

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

Volume 18 Issue 1

January 2015

President Mrs Lorna Price



Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

As I write this letter to you all we seem to be suffering from a period of extreme winds but fortunately no plants seem to be damaged so far in my garden. It's just the bird feeders on their stand that have been knocked over, on one occasion two of the feeders were flung into the pond! I've now used bricks and tiles to hold the feeder stand upright and even tied some of the feeders to it!

We are pleased that so many of you take advantage of our D.T. Brown seed order; in fact 35 members and friends to be precise. Maureen Ridler has handled £1,700 worth of orders and I would like to thank her for the time and effort she puts into this each year. As usual we were given a 60% discount on all seeds and 15% discount on non-seed items and this entire discount goes directly to those who have placed an order with no benefit to the Society.

I would just like to make one plea on behalf of those who organise the two Shows and the Summer Fete. Please do volunteer if you could help us with any aspect of the work load. The Summer Fete for example, takes far more effort and more manpower than anything else we do. We have many members and friends who help with this but we could really do with even more help. This help could come in many forms from assisting with the organisation before the event to providing the muscle power needed on the Friday afternoon and Saturday to set up all the tables and marquees and then take them down and pack everything away at the end. Sadly some who have offered this help in the past are now no longer in the first flush of youth and it is becoming harder for them. Please do volunteer your help if you feel able and the sooner you can offer this help the better so that we know well in advance.

Finally allow me to wish you all a very Happy New Year and a horticulturally productive and enjoyable one too!

*With very best wishes,
Sue Lipscomb*

This year's Programme

Once again this year's programme of talks and social events is varied as ever and where possible has taken account of members' preferences. For instance we have a talk on composting. We have some new speakers as well as asking back those who have proved popular before. Our social supper has had to be brought forward to February this year because the Saturday evening we wanted had already been booked.

No decision has yet been made as to where to go on a coach visit nor which garden to hold our **'Garden Evening'** in. If you are prepared to let members visit your garden, please let us know. We can provide refreshments for the evening.

Our thanks to Elizabeth Weston for finding the speakers for this year's diary of Events. Elizabeth is passing the responsibility of Social Secretary to Frances Farley to prepare the programme for 2016.

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.

Saturday 28th February

Annual Social Supper 7 for 7.30 pm: £12 per head
Followed by 'Kenya' by Hilary Weston

Wednesday 11th March

Talk with slides: **'Making Space for Wildlife'** by John Tyler

Wednesday 8th April

Talk with slides **'May West—West Country Gardens'**
by John Cornwall

Thursday 9th April

Entry night for the Spring Show
Anthony Hall time 6.00 -7.45 pm

Saturday 11th April

19th Annual Spring Show and Plant Sale
2 pm in the Aston Clinton School Hall. Entry £1
Please bring plants for us to sell

Plant and Produce Stall at School's 'Village Market'

This year it will be held on Sunday 10th May from 11am at the Aston Clinton School. This is a village market organised by the school association. It is well supported by a range of stall holders and public from the village. It is a good opportunity for the Society to raise funds to support our Spring and Summer shows and also enable us to purchase items such as additional tables. Since this Village Market has been running our Society has always managed to sell a wide range of plants. By May many young plants grown from seed are saleable. We would be grateful if members would grow plants from seed this spring for us to sell. Examples are tomato plants; lettuces, cabbages, Brussel sprouts, Marrows and courgettes and bedding plants. Please bring as many plants as possible.

Jobs to do in our gardens

Now is the time to prune your fruit trees and other flowering bushes in the garden. Continue to clear away last year's dead foliage from perennial plants. Remember that slugs eat the new shoots of delphiniums and lupins before they even appear above the surface so use a slug killer now. Sow tomato seeds in a quarter size plant tray and place in airing cupboard or Kitchen windowsill. Onion and Shallot sets should be planted now. If the ground is not prepared or too wet, plant the 'sets' in pots or trays and place in a cold greenhouse or sheltered position to develop roots and shoots and plant out when weather and soil is warmer.

Annual Subscriptions

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). It is a big and sometimes embarrassing chore to ask members to pay up so if you have not yet subscribed, please do so now by sending your subscription to Ken Halls, 10 Thorne Way, Buckland, Aylesbury, HP22 5TL.

Spring Show and Plant Sale

Our Spring Show this year will be on **Saturday 11th April at Aston Clinton School**. It is not just a daffodil show but has classes for all the family to display a range of skills.

The schedule of classes will be similar to that in previous years and the full schedule will be available on our website. A hardcopy will be circulated to all members in due course.

Here is a list of the amendments to the schedule together with some of the changes that were introduced in 2014 just as a reminder (flagged "2014 change")-

Section 1 (daffodils) –

Class 1 Grow for Show is **Jetfire**.

Class 1A *2014 change* - 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.



Division1

Class 32 (The Village Six) *2014 change* 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 **Red Devon**

Class 35 – the seedling class will be replaced by two new classes as follows –

Class 35a A single daffodil grown in a pot not more than 8 inches (20 cms) in diameter.

Divisions 1 - 4 exhibitor's choice

Class 35b A single daffodil grown in a pot not more than 8 inches (20 cms) in diameter.

Divisions 5 - 8 exhibitor's choice

NOTE that a description of the classification of daffodils can be found on our web site under

<http://www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/assets/documents/daffodil-classification-gro> - this is the correct link name!!

Class 38 (Penrice Cup) is one bloom of **Romance**

Section 2 (Spring Flowers) –

No changes



Division 4

Section 3 (Floral Art) –

Class 52 the NOVICE class this year will read as follows – "**Flower arrangement in a shoe**". 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 "**Afternoon Tea**"

Section 4 (Domestic) –

Class 66 – A 7 inch round fruit cake decorated for a celebration of the exhibitor's choice. The recipe is attached.

Section 5 (Children) –

Class 68 *2014 change* 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 “**What a Wonderful World**”. Photo 6" x 4" (digital or non-digital).



Division 6

Section 6 (Handicraft) –

Class 81 and 82 - same theme for both photo classes entitled "**A Landscape**". 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 9th 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

This winter scene in Green Park by Sue Lipscomb is an example of what can be achieved by the camera for classes 81 and 82. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to enter class 73, the Children 9 to 14 years photo class entitled “What a Wonderful World”. This is quite a challenge to their imagination.



Winter in Green Park

Ken Halls and Ralph Weston supervised children planting daffodil bulbs in the autumn. Don’t forget to bring them along to the show so that we can see how well they have grown.

Member’s contacts within the Society

Secretary	Chairman	Vice Chairman	Treasurer
Maureen Ridler	Sue Lipscomb	John Seaton	Ken Halls
633376	630578	630279	631636

Recipe for 7 inch round fruit Cake

Class 66

Ingredients

100g / 4oz of butter

100g / 4oz Demerara sugar

3 eggs

1 tablespoon treacle

½ teaspoon almond essence

150g / 6oz plain flour

½ teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon mixed spice

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon nutmeg

1 to 1½ lb of mixed fruit

25g / 1oz ground almonds

25g / 1oz glace cherries

Method

1. Cream together butter and sugar.
2. Beat the eggs lightly and stir into the creamed mixture with the treacle.
3. Sift flour and fold into mixture with spices.
4. Add essence, fruit, ground almonds and cherries.
5. Put the cake mixture into the prepared 7inch tin.
6. Bake in a slow oven 325° F (Gas Mark 2) for 1 hour then reduce to 300°F (Gas Mark 1) for a further 1¼ hours or until cooked.
7. Turn onto cooling tray and leave until cold.
8. Decorate for a celebration of your choice.