Lipscomb*

## Society Annual General Meeting

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. We hope that as many of our members and new members will be there to welcome our President, Mrs Lorna Price. The annual subscriptions for 2013 are due at this meeting though they may be paid at any time up to Christmas. Subscriptions for the year are £5 or £6 if you have your newsletter sent through the post. For members who cannot attend our AGM there is a form at the bottom of the newsletter. Please tear or print it off and send it with your subscription to our treasurer Ken Halls. We now have many members receiving this newsletter by email. If you would like to do so please send your email address to [muchpottering@btinternet.com](mailto:muchpottering@btinternet.com) We hope to keep the AGM short, as afterwards we have a glass of wine and some food followed by a talk: '**Verges from a Vehicle**' by Jill Carey.

## Society Diary

All talks are held in the Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton and start at 8 pm. They are all free to members, but there will be a raffle and produce & plant stall to defray costs. Non-members are charged at £2. Coffee and tea are served in the interval.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

**Annual General meeting** followed by talk '**Verges from a Vehicle**' by Jill Carey

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Talk & slides + music: '**Gardens and Flowers**' by **John & Jo Brewster**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Annual Christmas talk & slides. 'A to Z of garden History'** by Russell Bowes. This will be followed by our Christmas Buffet. Do bring along a homemade Christmas tree decoration and enter our competition.

## Annual Spring Show 2013

Our 2013 Spring Show and plant sale will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April in the Aston Clinton School Hall opening at 2pm. Whilst daffodils and Spring flowers are one of the main attractions, there are plenty of classes for novices and children, and also floral art, handicraft and domestic sections. Entries are open to all, but with some special classes for people who live in the three villages. Getting your children/grandchildren to join in is an excellent educational tool to learn about flowers, food and the environment and gives them a sense of achievement.

We will be making some changes to the schedule and this will be finalised by the first newsletter of 2013. Changes already proposed are -

1. The Master Daffodil Trophy (class 39) will be revised to read **six** (instead of 12) distinct cultivars, one bloom of each selected from Divisions 1 to 4, to be staged one bloom per vase. For this year, we will also remove the stipulation that the entry must include at least one cultivar from each division, to try and encourage more people to enter.
2. The classified miniatures pot size will be increased to a maximum of 8 inches (was 5 inches)
3. The Hyacinths class will no longer stipulate that the 3 hyacinths in a vase must be the same colour
4. Replace the jar of three fruits marmalade with a jar of soft fruit jam
5. The children's (aged 9 - 14) photograph class will be "Our feathered friends"
6. The adult photograph classes will be "Winter scene"

### Growing Miniature Daffodils for the Spring Show

Last year we included in the Spring Show some miniature daffodil classes. An article by Sue Lipscomb, our chairman appeared in our newsletter last year. The term miniature daffodil usually refers to those that are

## Growing Miniature Daffodils for the Spring Show Continued from page2

less than 10" high and have a flower which measures less than 2" across. We shall be repeating these classes again. A selection of miniature daffodil varieties is available from local garden centres and includes Segovia, Rupicola, Hawera, Minnow, Canaliculatus, Sun Disc, Bulbocodium Tenifolius and Golden Bells. For more specialist varieties go to the following website: [www.bramcotebulbs.com](http://www.bramcotebulbs.com) . We hope that you will have a go at growing and showing them at our Spring Show. If you do intend to stage them, they can be rather fiddly but very rewarding. They look best with stems cut rather short and in proportion to the flower size and the leaf size should be appropriate as well. Our Society will provide special container vases to display them on the show bench. Some classes require a pot of miniatures to be entered. Fellow members will always help and guide you on growing and staging, however if you want further details or have queries please contact Graham Thirkettle on 630115.

## AYLESBURY GARDENING SOCIETY

### Thurston trading store

### Old Stoke Road Allotments, Southcourt, Aylesbury

The Aylesbury Gardening Society was established in 1880 and is still going strong. One of their prime functions is to run the Thurston Trading Store, located on the Town Council Allotment site in Old Stoke Road. You will find the members ready and willing to help with all your gardening queries.

All members of our Society are affiliated members of the Aylesbury Gardening Society and can use the store on payment of £3 per annum (£2 for over 60)

THE TRADING STORE IS OPEN ON:  
SUNDAYS - FROM 09.00AM TO 12.00 NOON  
THURSDAYS - FROM 6.30PM TO 8 PM DURING APRIL AND MAY ONLY  
Also the Store will be closed on 23rd and 30th December 2012

They have in stock over 200 items such as gloves, fleece, blood fish and bone, compost, Growmore, netting, string and bean poles. They will also order your potatoes for you. All their prices are competitive. You will be served by fellow gardeners, so please go and pay them a visit. I find that their offering of straight fertilizers and chemicals very useful. For instance you can buy iron sulphate which, dissolved in water, controls moss in your lawns instead of having to buy an expensive commercial mix. In the spring you can then apply a high nitrogen fertilizer to make your grass grow. They also sell wild bird food.

This time of year they have autumn onion sets in stock. They have 2 varieties: Reds – ‘Electric’: 500gm - £1.70 or 250gm - 90p and Whites – ‘Shakespeare’: 500gm- £1.25 or 250gm - 70p (Some seed suppliers charge £4.99 for 250gm!) They also have broad bean seed for early sowing.

#### SEED POTATOES

Seed Potato order forms are now available at the store or from our chairman Sue Lipscomb. Order now to get the variety you want, ready for delivery January/February.

We intend to stock the following varieties:

**Earlies:** Accord, Casablanca, Foremost, Lady Christl (crop failure), Maris Bard, Rocket and Vanessa

**Second Earlies:** Catriona, Kestrel, Wilja and Yukon Gold

**Maincrop:** Blue Belle, Cara, Desiree, Majestic, Maris Piper, Romano, and Valor

**Salad/2nd early:** Charlotte

I hope that the Aylesbury Gardening Society will appreciate our use of the information from their website ([www.aylesburygardeningociety.co.uk](http://www.aylesburygardeningociety.co.uk)) which I acknowledge and I recommend that you visit their trading store soon.  
Ralph Weston

## A traditional village show and fete in glorious sunshine

Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society's 55<sup>th</sup> Show and Fete was held at Aston Clinton School last Saturday. Throughout the afternoon we were entertained by the Great Horwood Silver Band and our visitors spent their time browsing amongst the stalls of the fete, trying their hand at our various games and marvelling at the entries for the show. This year although it had been a struggle to produce good dahlias and some vegetables were slow to grow, the numbers of entries overall had increased particularly in the domestic section where some classes such as the Victoria Sandwich and the fruit cake had ten entries. In future years we would like to boost our novice entries and also the entries for the children's sections of the show.

As always it is important to thank the teams of supporters who help to set up the show on the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and then help to disband the whole event later on the Saturday. What would we do without them?

One highlight of the show this year was a marvellous display of gladioli staged by Trevor Fawcett, President of the Gladiolus Society, and his friends. After the prize giving, Trevor auctioned these for the benefit of the Society.

The following people were notable winners who received cups, trophies and medals:-

Vegetable Section - Ralph Weston, David Elkins, Graham Rutherford and May Parker

Flower Section - Andrew Barrow, David Ridgway, Marjorie Stanbridge, Maureen Ridler and Graham Rutherford

RHS Banksian Medal - Ralph Weston

Novice Sections - Maureen Ridler and Rob Farley

Floral Art Section - Frances Farley

Domestic Section - Mary Flower, Rebecca Potton and Pat Williams

Children's Sections - Elizabeth Pearson, Antonia Halls, Liam Halls, Abigail Whitworth and Beth Richards

Children's Fancy Dress - Freya and Ben Potton

Handicraft Section - Ros Needham and Richard Groom