

AMERSHAM GARDENING ASSOCIATION AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE SECRETARY

I hope you have all been enjoying the summer although the gardens may have suffered. I am pleased that the Horticultural Show at the Town Show went well in the end with 200 entries. Anyone who did not attend not only missed some lovely flowers but also the fantastic knitted garden! It was truly amazing.

We hope you will enjoy the forthcoming Monthly meeting. By the time this Newsletter reaches you it should have been announced that this year's Christmas Social will be a free cheese and wine event. We hope many of you will attend to get to meet other members. New members are always welcome as volunteers for events or to put their names forward to join the committee. We can always co-opt! Meanwhile enjoy the rest of the gardening year.

Jean Bowling

VISIT TO THE HANGING HOSTA GARDENS AND MOTTISFONT

On July 8th, a party of 48 travelled first to the Hanging Hosta Gardens and then on to Mottisfont. Most of you will remember a talk last year by John Baker on his remarkable collection of Hostas. He has over 1,500 cultivars, many of which are in pots hanging along fences, the sides of his house, and anywhere else he can fit one in! He has very large collection down to miniature varieties giving a wonderful tapestry of foliage and colour. All are in pots and, yes, he does have a watering system.

It is a small garden and in groups of 12 we were escorted along very narrow paths between the tiered hostas. We went up on a balcony to look down on a small waterfall and stream and amongst the hostas were three banana trees grown for their maroon and green foliage. In the winter these are taken inside and each one lives in a bedroom!!! Cannas, Rheum, Persicaria and Rodgersia grow amongst the hostas. This was a truly amazing garden and is one of the largest collections of hosta cultivars in England – all the more remarkable for being grown and displayed in such a small place. John's wife had made delicious cakes to go with our morning coffee.



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We then drove on to Mottisfont. Sadly, although it was very early in July, most of the roses had passed their best. This was mainly due to the very hot weather we have experienced. There were some to be enjoyed and a plentiful planting of various penstemons and other perennials gave a lot of colour and numerous clematis were in full flower. The Walled Garden is always a joy to visit.

The house was open and the Whistler Room was a must. Also the Cellarium with its cool, dark medieval interior. There is a lot to enjoy at Mottisfont. The Abbey stream with its trout and salmon, the Stables, the Icehouse, the Lime Walk and Meadow Walk. With places for lunch, teas and ice-creams it was a lovely place to enjoy ourselves.



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Irene Glyn-Jones

AGA HORTICULTURAL SHOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMERSHAM TOWN SHOW June 27th

Well we did it Guys and Gals. What a superb show. I **KNEW** you had some lovely flowers hidden away in your gardens. There were lots of lovely roses and some amazing clematis. I think the population of Amersham was duly impressed.

Most of the craft items came from the various U3A groups I pestered and the Allotment holders boosted the fruit and veg sections as well as the domestic section. All in all we got just over 200 entries far more than our shows in previous years. It was also a joy to see so many people coming to view our efforts.

Many thanks to all of you who rallied round and showed something and to those of you who helped on the day. As suspected the tent and the tables were not there ready for us at 8.30 am to get cracking so we were not ready for staging at 9.30am. But it did not matter as you all knew what to do.

All we need now is a new show secretary! Someone in their 40s maybe as I don't know about you but I noticed a huge age gap between the oldest child at 6 and then 90% of the other exhibitors being 60 plus. We need to get that middle group represented.

Susan Jeffery

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A detailed list of winners is included at the back of this newsletter.

TRIP TO ASHTON UNDER HILL

This trip started with the promise of the rain clearing up in the afternoon, alas this was a travesty of the truth! The rain poured down from the moment we left until we arrived home. The village welcomed us with open arms and the refreshments and cakes were of a high standard, which was more than fortunate because frequent refreshments were required to keep warm.



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The gardens were all looking beautiful, but the rain had dashed many of the blooms. The amazing variety of flowers and types of gardens are quite unique to this village and the passion spent on keeping up an overall high standard is much to be admired. The owners were grateful that we had come and only too pleased to talk about the trials and tribulations of gardening on a steep slope. There were many good plants for sale and our coach came home loaded with our purchases, which no doubt have been happily rehomed in Amersham.

Felicity Vickery

PLANT SALE

The plant sale held on May 30th on the forecourt of St Michael's Church was very successful, raising nearly £500. This was due to a good response from the members and the hard work of volunteers who were there from 8.00am till 1pm. At times there were too many helpers and at other times too few. Next year we plan to have a rota for helpers and to hold the sale earlier in May.

MONTHLY TALKS

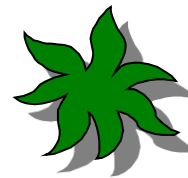
2015

On **28 September** our speaker is Barry Newman. Barry is Chairman of the National Vegetable Society (NVS) and not only grows and exhibits but also judges. He is a senior judge for the NVS and also judges for the RHS and Britain in Bloom. He trained at Pershore, York and Bath Botanical Gardens. His lecture about '**The Modern Kitchen Garden**' will span traditional and modern methods of vegetable cultivation.

Andrew Halstead is recently retired from his position as RHS Principal Entomologist. He is well qualified to introduce us to some of the newer alien pests that have become established in this country in his lecture on '**Pests new to Britain in recent years**'. He visits us on **26 November**.

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2016

A nationwide festival is planned during 2016 to mark the 300th birthday of the great landscape architect, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. It will celebrate his life and work and his great contribution to our rich heritage of country estates, parks and gardens. There are said to be over 250 sites attributed or connected to Brown.

It is therefore appropriate to start the new year with a speaker on this subject. The title for Russell Bowes talk on **28 January** is '**The Capable Mr Brown**'. Russell is a freelance garden historian. He holds a Diploma in Garden History awarded by the University of London and lectures all around the country.

Anne Webb

ANNUAL QUIZ

We will be holding a Quiz night on October 22nd. This is always a fun evening. More information with menu choices and an application form will be sent in September. We hope many of you will support this and bring your friends. Meanwhile make a note of the date.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sept 24	The Modern Day Kitchen – Barry Newman	Monthly Talk
Oct 22	AGA Quiz Night	
Nov 26	Pests Recently New to Britain - Andrew Halstead	Monthly Talk
Jan 28	The Capable Mr Brown – Russell Bowes	Monthly Talk

COMMITTEE & CONTACT DETAILS

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AGA HORTICULTURAL SHOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMERSHAM TOWN SHOW June 27th

The winners were as follows:

Roses

- Class 1: One large flowered specimen hybrid tea rose
1: K Hailey, 2: Deidre Radclyffe, 3: P. Squire
- Class 2: Two blooms of one variety of hybrid tea roses
1: David Bender and Ken Bodman, 2: B. Randall, 3: Christine Prizeman
- Class 3: Two blooms of two varieties of hybrid tea roses
1: Deidre Radclyffe, 2: P. Squire, 3: David Bender and Ken Bodman
- Class 4: One stem of cluster floribunda rose
1: Marian Hoffmeister, 2: Christine Prizeman, 3: Joan DeMaine
- Class 5: Three stems of cluster floribunda roses
1: Frances Billington, 2: Marian Hoffmeister, 3: K. Hailey
- Class 6: Three stems of any combination of floribunda roses
1: Julia Dangerfield
- Class 7: Three stems of miniature of patio floribunda roses
1: Patricia Hornby
- Class 9: One rose judged for its fragrance
1: Julia Dangerfield, 2: Sylvia Parrott, 3: Christine Prizeman
- Class 10 (novice): One stem of any type of rose
1: Julia Dangerfield, 2: D. Ford, 3: Anne Webb

Sweet peas

- Class 11: Six stems of one variety of sweet pea
1: Susan Jeffery, 2: Pauline Squire, 3: Sylvia Parrott
- Class 12: Three stems of each of three varieties of sweet pea
1: R. Barratt, 2: David Bender and Ken Bodman
- Class 13: One bowl of sweet peas for quality and effect
1: Marian Hoffmeister
- Class 14: Six stems of perennial sweet peas
1: Sylvia Parrott, 2: David Bender and Ken Bodman

General Section

- Class 15: Six pansy or viola blooms on a board
1: Marian Hoffmeister, 2: Susan Jeffery, 3: Valerie Barratt
- Class 16: Six clematis blooms on a board
1: Marian Hoffmeister, 2: Pauline Squire, 3: Anne Webb
- Class 17: Six stems of dianthus, one or more varieties
1: Deidre Radclyffe, 2: Julia Dangerfield, 3: Susan Jeffery
- Class 18: One spike of delphinium
1: Debbie Clogg, 2: Susan Jeffery, 3: S. Catanach
- Class 20: One vase of cut flowers, maximum 12 stems, no sweet peas or roses
1: Susan Jeffery, 2: Sylvia Parrott, 3: Frances Billington
- Class 21: Three stems of one kind of flowering shrub
1: Christine Prizeman, 2: Sylvia Parrott, 3: Marian Hoffmeister

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Pot plants

- Class 22: One hosta (max 15 cm pot)
1: Tim Bamber
- Class 23: One African violet
1: Christine Prizeman, 2: Irene Glynn-Jones, 3: M. Dale
- Class 24: One pot orchid
1: Frances Billington, 2: Marian Hoffmeister, 3: Debbie Clogg
- Class 25: One foliage pot plant, excluding hosta (max 15 cm pot)
1: Pauline Squire, 2: Tim Bamber, 3: Susan Jeffery
- Class 26: One flowering pot plant (max 15 cm pot), excluding classes 22 – 24
1: Marian Hoffmeister, 2: David Bender and Ken Bodman
- Class 27: A container planted for the summer
1: Susan Jeffery

Fruit

- Class 29: Ten gooseberries
1: J. Higley, 2: Susan Jeffery, 3: P. Hale
- Class 30: Three sticks of rhubarb
1: B. Randall, 2: D. Ford, 3: R. Barratt
- Class 32: Ten strawberries
1: D. Ford, 2: J. Highley, 3: M. Dale
- Class 33: One plate of mixed fruit (12 items) (novice class)
1: M. Macmillan

Vegetables

- Class 34: Six broad beans
1: Susan Jeffery, 2: J. Picton, 3: D. Caudrey
- Class 35: Three beetroot
1: J. Picton
- Class 37: Two lettuces
1: Debbie Clogg, 2: Susan Jeffery
- Class 38: Five potatoes of one variety
1: Pauline Squire, 2: Susan Jeffery, 3: P. Hale
- Class 39: Six pea pods
1: Susan Jeffery, 2: R. Barratt, 3: P. Hale
- Class 41: Three bunches of culinary herbs in a small vase
1: J. Galloway, 2: J. Morgan, 3: Sylvia Parrott
- Class 43: Three pea pods and three potatoes (novice class)
1: P. Hale

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Domestic

- Class 44: One jar of citrus marmalade
1: Jim Elliott, 2: D. Caudrey, 3: M. Dale
- Class 45: One jar of soft fruit jam
1: M. Dale, 2: Susan Jeffery, 3: D. Ford
- Class 46: One jar of stone fruit jam
1: S. Dale, 2: Debbie Clogg, 3: Susan Jeffery
- Class 47: One jar of fruit jelly
1: Susan Jeffery, 2: Debbie Clogg, 3: R. Marshall
- Class 48: One jar of pickle (vegetable or fruit, preserved in vinegar)
1: Susan Jeffery
- Class 49: One jar of chutney
1: D. Ford, 2: A. Garvey, 3: Susan Jeffery
- Class 51: Six slices of a tray bake
1: Anne Webb, 2: Joan DeMaine, 3: Helen Morgan
- Class 52: Six wholemeal rolls made by hand
1: Pat Symes, 2: R. Barratt, 3: L. Close

Handicraft

- Class 53: A hand knitted or crochet lady's garment
1: G. Glover, 2: P. Vardy, 3: E. Revel-Brown
- Class 54: An embroidered, tapestry or cross-stitched item
1: Daniels, 2: Kelland, 3: Pat Symes
- Class 55: An item of jewellery made from beads
1: Daniels
- Class 56: A greetings card
1: A. Stevenson
- Class 57: A small painting (no more than 20 x 20 cm), any medium
1: John Billington, 2: A. Begley, 3: Deidre Radclyffe
- Class 58: A quilted item (no bigger than a cot quilt)
1: P. Vardy, 2: P. Record, 3: P. Collins
- Class 50: A toy made from wood or fabric
1: J. Galloway, 2: Marian Hoffmeister, 3: G. Kellow

Junior

- Class 60: A vehicle made from flowers, fruit and / vegetables
1: Master Sin
- Class 62: A decorated hard boiled egg
1: E. Catrael, 2: Miss J. Scott, 3: Master J. Beattie
- Class 64: A tea bread
1: Master J. Scott, 2: Emilia Catanach, 3: Master D. Beattie
- Class 65: A mini scarecrow made using doll's clothes
1: Miss Sin