

# Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

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President Mrs Lorna Price



Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

*As I write this letter to you at the end of December I find myself musing on the unusually mild weather the month has brought. The first half was extremely dry, allowing me to walk around on the soil in my garden, catching up on some of the jobs that should have been completed long before. Now we have the wind and rain to contend with and who knows what the beginning of 2014 will bring. Maybe that's the joy of the weather in this part of the world; unpredictable and very varied. Let's hope that we all have a successful growing year.*

*I know that many of our members have taken advantage of our D.T. Brown seed order once more. Maureen, our Secretary is responsible for the success of this venture and due to your support we have had sufficient orders this year to gain a 60% discount on our seeds and 15% on all non-seed items. Once again let me remind you that the whole discount goes to those who placed an order.*

*It was good to see so many of our members supporting us by attending our meetings and also the two shows this year. Unfortunately our programme of talks for 2014 is not yet finalised, so we are unable to enclose the diary with this newsletter. Some of the talks, however, are shown on page 2 and also on our web site. Elizabeth Weston, our programme secretary is taking account of many of the suggestions that those attending the AGM in October gave her. I hope you will see that we have an interesting and varied programme of events for the coming year and I hope that many of you will support the talks, shows and visits.*

*Thinking ahead to the Spring Show, I have checked recently on the bulbs that I have planted in pots. They seem to me to be more ahead than is usual at the end of December as many are pushing through the soil. No doubt, as the months progress these heavy pots will have to be moved many times, from sunshine to shady spots, to the greenhouse and even to windowsills in the house until each bloom has reached perfection on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Perfection is always the aim but of course, rarely achieved!*

*All that remains now is to wish you all a very happy new year.*

*With very best wishes,  
Sue Lipscomb*

## **The Annual Social Supper Saturday 8th March**

The Annual Social Supper will be at the Anthony Hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We meet at 7 for 7.30 pm: The supper will be followed by a talk with slides given by Elaine Nicholls. We look forward to having as many of our members coming for this most enjoyable of evenings. John Seaton is providing a selection of hot and cold food. Tickets are £12 each. Please let us know if you require a vegetarian selection. Our Annual dinner provides for one complimentary glass of wine so please bring your own refreshment. Gifts for the raffle will be gratefully received. There is a booking form at the end of this newsletter, though a simple email to Elizabeth will do.

Elizabeth Weston

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> February

Talk with slides: '**The Ridgeway**' by John Tyler

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Annual Social Supper 7 for 7.30 pm:**

Followed by A talk with slides by Elaine Nicholls on her trip to India

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April Speaker to be confirmed

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April

**Entry night for the Spring Show**

Anthony Hall time 6.00 -7.45 pm

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Show and Plant sale**

2 pm in the Aston Clinton School Hall. Entry £1

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Talk with slides '**Capetown to Victoria Falls**' by Tisa Abel

## **Newsletters and Website**

Did you know that this Newsletter has been published in this format for 16 years? We are now on volume 17. There have been several changes since it was first published when we used the Microsoft Publisher programme to contain and move around the stories. These days we use 'Microsoft Word' since we can do all we want using this program and it can easily be transferred and read by other people. Before 1997 and computer the newsletter had to be typed up and 'run off'. I cannot find my No 1 copy of the newsletter; it is probably on an old computer's hard disc. The Society has come a long way since 1997 and we have had our website up and running for a year now. We are grateful to Diane for continuously updating it, keeping looking fresh and also circulating those members who wish it, on email. When Diane emails us with website updates, this provides a good opportunity to take a look and see what is new.

It has been asked how often is our website is visited. During the past year (up to 22/12/13) we had 1739 unique visitors making 3009 visits and 84990 hits. In December alone we have had 243 visits and 1672 hits. Our busiest months were April and May and we got visits from several countries including China, Germany, Lithuania and Poland. Whilst those from Foreign countries don't normally respond with an email it is interesting to note that our message and information is being spread far and wide. Please encourage your friends and family to look at our website. It is a useful learning resource.

## Spring Show 2014

Our Spring Show this year will be on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. Here is a list of the proposed amendments to the schedule -

### **Section 1 (daffodils) –**

**Class 1** Grow for Show is **Ice Wings**.

**Class 1A NEW CLASS** - This is a new children's class - A single daffodil in a pot not more than 6 inches (15cms) in diameter. Open to all children up to and including the age of 14. There will be a cash prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

**Class 32 (The Village Six)** To try and encourage more entrants, we are going to modify the class description so that it reads "Six cultivars (Exhibitor's choice), one bloom of each selected from Divisions 1 to 4, to be staged in two vases" rather than "Six *DISTINCT* cultivars (Exhibitor's choice), one bloom of each selected from Divisions 1 to 4, to be staged in two vases". This means you can display more than one stem of the same variety in the vases rather than six different cultivars. Any queries, please talk to Ken or Graham.

**Class 34 (The Society's Bloom)** is **St Patrick's Day**

**Class 38 (Penrice Cup)** is one bloom of **Merlin**.

### **Section 2 (Spring Flowers) –**

**No changes**

### **Section 3 (Floral Art) –**

**Class 52** the NOVICE class this year will read as follows – “**Spring in Blossom**”. Maximum size 12" x 12" x 24" high. Any natural flowers and plant material may be used with suitable accessories. Not open to anyone who has previously gained a first prize in any floral art class at this show.

**Class 55** Floral Art - the theme is “**Spring is in the Air**”

### **Section 4 (Domestic) –**

**No changes**

### **Section 5 (Children) –**

**Class 68** Children 5 or under - "Decorate a paper plate for Spring" has been *replaced* with "A finger painting on A4 paper entitled "A Riot of Colour".

**Class 73** Children 9 to 14 years photo class entitled “**A photograph of a flower or plant**”. Photo 6" x 4" (digital or non-digital).

### **Section 6 (Handicraft) –**

**Class 81 and 82** - same theme for both photo classes entitled "**Spring is in the Air**". Photo size - 6" x 4" mounted not framed for class 81 (non-digital), and not to exceed 8" x 6" mounted not framed for class 82 (digital).

Please try to enter the show as a competitor, and encourage your children, grandchildren, and friends and neighbours also.

**Entry night is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 – 7.45pm at the Anthony Hall**. Those of you who have trophies, please return them to Ken Halls by entry night at the latest.

If you have not entered before, there are a number of novice classes. If you need help to know what to enter and how to stage, please ask Ken Halls, Graham Thirkettle or one of the committee.

We are always very grateful for gifts for the raffle and any spare plants you might have for our popular plant stall. We also hope to have the usual commercial stalls.

We will need volunteers as always, to help put up show benches on the Friday afternoon (from 4pm), to help on the day as stewards etc. and to help dismantle everything at the end of the show. If you would like to learn to be a steward on the Saturday morning of the show, the committee would be delighted and you will get one of John and Evelyn's superb lunches, but please let a member of the committee know before the show date so that you can express a preference for which section interests you most. You will then be able to shadow the steward of that section.

If you have any queries, please contact Ken Halls.

Ken Halls Spring Show Secretary



## Waterproof Socks

I have recently discovered 'waterproof socks' in a local cycle shop. Though they are not cheap, there are several suppliers on the net. Basically they consist of 3 layers of seamless sock technology. The inner actively wicks sweat and moisture away from the skin followed by a waterproof, breathable membrane that prevents water entering but allows moisture vapour to escape for dryness and comfort. Outside is a tough, durable outer that stands up to shoe abrasion and repeated washing. They are suitable for a wide variety of uses, from outdoor pursuits such as cycling; walking and gardening I have bought them for use with my gardening boots or shoes which inevitably leak water after a while. I cannot yet say how good they are but hope they will be useful in this very wet weather.

## The Society Trees in the Park

Planted in 2007 to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year, they are now 6 years old. In that time some of our trees have not only established themselves but grown to considerable height and substantial girth. They are now well above the wild undergrowth we were forced to plant them in. Most still have their labels and dedications. Try and go to the park and check your tree and if a label or something is missing then please let us know. Sue Lipscomb, our chairman has a plan of where they all are.



The president, Chairman and your Committee wish you a successful New Year. It has started very wet but keep fingers crossed that the ice cold spell that we had last year is not repeated. We need a cold spell to keep the bugs down and help the top fruit to crop well. All Brown's seed orders have been circulated and now is the time to sow tomatoes (in the airing cupboard) and plant Shallots followed by onions. January is time to prune out the apple and pear trees and other soft fruit. Good Luck

A picture from last year's annual supper

### Annual Subscription Renewal

Annual Subscriptions are now overdue. This is a reminder that our annual subscription is £5 per person. (£6 if your newsletter is delivered by Royal Mail).

#### **ASTON CLINTON, BUCKLAND & DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

#### **Booking Form for Social Supper on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**

Please send me .....tickets at £12 each (Includes one complimentary glass of wine)

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:- ACB&DB Horticultural Society

I enclose a total of £..... to cover the cost of the tickets.

Please return the booking form and money to Elizabeth Weston, Social Secretary, ASAP.

Name:.....

Tel No:.....