

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

Volume 16 Issue 3

July 2013

President Mrs Lorna Price



Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

You will receive a copy of the schedule and entry form for the Summer Show and Fete with this newsletter delivery. Do please look at it carefully! I know those of you who regularly enter will have been eagerly awaiting it in order to check that your favourite classes are still there. If however, you never really study it, then why not take a peep this time. There might be something that catches your eye and we would be delighted to welcome lots of 'first time exhibitors' this year.

Often our children's entries are very low. If you have children, grandchildren or neighbours with children, please see what you can do to encourage them to enter. The garden set in a seed tray is always an enjoyable one to begin with if they have never entered before. This is Class 113 if the child is aged eight or under and Class 123 if they are aged 9 to 14.

What unhelpful weather we are having this season. It always seems a challenge to produce good produce and flowers but maybe that's the fun of our gardening hobby. My brassicas inside their cage of stout netting seems to be the one area of my garden that is really flourishing - that and the weeds, of course which are everywhere!

I do hope that those of you who have access to a computer will be enjoying the society website which is so ably run by Diane Kolonko and Ralph Weston. It really is a joy to log on and see what interesting features and photographs have been added since the last visit. Those of us who are part of Diane's email group get regular gentle prompts when new items have been added to the website.

Do please remember, we are always very grateful for helpers on the day of the Show and Fete and on the afternoon of the day before. If you would like to offer your help this year, please contact Maureen Ridler or email info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.

I look forward to seeing you at the Show and Fete (once I emerge from my room in the Clock School where I spend the first part of the afternoon working out which of you have won our cups and trophies this year. Hopefully it will be another really enjoyable village event.

*With very best wishes,
Sue Lipscomb*

Aldbury Morris Men

Keeping the Morris tradition alive

(men behaving badly with hankies, sticks, bells and baldrics)

The Aldbury Morris is a traditional men-only side, members of the Morris Ring. During the summer months they dance Cotswold Morris and the occasional dance from other traditions. You can find them in some unspoiled corner of the Chilterns near the borders of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, in close proximity to a pub. They also go on trips, so you may even be lucky enough to stumble upon them somewhere else in England... but usually in close proximity to a pub. Where they are also well known for cracking a tune or two in the bar afterwards...

They dance an eclectic mix of different Cotswold traditions (and the odd Border dance as well) with sticks and hankies and pints. Many of the side are also musicians and singers, so every Thursday evening in the season ends with a really good music session in the bar - the ratio of dancing to singing depending on the weather! In fact, many people have observed, perhaps unkindly, that they are better musicians than we are dancers!

They keep the tradition very much alive and have a lot of fun. Aston Clinton can help by coming to the Show and supporting the Aldbury Morris Men along with the Show and Fete

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 14th August

Entry night for the Annual Summer Show

Anthony Hall; from to 6.00-7.45 pm

Saturday 17th August

56th Annual Show and Fete

Aston Clinton School 2 pm; Entry £1

Wednesday 11th September

Talk with Slides '**Costa Rica**' by Beryl Hulbert

Wednesday 9th October

Talk with slides: '**Stowe Gardens**' by John Cornwall

Daffodil and tulip bulb sale.

Wednesday 23rd October

Annual General meeting followed by talk '**Chilterns Changing wildlife**' by John Tyler

Tree Health Survey

I have been asked to carry out a survey of disease infected trees in Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp.

Trees are a vital and much loved part of our lives. In towns and cities, trees bring nature right to our doorsteps, and in parks and open spaces help to create green and pleasant surroundings for leisure and relaxation. Trees are vital for wildlife too, providing birds, insects and mammals with a home and food. They are also part of our national history and heritage and play an important role in helping to regulate our climate, by cooling in hot weather, reducing flooding and soil erosion, and capturing and storing carbon. This survey is about the condition of our trees. In recent years the number of pests and diseases attacking trees has increased, leading to a decline in tree health and, in some cases, tree loss. In order to manage these problems most effectively we need to study our trees and record information about their condition and any pests and diseases that are found.

The main pests and diseases are affecting Oak, Ash and Horse Chestnut. Whilst I have a lot more details, I am asking help from Society members. If and when you see a tree suffering from say die back or holes in leaves or leaf discolouring, please let me know where, so that I can collect details and photographs for the data bank.

Thank you, Ralph Weston, or email: info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

56th Summer Show and Fete

Saturday 17th August 2013 at 2.00 pm

Once again our summer Show and Fete will be held in the grounds, some of the classrooms and in the Old Clock School at Aston Clinton School. As always this is very much a village event with a range of stalls and fete games. Teas and refreshments are available. Admission is £1 with children free. For those not away on holiday it makes a pleasant break in the summer holidays. This year, for the first time, we have managed to get the **'Aldbury Morris Men'** to come and give us a display. This is in addition to The Great Horwood Silver Band who regularly play for us at our show.

We want you to join in and there are plenty of classes – 143 in total – so there is something for everyone to have a go. All the classes are open, that is anybody may enter, except for 2 classes that are restricted to those who live in our three villages. The title for the main floral art class this year is **"Summer Holidays"**; for the photograph the subject is **"On my Travels"** and the children's photograph is **"My best Friend"** (pet or human).

The range of classes makes this a truly 'Old Style' Village show and fete. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbours, children and grandchildren to have a go. Entry is free but there is no prize money, just the joy of winning a certificate and perhaps a cup or shield. We do of course give prize money to the children. The Show Schedule is available from Ralph Weston (630456) and Maureen Ridler (633376). It is also on the society website together with the entry form.

Wednesday 14th August is entry night for the Summer Show, so do come to the Anthony Hall between 6.00 and 7.45pm.

If you cannot make the entry night, please send, deliver, or email (info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk) your entry to Sue Lipscomb before or on Wednesday 14th August.

The show and particularly the Fete takes a lot of manpower to make it run smoothly. We need lots of helpers to set up, act as stewards, man stalls and to clear up afterwards. The Fete helps the society raise funds to defray the cost of putting on the show. The major cost is the hiring of the school premises, so the society stalls such as the Raffle and Tombola are very important to us. Donations of prizes for these stalls would be much appreciated. We are looking for cakes and preserves for the cake stall. If you can help in anyway please contact Maureen Ridler or Ralph Weston and thank you.

We also run stalls for books, bric-a-brac, plants and produce (such as fruit and flowers, and divided plants). So please let us recycle your books and bric-a-brac. Donations of plants, flowers and produce from your gardens will also be gratefully received. Finally, if you won a cup last year, please will you return it to Sue Lipscomb on or before Wednesday 17th August.

The show schedule is now available on **our website** where there are special sections for newsletters and our photo albums. Keep an eye on the "Notice Board" which is a page for miscellaneous items. We are developing our hints and tips. If you have a question, then contact the Society through the website and we will get in touch with you. Finally from the website you can now get a 5 day weather forecast provided by the met office. Please promote our website amongst your friends and acquaintances. Both the Parish Council and Wendover village websites have links to our website.

Container Gardening

Diane, our website guru, has suggested that we need hints and tips on container gardening, especially where vegetables are concerned. With smaller and smaller gardens, many people are turning to pots and containers to grow their trees, bushes, perennials, as well as vegetables. In some areas such as here, where the ground has a lot of chalk in it, there are plants such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas and some heathers where planting in pots is necessary.

The main problem with growing in pots and containers is watering. Often plants look ok and then after just one hot and sunny day, you go out and they are all drooping, and to judge the amount of water needed for the pot is difficult. Either the compost dries out or gets waterlogged. Hanging baskets are even more difficult to manage.

Personally, I am always looking for ways of reducing the number of pots, and yet I have over 30 pots on my back patio and more in the front and up the garden. Most of them are flowering plants and small bushes, and those planted with geraniums require little attention but watering even from a hose can be a chore.

With vegetables, watering is even more important. The gardening pundits, especially the TV programmes, make it seem easy with suggestions such as grow your new potatoes in a bucket for Christmas! It is not only watering but making sure they get enough light. Traditionally, the principle vegetable grown in pots is the tomato and I grow them regularly in the greenhouse, and I have also been successful with cucumbers and peppers. Nearly all vegetables can be grown in pots and containers, from potatoes through turnips, carrots, beans, and peas, to courgettes and marrows.

The skill is in the management of the planted pots making sure that they get enough water and nutrients. You cannot rely on natural rain and often it is not enough to wet the compost thoroughly. This is especially pertinent with potatoes which grow a large leaf cover so that little water gets into the pot and you end up with very small potatoes. If you are taking up growing in pots seriously, then perhaps installing a water system is the answer. A bit expensive to install but it will last several years.

To sum up, growing vegetables in pots can be made to work but needs close management of watering and supply of nutrients, and do expect smaller returns. A longer version of this article, with photographs, will appear on our website. We are also interested in your successes and failures.