

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

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President Mrs Lorna Price



Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

As I am writing this letter as we speed towards the Christmas season, one which I always enjoy as it is a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends. This morning I have been at St Michael's Church helping to decorate our Christmas tree together with Maureen Ridler, Joan Allen and Ros Needham. It is the tree funded by our Horticultural Society and decorated with 'gardening related' delights! I do hope you had a chance to visit the church and see just how many groups and societies are active in our three villages. It was quite an eye opener.

This newsletter comes with your Diary for 2020. You will see that there should be something for everyone. Speakers are increasingly expensive, but we continue to offer free entry to members so please come along and support our monthly meetings and Shows.

On behalf of your committee I wish you a very happy Christmas and a successful growing season in 2020

With very best wishes,

Sue Lipscomb

In your Garden

It may be the middle of winter and the weather has not been kind to us, however there is still plenty to do. As we approach the shortest day (21st), that is the time to plant your shallots. I don't suggest you put them direct into the ground but plant your shallot bulbs into small pots and keep them sheltered in a cold frame. There they will grow their roots and eventually start to shoot so that when you plant them out, they will have a head start. There are plenty of other jobs such as cleaning away the leaves and digging over your flower beds and when that has been done the green house will want sorting out and getting ready for planting all those seeds you have ordered from DT Brown's.

CLIMATE CHANGE - As we look forward to a new year in our gardens, I am conscious of the uncertainties in the weather. This month is no exception, with one day very wet, as on election day and the next, blue skies and bright sunshine leading to frosts. This is all caused by climate change. This last year has been kind to us in that we did not have months and months of hot dry weather. What will 2020 bring? I don't know, but we must be prepared for anything.

As you know I have a 'thing' about trees. Many people, including me, the scientists and the politicians (all parties have promised to plant millions of them), know that trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. If we all planted a tree in our garden or close to our boundary then perhaps it will absorb the CO₂ and nitro oxide from your car exhaust.

Back in 2008 the Society, with the help of members planted 50 field trees in Aston Clinton Park to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Most are still there today.

Some of the trees are now 20 to 30 feet high with good strong trunks and that is only after 11 years. Some like the oaks are not that tall yet. With a bit of luck, they will be there in 100 years' time absorbing the pollution we are putting in the atmosphere.

During the year, when I am out in the garden, I often hear the sound of chain saws cutting down trees and these need to be replaced. Whilst I don't think your Society could plant another 50 trees today - we are all 11 years older, we need to encourage the wider public in Aston Clinton to do so. It is too late for this season but we need to plan for Autumn 2020.

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 8th January

Martin Towsey & Andrew Grout: Talk - The Role of an Estate Gardens Manager at Woburn

Wednesday 12th February

Russell Savory: Talk — Essex Beavers, Natures Engineers

Saturday 14th March

Social Supper: Tickets £12.50: 7pm for 7.30 followed by a flower demonstration by Neil Gurney: — Mad March Hairdresser.

Thursday 4th April

Entry Night for Spring Show in Anthony Hall: time 6.00 - 7.45 pm

Society Annual Trip

Next Year (2020) it has been decided by popular vote to visit 'Nymans' a lovely National Trust Garden in Sussex.

The date for your diaries is Thursday 9th July. The cost will be reasonable, especially if you are a National Trust member and further details will be forthcoming later.

Nymans is described as a romantic garden for all seasons with rare and unusual plant collections. There is also the house which is open to visitors