

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

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President Mrs Lorna Price



August 2019

Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

This is the newsletter accompanying the schedule for the Summer Show. You will notice that we are still in our old venue, Aston Clinton School, and Ralph has filled this newsletter with details about the show which I hope has tempted you to enter.

Although I did not join the coach trip to Hidcote this year since I had visited recently, it was Diane Kolonko who organised the trip once again. Thank you so much Diane for your efforts on behalf of our members, it is greatly appreciated.

You will notice in the Summer Show Schedule, that I am no longer the Summer Show Secretary. This is a role that I have thoroughly enjoyed for many years but I decided some time ago that the time was right to hand it over so that new ideas could be injected into a very popular village event. I was delighted when Chris Dunbar agreed to take on the role and since this is the 'hand over' year we will be working together.

I look forward to seeing you at the Show and please continue to support the Society's excellent monthly talks.

With very best wishes,

Sue Lipscomb



Hidcote: one of the vistas



A Giant tree fern in the glasshouse

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 18th September

Entry night for the Annual Summer Show

Anthony Hall from to 6.00-7.45 pm

Saturday 21st September

62nd Annual Summer Show

2pm in Aston Clinton School hall. Entry £1

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Wednesday 11th Sept

Andrew Mikolajski — Pin Me To The wall!

Wednesday 9th October AGM followed by

Roger Kemp— Butterflies of the British Isles

Wednesday 13th November

Tim Miles — Gardens of the Cotswold Wildlife Park

12th December

Steve Owen — Snowdrops

Includes Christmas Buffet plus Christmas Competition

Society Trip to Hidcote gardens Wednesday 10th July

I have been to Hidcote Gardens once before and I had forgotten how far it was. It is situated in the North Cotswolds. Down the road is another garden, Kiftsgate, for those who wanted to walk but it was not for me. Someone suggested that we would not need a whole day but to enjoy the gardens properly and to have time in the café we certainly needed it.

The gardens themselves were created by Lawrence Johnston, a plantsman and plant collector. Lawrence Johnston, acting on behalf of his mother, agreed to purchase the estate from John Tucker for £7,200 in 1907. His Mother Gertrude was an American heiress with houses in London, Paris and Rome as well as New York. As there was little existing garden, Lawrence effectively had a blank canvas to work with. He began to put into practice what he had learnt from studying gardening books. The period 1907 – 1914 saw the creation of intimate garden rooms around the house, the Circle; to the south, the Fuchsia garden and the Bathing Pool Garden; and to the west, the Red Borders and the steps up to the two gazebos. The outbreak of the Great War (1914 – 1918) in which Lawrence fought, suspended progress but in 1919, Gertrude bought the farm at the end of the village road, enabling the garden to be extended to the current boundaries. This period saw the extension of the Long Walk and the creation of the Wilderness, Mrs Winthrop's Garden, the Pillar Garden and the Rock Bank. By the early 1920s the garden design was largely complete. Lawrence's interests then moved on to plant hunting, both for Hidcote and the new garden he was developing in the south of France (Serre de la Madone).

Whilst some of the garden rooms are enclosed, the long walk and other gardens lead to large vistas over the Cotswold hills. On the death of his mother Gertrude, Lawrence was bequeathed the income to her fortune (about 1 million per annum) but not the capital unless he got married and had children. Lawrence never married so there was no legacy to go with the gift of Hidcote to the National Trust but the RHS and the National Trust got together ensure that these important gardens were preserved and opened to the public.

The Society's Summer Show.

It is time to prepare for the Society's Summer Show. This year we are a month later than usual on SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2019 at Aston Clinton School in Twitchell Lane. It opens at 2.00pm. Trophies will be presented by the Reverend Alison Roberts

The show exhibits the efforts of everyone in our villages to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables but is more than just these because there are classes to display your skills at flower arranging, growing plants in pots and cacti. The main floral art subject this year for class 73 is an arrangement entitled "**A Nursey Rhyme**".

There also domestic and handicraft classes and the ever-popular photographic competition. Class 142 is specially a mobile phone photograph "**Capturing the Moment**", mounted but not framed, and not to exceed 8" x 6". The standard class 143: Digital/Non-digital photograph is titled "**Depicting the past**" again mounted but not framed and not to exceed 8" x 6"

In the flowers section we concentrate on dahlias. In every section there are opportunities for everybody to have a go because of the novice classes which are open to all. This year, because of the later date of the show, we have included 2 classes for Chrysanthemums: class 40 - One vase spray chrysanthemum, 3 stems and class 41 One vase chrysanthemums, 3 blooms.

Finally, we want to encourage the children in the village to join in. There a total of 21 classes for children divided between 2 sections, those under 8 and those aged 8 to 14 years. Please encourage your children or grandchildren to enter. In both categories (classes 116 &127) we have a new challenge. The children have to make a paper aeroplane and it will be judged by the distance it can fly. So let's have a go.

The full schedule accompanies this newsletter or can be downloaded from our website

www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk , and go to Summer show 2019. I may be short on material to enter but I'm sure others are better placed so make every effort to make it a show worthy of our society.

We also need volunteers to put up the show tables and prepare the show. Please come to the school at 4pm on Friday 20th September

We are also looking for Donations to the **raffle, tombola, books and plant stalls** which will all be gratefully received. Please contact Maureen on 633376 or at 3 Blackmore Gate, Buckland. These stalls help raise monies to defray our costs of putting on our show. Thank You.

IN THE GARDEN THIS SUMMER

The garden this year is so different from last year's almost drought conditions. Yes, we have had dry periods but sufficient in this area. We seem to miss most of the storms and heavy rain and even on those days that rained all day it was not much more than a drizzle. The results are both good and bad. I am digging new potatoes and they are a good size. The shallots have been harvested; the onions are covered in weed so will not be very large. However, for the first time in a number of years I have had a good crop of Raspberries, Blackcurrants and Gooseberries which are now in the freezer. I have had few runner bean flowers and no runner beans so far but I understand that others have no runners either. One success is lettuce. This year I planted out Tom Thumb and Salad lettuce and both have done well. It is good to pick something straight out of the garden to eat. Carrots and parsnips are doing well. With top fruit the apples are looking ok, the Victoria plum had no Blossom on it this year but my new plum tree had about 10 plums that made it to harvest for the first time and I had to eat them quick before the birds and wasps got there – they are very tasty.

MY sweet peas have been good but are nearly over which is why they are not good for the show in September, however I bought some early Chrysanthemum cuttings and these are growing well and I hope they will be in flower for the show. I continue to buy plants (I bought 3 on our day out to Hidcote) and other plants and trees have put on a lot of growth this year. Some bushes are still dying for no particular reason and that includes the Judas tree. It blossomed as usual in the spring but no leaves have appeared since, so I shall have to replace it this winter. I have also ordered 2 new black cherries because they say that the birds do not eat black cherries! Are the pundits, right?

The summer rain has encouraged the slugs and snails and when we do get rain they all come out and I get overwhelmed by them and now the slug pellets we have used for years are being withdrawn from sale. Slugs and snails will be a continuing battle in my garden.

Remember that your Horticultural Society aims to encourage the residents of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp and friends in the surrounding community to look after and develop their gardens and allotments, however small, to enhance and preserve our environment for future generations.

Member's contacts within the Society

<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Maureen Ridler</i>	<i>Sue Lipscomb</i>	<i>John Seaton</i>	<i>Ken Halls</i>
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