

AMERSHAM GARDENING ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

This is the first Newsletter of 2016. The committee all hope it will be an enjoyable gardening year. There are several outings, a holiday and monthly meetings to look forward to. The year will end with another Christmas Social, the date of which has been changed from December 22nd to December 15th. Those who missed last year's Social missed a successful and enjoyable occasion.

We will be holding our Plant Sale on May 7th and hope that many of you will be able to supply plants and help on the day.

If any members have articles that they think will be of interest to other members please send them to me to include in the next Newsletter.

Jean Bowling

FUTURE VISIT TO WEST OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS

13 SEPT 2016

Cost £21, coach dep. Amersham Community Ctr 09.30, return dep. Radcot House 16.30

(see back page for booking form)

Our first visit is to **the gardens of Aston Pottery** near Bampton, West Oxfordshire. The gardens have been renovated in the last 10 years by the enthusiastic and energetic owner, Stephen Baughan. I found out about this garden when I read an article praising it, by Val Bourne in the Telegraph gardening section. There are four main sections, a traditional perennial border, the hornbeam walk, the hot bank and the dahlia garden. We can have coffee and lunch here and Stephen will give us a guided tour. As well as the garden there will be wide range of pottery items for sale, mugs, jugs plates etc

Ashton Pottery Hornbeam Walk in
September



For more on the garden see

<http://www.astonpottery.co.uk/content/gardens>

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After lunch we go to the nearby **garden of Radcot House**. This 3 acre garden, which opens for The National Garden Scheme, has also been recently renovated, with an eye to detail, by the new owners. It has a walled garden, a poolroom, a waterway, a reading room, a beech avenue, a long pond and a pavilion area. Self service tea and coffee is available.



Radcot House garden

For more on the garden see

<http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/find-a-garden/garden.aspx?id=19455>

Joan Clark

2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal was due 1st January 2016, and we are now at the end of February. All of you will have received the necessary Membership Renewal Forms either by email or in paper form. Kindly complete the form and send me your cheque. Please enclose a stamped & addressed envelope if you want the Membership Card sent to you, if not, it can be collected at the next monthly meeting.

Clive Symes

AGM REMINDER

The Association's AGM will be held on 24 March 2016

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FUTURE VISIT TO BEALE ARBORETUM

20 October 2016 13.15hrs

(see enclosed booking form)

Join us for an Outing with a Difference! A one and half hour conducted tour of **BEALE ARBORETUM** followed by a delicious **AFTERNOON TEA**

Beale Arboretum is in the grounds of **West Lodge Park** and has over 800 different specimen trees. It was founded in 1963 and now has several National collections. It is easy walking on paths or mown grass and we have chosen to go in October for the wonderful autumn colours.

We will split into groups and our very informative tour will be led by the Managing Director, Andrew Beale or the Estate Manager. After our tour we will have Afternoon Tea in West Lodge Hotel.

The Arboretum is only a 35 minute drive from Amersham so we will not be hiring a coach. It is only open to people who are visiting the hotel. It is very easy to get to – take the M.25 to Junction 24 and turn off for the A.111. At the roundabout take the fourth exit, A111 to Cockfosters. West Lodge Park is only 4 minutes from the motorway. Go past the first entrance to the hotel (deliveries) and take the next left turn. Immediately on your left is the entrance. Park in front of the hotel and we will meet in the foyer ready for our tours at 1.15. The tours start at 1.30pm. **Please be on time.**

For Sat Nav users it is important that you enter the address 4 Ferny Hill, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Herts and/or the post code EN4 0PZ to take you to the main entrance.

I suggest we car share. Please organise yourselves and let me know if you need a lift and I will see what I can do.

The price for the tour and full afternoon tea is £21.50. The tour is excellent and the tea delicious!

Please send in the form attached plus a cheque to book your tickets.

For more on the arboretum see

<http://www.bealeshotels.co.uk/westlodgepark/the-hotel/arboretum/>

Irene Glyn-Jones

On labelling seeds

My father was a great one for collecting seeds on his travels. If he did not know what the plants were, he labelled the seed trays in the greenhouse “unknown”, sometimes adding the place he collected them. His master-stroke was with seeds he collected from the roof garden of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. There were labelled *Faoroofia ignorensis*, and the plants were nurtured in the conservatory. It was many years later that I saw the seeds on sale as the hardy annual *Cleome spinosa*.

David Bender

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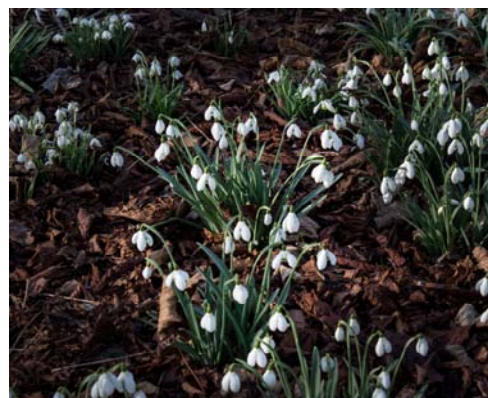


SOME SPRING PHOTOS



REQUESTS

- If anyone knows where they could put a Publicity Poster please contact David Bender (01494 722 450, email david.bender@btinternet.com)
 - At present we have posters in the following places:
 - White Hill Centre, Chesham
 - Robertson's butcher, Chenies parade
 - Van Hage garden centre
 - Little Chalfont Library
 - Amersham Library
 - Amersham Community Centre (Drake Hall and Barn Hall)
 - Amersham Council Offices
 - Coleshill Village Hall
 - South Heath Garden Centre
- Anyone willing to help with "Meet & Greet" please contact Felicity Vickery on 01494 726284
- Anyone willing to help with teas and coffees please contact Liz Moulton 01494 784913
- Members please buy raffle tickets as this is a valuable source of income for the Association.



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FROM THE TREASURER

The Association is in good financial shape, but subscription income barely covers the cost of running meetings. We are grateful to the organisers of outings who have ensured that none makes a loss, and most make a modest profit, as well as to Christine and Laura for their sterling efforts with the raffle, those who helped to make the plant sale at St Michael's forecourt such a success, and those who sell plants at meetings, 10% of the proceeds of which go to our funds.

Total income for the year £11,241.94; total expenditure £10,447.26, an excess of income over expenditure of £794.68.

Main sources of income are:

Subscriptions	£1861
Profit on outings*	£687*
Profit on raffles	£380
Profit on plant sale (St Michael's Church forecourt)	£489
Plant sales to members at meetings	£100

Main expenses:

Speaker fees	£1166
Room hire	£682
Newsletter	£164
Administration and other	£694
Xmas social	£235

*This includes a refund of £150 from Heyfordian Travel as an ex gratia payment to compensate for the delay after the coach broke down on the way home from the August outing. Had it broken down en route we would have had to refund garden entrance fees to members, but still have had to pay them, leading to a considerable loss.

The balance sheet and income and expenditure account will be available at the AGM on March 24th.

David Bender



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MONTHLY TALKS

At our AGM on **24 March**, one of our members, **Richard Jones**, will give a talk about '**Flowers of the Western Cape**'. Most members know Richard and the good work that he did for the Association. He was a committee member for several years and I encourage members to support him with a good turnout.

On **28 April**, **Richard Reynolds** will talk about '**Guerrilla Gardening**'. He will share his own experiences and those of others around the world. Richard holds a qualification in Geography from Oxford University and in Horticulture from the RHS. He became a guerrilla gardener in the 'noughties' – his mission was to fight the miserable public flowerbeds around his neighbourhood. He has since written a handbook about Guerrilla Gardening and set up a website.

Guerrilla is a Spanish word meaning 'little war'. In the 1970's the word was appropriated by a small group of New Yorkers to describe their illegal gardening on abandoned lots. They called themselves the 'Green Guerrillas'.

On **26 May**, the title of **Mark Towsey's** talk is '**The Role of an Estates' Gardens Manager**', the position that he holds at Woburn Abbey Gardens in Bedfordshire. He is responsible for all horticultural areas of the state including the 28 acre Abbey garden, the London Estates and the Duke and Duchess of Bedford's private residence. A number of redevelopment projects are ongoing based on Humphrey Repton's original features and themed garden areas like the Bog Garden and Chinoiserie Garden. The Abbey Garden was awarded RHS Partner garden status in 2011.

Anne Webb

In your garden shed no. 4 The garden rake



The Garden Rake, originally made entirely of wood, then wood and iron, is a long handled implement with a toothed bar for levelling the soil and it's wider pronged version for collecting leaves from the lawn

No one seems to be credited with the invention but when the Romans used it they called it a *rastrum quadridens* which means a hoe with four prongs

Kenneth Bodman

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In your garden shed no.5 Garden fork

Probably more popular than the spade to use in lifting and turning soil it was originally made from wood with three tines or prongs set quite far apart now generally four pronged although three pronged are still available a six pronged has also been made.

Forks come in the small hand held to the larger manure fork and the short handled fork often referred to as a ladies fork is popular and the extra- long handled fork which is ideal for removing weeds in confined spaces

There is of course the pitchfork for use in turning manure or for use in agriculture and these can be two pronged up to ten pronged depending on their usage

In your garden shed no.6 Trowel

There are many variations of the trowel but I will stay with the Garden Trowel which is defined as scoop shaped for digging small holes and weeding and we have a largish collection but my favourite one has a long narrow blade ideal for digging about in borders

The Romans called it a *trulla* - not dissimilar to what we call it today

The variety of designs has increased over the years making it one of the most useful of garden tools and like Gertrude Jekyll who I understand it was her favourite tool I too would not be without it.

In your garden shed no 7 Garden Hose

First invented in Amsterdam by Jan Van der Heijden a draughtsman who as a child had witnessed Amsterdam's town hall burn down in 1652 and twenty years later he came up with the idea of a thin tube made from linen for use on a fire machine soon superseded by leather made into 50 ft lengths, canvas versions also followed and gardeners soon thought these hoses would be beneficial for them as well



I well remember as a child our very heavy black rubber hose which had to be manhandled down the garden and then attached to the kitchen tap by a type of jubilee clip so much easier these days with the tap connectors and the rubber hose replaced by new materials such as synthetic rubber, nylon and polyurethane to name some

And now we have tangle free hoses and seep hoses - yes the hosepipe has come a long way and adapted well over the last four centuries

Kenneth Bodman

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mar	24	AGM , Flowers of the Western Cape – Richard Jones talk
Apr	21	Visit to Godalming, a Gertrude Jekyll jaunt
Apr	28	Guerrilla Gardening – Richard Reynolds talk
May	5-8	RHS Malvern Spring Festival
May	7	Plant Sale in St Michael's forecourt
May	13	Caracol Plant Sale & Coffee Morning, 12 Lye Green Rd, Chesham
May	24-28	RHS Chelsea Flower Show
May	26	Role of Estates Manager – Mark Towsey talk
Jun	10-13	Dorset Gardens Trip (currently fully booked)
Jun	23	Plants of the Season – Paul Green talk
Jul	17	Chenies Plant Fair
Jul	28	The Modern Lawn – Paul Hedges-Gower talk
Sep	13	Aston Pottery and Radcot House Trip
Sep	22	Dahlias – Val Bourne talk
Oct	20	Beale Arboretum Trip
Oct	27	Quiz
Nov	24	Self Seeders – Love them or Hate them – Gill Regan talk
Dec	15	Xmas Social

Note that the date for the Xmas Social is incorrect in the pink calendar of meetings

COMMITTEE & CONTACT DETAILS

President	Tim Hillier	president@amersham-gardening.org.uk
Chairman (acting)	Colin Ross	chairman@amersham-gardening.org.uk
Secretary	Jean Bowling	secretary@amersham-gardening.org.uk
Treasurer	David Bender	treasurer@amersham-gardening.org.uk
Visits Secretary	Joan Clark	
Show Secretary	vacant	
Membership Sec	Clive Symes	membership@amersham-gardening.org.uk
Talks Secretary	Anne Webb	
Archivist	Carol Barratt	
Web Coordinator	David Bender	webmaster@amersham-gardening.org.uk
Committee Members	Frances Billington Carol Daw Irene Glyn-Jones Liz Moulton	
Newsletter Editor	Neil Watson	newsletter@amersham-gardening.org.uk