

# Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

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President Mrs Lorna Price



Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

*I do hope that you have managed to enjoy the amazing weather that we have had recently. It is always a pleasure to enjoy such a mild winter period but there is, sadly, always a down side. Maybe we gardeners are never entirely satisfied! If you enter the Spring Show each year you might well be sharing my concerns for the daffodils you are nurturing. I carefully placed my pots in a relatively sheltered and sunny position in my garden, but of course some have begun to bloom already which means they will be over by the show which this year is on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> in Aston Clinton School. When you receive your schedule you will notice that Graham Thirkettle, the Spring Show Secretary has tweaked it a bit! In order to give photography a greater prominence he has placed it in a new section of its own, which includes three separate classes one of which follows the Summer Show idea of a photo taken on a mobile phone entitled 'capturing the moment'.*

*We are delighted that Ralph Weston has donated a new cup, 'The Elizabeth Cup' to encourage those living in the three villages to enter their daffodils, so do look out for that. My hellebores are looking beautiful at present and I hope we will once again have many entries in class 51a, as floating Hellebore heads always look stunning in a bowl of water on the show bench. Do remember that there will be a plant sale as always at the Spring Show.*

*For those of you who enjoy cooking, do have a go at entering a Simnel Cake, as they always look really stunning on the show bench. I am looking forward also to seeing our floral art enthusiasts as they interpret 'Springtime in Paris' in an arrangement.*

*I do hope you all have an enjoyable gardening year ahead of you.*

*With very best wishes,*

*Sue Lipscomb*

## Frances Farley

Frances has been very ill in recent months, including a long stay in hospital. She is now recovering at home but it is a long slow process and as such felt that she could no longer continue to organise our diary of talks and find speakers. Frances has sourced some interesting speakers over the past years and this year is no exception. We all thank her for a "job well done". We have already had some excellent speakers this year and the wild-life photographer Tom Way in February attracted over 60 members. Please note we have booked Tom for another talk in 2020!!!

***We are now looking for a willing volunteer to put together our programme for 2020.***

It is not an onerous task since we have an extensive data base of contacts, and lots of support from the Societies' committee.

If you think you could do this on behalf of the Society, please contact either Sue Lipscomb, Maureen Ridler, Ken Halls, or Ralph Weston. Thank you

## 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 9th March **Annual Social Supper**

7 for 7.30 pm: £12 per head

After supper: Gill and Barry Goodman

"Good Morning Lords and Ladies" (English traditional customs in story, song and multi images)

### Wednesday 10th April

Frank Parge Talk: The personal Victorian garden of Mary Anne Disraeli at Hughenden Manor.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Erica Goodman, our local wildlife expert from Drayton Beauchamp, is giving a talk on '**Giant Tortoises**'. *Plus a tulip competition*

## Trees in the Park

Back in 2007 the Society, with the help of members planted 50 field trees in Aston Clinton Park to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are still there today as there have been very few losses. This is an achievement in itself to how well we planted and protected the trees because we were allocated some of the roughest patches of ground in the park. Some of the trees are now 20 to 30 feet high with good strong trunks. Some like the oaks are not that tall yet. My thanks go to all those who sponsored a tree and or helped plant them. Some of the labels have gone missing but the society still holds a map of what is where. With a bit of luck they will be there in 100 years time.

## HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN VISIT WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019

We are now taking bookings for our annual coach trip. This year we are visiting Hidcote Manor. Costs are as follows - Return trip by coach from Aston Clinton + Garden Entrance + Coach Driver Tip is **£25** Adult & Concession / **£12** for National Trust (NT) Members. Proof of NT membership required on entry

The coach pickup is from the car park, The Bell, Aston Clinton, 8.30am for a **prompt** departure at **8.45am**  
Estimated arrival time at Hidcote Manor Garden, 11.00am.  
Planned return time is 4pm arriving back at 6.30 pm approx  
Kiftsgate Court Garden is very close – if you wish to visit - entry is £9 - [www.kiftsgate.co.uk](http://www.kiftsgate.co.uk)

To book yourself on the Garden Visit.....

\* Please contact **Diane Kolonko**  
- Telephone: 01296 631122  
- Mobile: 07930 337253  
- Email: [diane.kolonko@outlook.com](mailto:diane.kolonko@outlook.com)  
- Post: 13 Green End Street,  
Aston Clinton, HP22 5JE

There are 51 places available, first come first served & cheque secures the place. Please provide your phone (home and mobile) and email contact details when booking.