

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

Volume 18 Issue 4

December 2015

President Mrs Lorna Price



Chairman Mrs Sue Lipscomb

Dear Members,

As I write this letter, I'm wondering when our weather will change into the usual fare that we expect at this time of year. I'm sure the mild weather is helping my pots of daffodils which need to be ready by our Spring Show, which this year is on April 2nd at Aston Clinton School.

Incidentally, our Summer Show this year will not be held at the school but instead we have been invited to take it to the "Café in the Park" in Aston Clinton Park. We will of course give you more details in the New Year about this exciting new venue and how we intend to lay out the Show, using their hall. The usual stalls which we as a Society run will still be there but there will be no extra stalls. We are very excited by the possibilities that this will offer us.

Many thanks for all the members who take advantage of our D.T.Brown seed order. Maureen Ridler has handled £1,500 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.

Members who turned up for our December meeting in the Anthony Hall were treated to another fascinating talk by Alan Goodger; this time he took us through the months of the year showing his beautiful photographs of local wildlife. We all enjoyed John and Evelyn Seaton's spread of Christmas nibbles and several entered our 'Christmas Wreath' competition. Judith Halls, Frances Farley and Joan Allen came 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively and the wreaths of Mary Flower and Janet Leech were Highly Commended.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year full of enjoyable gardening! Do come and share the Society's excellent range of talks and outings too and maybe you can encourage some of your friends to join our Society..

With very best wishes,
Sue Lipscomb

Editorial

It has been a long time since our last newsletter in July. Since then we have been having discussions on where and when to hold our Summer Show. Frances Farley has now taken over from Elizabeth as Social Secretary responsible for our programme of talks etc. for the coming year. We welcome Frances to this post and thank Elizabeth for all her work of obtaining speakers over many years.

The diary, which accompanies this newsletter gives all the details. We trust that you will make every effort to come to our meetings that are held in the Anthony Hall on the second Wednesday in the month and not forgetting our 2 shows.

It is important that we attract new members to our Society. Though we do not give discounts for persuading your friends to join us we hope that you will make strong recommendations. The cost is only £5 per year. If you have not paid your Annual Subscriptions for 2016, there is a form on the back page for you to use.

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 13th January

Dick Bignell Talk with slides: **From Oving to Olney - The Great Ouse Valley**

Wednesday 10th February

Hugh Granger Talk with slides: **Can Plants Think?**

Saturday 12th March

Annual Social Supper 7 for 7.30 pm: £12 per head followed by: **Richard Grylls & Ridgeway Chorale**

Wednesday 30th March

Entry Night for Spring Show Anthony Hall 6.00 - 7.45 pm

Saturday 2nd April

20th Annual Spring Show and Plant Sale
2 pm in the Aston Clinton School Hall. Entry £1

Wednesday 13th April

Graham Austin from Home Farm Plants Talk
- **Delphiniums**

Our 59th Annual Summer Show

We are on the move after many years in the Old school Hall at Aston Clinton School. We are going to the community hall run by the 'Café in the Park'. It is like coming home as when I first moved to Aston Clinton in 1977 the Show was held in 3 marquees on the field behind the café and community hall as Dick Bignell will recall. It was at my first show that I did not know how to show onions properly. When it got too difficult to protect the marquees from damage we were invited to hold our show at Rookery House, then owned by our then president and where Mark Webber now lives. It was here we developed our fete and side shows amongst the flowerbeds in the garden. We then moved to Aston Clinton School and continued to expand the Show and Fete. The show and fete have been successful over the years, returning a small profit to enable us to continue. However many of our members are getting older and are finding it overtiring to support the show in its present format.

We have had a generous offer from the 'Café in the Park' and the Parish Council which will enable the Society to put on the show with a reduced effort on the part of your committee and volunteers. The move will give us the opportunity to review the schedule so that we can fit the hall. We plan to hold our Raffle and one or two other stalls but refreshments will be provided by the Café and there will be ample parking in the park. It is also hoped that we can attract more families and children to visit the show and encourage them to enter in the future.

2016 Spring Show and Plant Sale

This year will be our **20th** annual the Spring Show. It will be held after Easter on **2nd April 2016**, in the hall at Aston Clinton School as before, opening at 2.00pm. Entry is £1, children free. Entry night is the previous Wednesday **30th March, 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. Full details of the classes will be published in the schedule early next year, but the show includes all the regular features and classes including a section for daffodils, children, floral art, spring flowers, handicrafts and domestic. There are plenty of challenges for everyone to have a go and enter something. As it is our 20th Show some of the classes will reflect this milestone

some of the proposed changes for the show are –

Adult photograph classes title – “Cityscape”

Children (9 to 14 years) photograph title – “Trees”

Floral Art novice class – Flower arrangement in a piece of china (china is the gift for a 20th anniversary!)

Floral Art niche – 20th Anniversary Celebration

Remember there will also be the Societies’ plant sale. We will be selling trailing geraniums, fuchsias, sweet peas, a range of perennials, primulas and other early pot and bedding plants.

The Browns will be selling their plants and there will be our raffle stall to help defray costs. Teas will be available.

We will need the usual help to set up the show on the Friday afternoon from 4pm. Perhaps more importantly we need as many people as possible to clear away the tables etc. after the show closes at about 5pm on the day of the show. Contributions to the raffle would be much appreciated. Anyone who would like to learn to be a steward on the Saturday morning would also be most welcome; you will get one of John and Evelyn’s superb lunches!! Please contact either myself or a member of the committee.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Ken Halls Spring Show Secretary

When to prune roses

I was asked recently when was the best time to prune roses. I usually wait for spring time, say late March or April. Like all these things, it depends on the weather. By then the sap is beginning to rise and this is the best time, say when the worst of the frosts are over. Pruning time will affect the first flush of bloom; the earlier the prune the earlier the bush will flower. The mild winters may produce fresh growth but beware the frosts in January and February.

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When to prune roses continued



If your roses have produced a lot of top growth during the past year, it is worth lightly cutting back to reduce the effect of the winter storms disturbing the roots as illustrated in the pictures. The left picture is before pruning and after pruning on the right.



I will prune again in the spring. How far you cut back depends on the type of rose. I now favour David Austin shrub roses and they need cutting by about half to form a nice rounded bush. Traditionally hybrid tea roses are pruned back harder.

After pruning Roses may suffer from die back. It is important at the time of pruning to spray the plant with 'Rose Clear' or similar products to stop infection getting and also feed the ground around with a high potash fertiliser to encourage new growth

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Annual Subscription Renewal Form

Your annual Subscription for 2016 is now due: £5 per member (£6 if your newsletter is delivered by Royal Mail). Please send your subscription to

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I enclose a total of £..... to cover the cost of my/our annual Subscription.

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