

Amersham Gardening Association

www.amersham-gardening.org.uk

February 2019 Newsletter

From the Treasurer

The Income and Expenditure account and Balance sheet are included in this newsletter. The highlights are as follows. Overall we made a profit of £1174 on the year, and we have reserves of some £10,840. While this might suggest that we could reduce the subscription, we have to bear in mind that when the new Life Centre opens, the room hire charges will almost certainly increase by more than the 3 – 5% increase we have seen over the last few years. In addition, we understand

that there is no budget for audiovisual equipment for the new hall – Amersham Community Association will have to appeal for funds, and it is likely that regular users of the hall will be asked for contributions. So, for the time being we will sit on our reserves.

Major sources of income last year were: subscriptions £1796; outings £500; raffles £552; plant sales at meetings £100; the outdoor plant sale in May £544.

From the Membership Secretary

For those of you who have yet to renew your 2019 membership, would you please be kind enough to let me have your renewal subscriptions. (It's £10 single and £17 couple) I should point out that our member's

subscriptions, in the main, all but equate to the cost of our monthly meetings for the year, this being hire of the hall and fees and expenses for our speakers.

Clive Symes

Annual General Meeting, March 28th

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Amersham Gardening Association will be held on Thursday 28th March 2019, starting at 7:45 (earlier than the usual 8:00 pm start, to allow us to complete the business meeting and still have time for Andrew Brogan's talk on *Exotics Greatest Hits*. Reports from officers are included with this newsletter, as are the minutes of last year's AGM, see page 2.

The Association does not run itself. We have a small and friendly committee that meets about 6 times a year; offers to join the committee and help are always welcome. Nominations for officers and members of the committee should be sent to the secretary (secretary@amersham-gardening.org.uk) by March 17th, although nominations (and indeed self-nomination and volunteers) will be accepted on the night.

Welcome to the Year of the Nasturtium and the Year of the Carrot



The January issue of *The Garden* tells us that 2019 has been designated as the Year of the Nasturtium and the Year of the Carrot by Fleuroselect, the international organisation that works to advance the plant market. So, can we expect to see fiery rivers of nasturtiums flowing through gardens, as they do in the uplands of Madeira, where they have self-seeded magnificently on abandoned small holdings? Will flower and produce shows be overwhelmed with carrots of all shapes, sizes and colours?

Plant sale May 18th

Our annual open air plant sale will be on Saturday 18th May, from 09:00 – 12:00 in the courtyard of St Michael's Church in Amersham. As usual, although we will buy in plants from a wholesaler, we also rely on donations from members, so while you are sowing seeds, sow a few more for the plant sale, and when you are splitting perennials, save of them as well.

Forthcoming meetings in the Drake Hall

28th February Nick Bailey: 365 Days of Colour in your Garden

Nick needs little introduction as many of us will be familiar with him not only in relation to his high visibility in the media but also in his previous role as Head Gardener at Chelsea Physic Garden. Now he describes himself as a freelance horticulturalist, best-selling author, award winning TV presenter, garden designer and speaker. His first book was Chelsea Physic Garden – A Companion Guide published in 2014 and more followed.

After studying horticulture at Hadlow College and achieving a 1st class honours degree in Landscape Design from Greenwich University, Nick has worked across many sectors of horticulture over the past 25 years, including nursery stock production, garden management, garden design, teaching, public speaking, writing and broadcasting. His talk will cover plants, techniques and innovative associations to guarantee year-round colour.

28th March Andrew Brogan: Exotics Greatest Hits

Note that this meeting begins at 7:45 with the AGM.

Andrew is both owner and creator of Henstead Exotic Garden in Suffolk, one of the most well known exotic gardens in the UK, which some of you will have visited on one of our annual holidays. Apparently he was inspired by a visit to a Tunisian oasis full of date palms. The garden is a 2 acre site close to the sea and contains

around 150 palms, 200 bamboos and 25 bananas, all grown in the ground on the east coast of England! The attraction for Andrew is, as he has said '.... all these plants look as though they shouldn't be here'. Andrew will tell his story as to how and why he started and where he is now. His garden is open each year through the NGS

25th April Rob Potterton: Alpines and Bulbs from Mountains to Market

Rob's nursery (Pottertons Nursery in Lincoln) was established in 1971 by his parents. He and his wife worked there from the mid 1980s and took over the business 11 years ago. The nursery provides an extensive range of alpines, dwarf bulbs and woodland plants. He will share his memories and experiences

travelling with the Alpine Garden Society seed collection expedition to the mountains of Yunnan in south west China in 1994. He will give us a brief look at methods used to raise these seeds and establish plants into cultivation.

23rd May Adam Pascoe: The Golden Rules of Gardening

Adam is a leading gardening journalist who successfully launched and edited *Gardeners' World* for 22 years. He entered journalism from a background in plant and nursery stock production and gained an honours degree in horticulture. He now works for his own media company. Recent clients include Waitrose, B&Q, the RHS and HTA (Horticultural Trade Association). He and

his wife enjoy growing and cooking their own crops, fruits and herbs. Another claim to fame is his membership of the Palmerston Ukulele Band!

Adam will share his secrets for successful gardening, whether it be for brighter borders or bigger crops, or to encourage wildlife, fight pests and banish weeds.

27th June Frances Watkins: Medicinal Plants in Wartime

Frances is a medical herbalist practising Western herbal medicine. She gained a degree in herbal medicine from Middlesex University and a Doctorate from East London University for researching native British medicinal plants used in 10th century wound healing formulations. She is a professional member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists and College of Practitioners of Phytotherapy.

plants for pharmaceutical companies as part of the war effort and why the demise of herb farms in subsequent years?

She will tell us about plants that were used for medicines during both World Wars. How did the government encourage the public to collect and dry



From the RHS - dates for your diary

The RHS reported in the October issue of *The Garden* that the London shows attract only a fraction of the number of people attending shows at their gardens outside London (only 120,000 people in total, leading to a loss to the Society of £450,000). In addition, emission, congestion and parking charges, and the ever

increasing cost of hotel accommodation, leads to fewer exhibitors being willing to come into central London.

Therefore, there will be only one Westminster show this year: the London Spring Launch show on April 8 – 10, which will incorporate the orchid show – free entry for RHS members.



Other shows are as follows:

Cardiff Flower Show: April 12 – 14
Malvern Spring Festival: May 9 – 12
Chelsea Flower Show: May 21 – 25
Chatsworth Flower Show: June 5 – 9
Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival: July 1 – 7
Tatton Park Flower Show: July 17 – 21
Hyde Hall Flower Show: July 31 – August 4
Rosemoor Flower Show: August 16 – 18
Wisley Flower Show: September 3 - 8
Malvern Autumn Show: September 28 – 29

An AGA date for your diary.

Tuesday 13th August. Visit to Castle Ashby and Cramden Nursery (Helen Morgan).

Details and booking form in the May newsletter

Outings to book now – see the booking forms with this newsletter

Wednesday 10th April: Visit to Hole Park and King John's Lodge (Joan Clark and Althea Godfrey)

Hole Park is a 15 acre estate which has been in the Barham family for the past four generations and was laid out between the two World Wars. It is noted for topiary and an amazing display of spring colour, including swathes of daffodil, primroses and fritillaries. Depending on the weather we may also see early bluebells.

King John's Garden & Nursery is an 8 acre garden for all seasons including meadows with fine trees, formal garden with water features, wild garden and pond, rustic bridge to beds of woodland perennials, and a secret garden.

Cost £29, order your lunch when you book, and pay on the day

Thursday 9th May: Visit to Capel Manor and Theobald's Farm (Felicity Vickery)

Capel Manor Gardens :- over 60 gardens and landscapes to explore. This garden and horticultural college offers a great variety of planting and is a good place to inspire one with new ideas.

boggy woodland site. It offers the visitor lots of gardening ideas, unusual planting, traditional and modern design with colour being central to the garden.

Theobalds Farmhouse Garden :- award winning garden of 'Rooms' created by designer owner Alison Green. This two acre garden was created in 1999 out of a

Cost £28 including a talk and tea and cake Theobald's Farmhouse garden!

Wednesday 26th June: Visit to John Massey's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries and Winterbourne House (Frances Billington)

John Massey is famous for his wonderful displays for the RHS. His private garden is next to Ashwood Nurseries. In a stunning canal side setting it has a large collection of herbaceous plants, trees, clematis and shrubs with many new hydrangeas.



Winterbourne House and Garden. Seven acres of tranquil botanic gardens lie in the grounds of an historic Edwardian arts and crafts house. Today the garden is Grade II listed and offers colour and interest throughout the year with collections of plants from China, North and South America and the Alpine areas of the world. The restored walled garden, complete with crinkle-crankle wall, is a riot of rainbow shades from May until October.

On arrival I hope there will be time for coffee in the café, but please bring a drink in case of delays. Then we will have a tour of the garden and a chance to search Ashwood Nursery for new treasures.



The lawns are fringed with striking colour themed borders and nearby are the glasshouses. Beyond lie an original sandstone rock garden and a woodland walk through Gunnera leaves and Rhododendron displays. When we arrive we will have a buffet lunch with a drink (included in the price) before we set off to explore the garden and house.

Cost £34 including buffet lunch £34



Thursday 18th July: Visit to Hill Close Gardens and the Mill Garden (Liz Moulton)

Hill Close Gardens: These are 16 individual, hedged gardens restored to reflect their Victorian owners. Some gardens have brick built Grade II listed summerhouses. The owners were prominent tradesmen who lived above their premises and required some outdoor space in which to entertain. The gardens were saved from dereliction by volunteers in the 1990s and are rare examples of their kind. Hill Close Gardens are on a hillside. The Mill House is about 400yds walk from the lunch place.

The Mill Garden is a private garden owned by Julia and David Russell and started by Julia's father, Arthur Measures. This pretty garden lies at the foot of Warwick Castle and runs alongside the River Avon. The cottage, [not open to the public], dates from around 1398. The owners have a nursery near Coventry and are very knowledgeable plants people with some unusual specimens.

Cost £25 including morning coffee and biscuits and guided tour

The value of gardening

As gardeners, we are well aware of the value of gardening for our health and well-being, as well as the pleasure of achieving something difficult – maintaining that tender or difficult plant, succeeding in germinating seeds from that interesting plant, succeeding in striking cuttings that you took from some-one else's garden when they were not looking, or indeed succeeding in striking cuttings that we were given, or took from our own plants.

What about the financial side? I hate to think how much we have spent on plants over the last few years, but the large collection of plastic plant pots in the shed suggests that we have bought a great many plants, at a considerable cost, albeit less than maintaining a population of tropical fish in the aquarium. Plant sales to members by members at our meetings run to more than £1000 a year (of which 10% comes to the Association's funds). In 2018, AGA members spent £22,359 on visiting gardens on trips organised by the Association (this includes coach hire, garden entrance fees and the hotel for the 4 day holiday in Kent). Many members will have paid to go on garden visits organised by other societies as well.

The AGA Xmas social

58 members attended the social evening on December 20th. It was nice to see such a good turnout. Members brought an array of food, and AGA provided the drinks.

On each table there were copies of a quiz which members enjoyed doing together. The answers were given later but no prizes for the best! The raffle did well, raising £174. The evening ended with a film of the 2017 holiday to Yorkshire, given by Keith Hoffmeister. I think everyone enjoyed the film, and our thanks go to Keith for compiling it.

A good evening was had by all.....and the committee have made a note to provide more savouries at the next event!

As in previous years, we asked half the membership to bring savoury dishes and half sweet, divided alphabetically from the mid-point of the membership list. For the future we will ask 2/3 of the members to bring savoury dishes, and 1/3 sweet. If we continue to alternate which group brings sweet and which savoury from year to year, this will mean that people in the middle of the list will always be asked to bring savoury dishes.

However, if you are a proud pastry cook and are listed to bring a savoury dish, I am sure no-one will object if

The January issue of *The Garden* includes a summary of a report on the value to the UK economy of horticulture – a total of £24.2 billion, which is 1.2% of the total Gross Domestic Product, a contribution to the Treasury greater than that of the aerospace industry. Spending by private households in garden centres and nurseries amounted to some £7.5 billion in 2017 (that is an average of £1,250 per person, although if we accept the figure that just under half the population undertake gardening activities each week, then we are looking at an average of £2,500 per gardener).

Some 560,000 people are employed in various aspects of horticulture (1.6% of all jobs in the country), and visits to parks and gardens by people like us (and foreign tourists) contributed some £2.9 billion. This total of £24.2 billion and 560,000 jobs presumably does not include the number of coach drivers employed, the income of coach companies and the revenue to the Exchequer from fuel duty, although it presumably does include the sale of tea, coffee and cakes at gardens and garden centres and nurseries – for some people the most important part of any outing is the coffee and cakes on arrival and the cream tea before leaving.



you cheat and bring something sweet. You can even cheat by bringing kebabs of pineapple and cheese – are these sweet or savoury?

For those members who have never been to the social, do think about coming next time. It is very friendly and welcoming, and a good way to get to know other members.

Liz Moulton

Annual General Meeting, March 28th 2019, starting at 19:45

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Minutes of the previous AGM held 22nd March 2018 (see below)
- 4) Matters Arising.
- 5) Officers' Reports (see below)
- 6) Chairman's Comments.
- 7) Treasurer's Report.
- 8) President's Comments.
- 9) Election of officers. The following have declared themselves willing to accept re-election:

Hon Chairman	Colin Ross
Hon Secretary	Jean Bowling
Hon Treasurer	David Bender
Hon Membership Secretary	Clive Symes
Hon Social Secretary (Visits)	Joan Clark
Hon Secretary (Talks)	Anne Webb
Hon Archivist	Carol Barratt
- 10) Election of committee members. The following members of the committee have declared themselves ready to accept re-election: Frances Billington, Carol Daw, Irene Glyn-Jones, Liz Moulton.
- 11) Election of Auditor. Mr Patrick Arbuthnot is willing to act for another year.

Following the AGM there will be refreshments, the sale of plants and a talk by Andrew Brogan on *Exotics Greatest Hits*.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd March 2018

1. **Present:** Tim Hillier, President; Colin Ross, Chairman; Clive Symes, Membership Secretary; Jean Bowling, Secretary; Joan Clark, Visits Secretary; Anne Webb, Talks Secretary; David Bender, Treasurer; Liz Moulton, Carol Daw, Irene Glyn-Jones, Frances Billington. In total 81 members were present.
2. **Welcome:** The Chairman, Colin Ross, welcomed members.
3. **Apologies for absence:** These had been received from Carol Barratt.
4. **Minutes of the previous AGM** held on 23rd March 2017 had been published in the February newsletter. These were accepted.
5. **Matters arising.** Nothing was raised.
6. **Officers' reports.** These had been circulated beforehand and nothing was raised on these.
7. **Chairman's comments.** The Chairman's report had been circulated beforehand and he had nothing else to add.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** This had also been circulated before the meeting. The Treasurer pointed out that we were £937 up on last year, the main profit was from the plant sale, some from the outings and also the raffle. A question was raised from the floor about what we felt we should do with the money. The Chairman suggested we could spend more on speakers and that we had made teas and coffees free, but we have to be prepared for a low profit on the Plant Sale and a loss on outings. The report was proposed by Joan Clark, seconded by Tony Glyn-Jones and accepted.
9. **President's Comments.** The President thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication to ensure the smooth running of the Association's activities. He also thanked the members for the good attendance at meetings, especially for the talk on composting at home, when the hall was packed. The trips and talks had been successful in raising funds as well as being enjoyable.
10. **Election of Officers:** The president pointed out that the election of the Chairman had been omitted from the agenda but that Colin Ross was willing to stand again. He proposed Colin and this was seconded by Liz Moulton. The rest of the officers, who were all willing to stand again were proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Felicity Vickery and returned en block.

Secretary	Jean Bowling
Treasurer	David Bender
Membership Secretary	Clive Symes
Talks Secretary	Anne Webb
Visits Secretary	Joan Clark
Archivist	Carol Barratt
Show Secretary	vacant
11. **Election of Committee.** The following members of the committee were returned en block proposed by Jim Campbell and seconded by Felicity Vickery: Frances Billington, Carol Daw, Irene Glyn-Jones, Liz Moulton.

12. Election of Auditor. Mr Patrick Arbuthnot is willing to act for another year. Tim Hillier proposed we accept, seconded by Jim Campbell.

13. Any Other Business. Nothing was raised.

Following the AGM refreshments were served after which we had a very interesting talk by Claire Brown. She started her talk with an explanation of her career in horticulture and how she came to start her own business. She showed some very interesting photos of the large greenhouses used at the height of the British flower industry and explained the reasons for its decline. Her talk was delivered with humour and information and with tips on where to buy our flowers.

Officers' reports for the 2019 AGM

Membership Secretary

The membership as at 31st December 2018 was 193, with 20 new members joining during the year.

Subscription rates will continue as before, £10 single and £17 per couple at the same address. Please remember that renewal subscriptions are due on 1st January.

May I remind you that several of the smaller local nurseries will give you a 10% discount on your purchases upon production of your A.G.A. membership card, effectively covering the cost of membership.

Clive Symes

Talks Secretary

Our Thursday evening talks continue to be well supported. Anne & Neil Watson recommended our speaker for January. What a fun and interesting start to our year by Master Composter, Baird McClellan. I certainly gleaned some good tips, 1. With daily turning my compost is ready to use in 3 months, much quicker than I thought and 2. Banging the bin deters pests from setting up home!

Claire Brown gave an enthusiastic talk on Flower Farming, an expanding industry in the UK. Paul Green from Greens Leaves Nursery managed to arrive this year (last time he spent the evening on the M40!). He was well worth the wait providing an interactive and entertaining talk about the plants he grows. He is a regular exhibitor at Chenies Plant Fair. Michael Keith-Lucas gave us his views about Climate Change and Sandy Primrose gave a more technical talk on GM Crops.

This year the committee decided to include a more nationally known speaker in our programme. So February brought Matt Biggs who gave an enjoyable talk about Lessons from Great Gardeners. A subject on which he has written a book. He says he would like to come again as we are so welcoming. Although such speakers are more expensive channelling some of our

accrued money towards an evening talk gives all members the opportunity to come.

Once again I would like to thank David Bender and Ken Bodman who invariably help me with setting up the hall each month. Also thank you to Clive Symes who has the unenviable job of taking care of the often temperamental microphones. At the very end of the year Clive was working with one of our members, Alan Jarvis, with a view to improving reliability, so we hope this comes to fruition in 2019.

I want to give advance notice that I shall stand down at the AGM in March 2020. After a period of time I believe there is a need for new blood with fresh ideas. The role does not have to be done by one person, a small team of 2 or 3 people could work closely together. We have a healthy membership and a number of new members who may be interested to get involved. I encourage you to get in touch if you are interested and would like to know more about what the role entails. I would, of course, be happy for someone to shadow me during the coming year and to help in the handover stage. Contact annehopkins@waitrose.com or 01494 729219.

Anne Webb

Visits Secretary

I think without doubt that we have had a series of wonderful garden visits through 2018. This would not have been possible without the hard work put in by all of this group and I thank them for it. I've been involved

in organising holidays and visits for over 12 years and I think it's now time to pass the baton to someone else. If anyone would like to take over either now or next year I would be delighted to help however I can.

May: Upton House & Farley Hill Place organised by Liz Moulton

On a beautiful sunny day we went to Upton Grey Manor house garden which was originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll and restored by its present owner. The long cold winter had delayed the appearance of many flowers but there were still irises, peonies and

asphodels to admire. We followed this by a visit to Farley Hill Place, completely different with lots of vegetables being grown for the local market. Needless to say we filled the coach with plants.

June: Malverleys & Hardy's Plant organised by Joan Clark & Althea Godfrey

Our first stop was Malverleys where we saw what can happen when talent combines with wealth. There was traditional Jekyll inspired planting in 10 gardens. We lunched in the Watership Down pub then, those who

were able, walked up the hill to Hardy's Plants in the intense heat. We felt the best plants had been taken for various exhibitions, however we still managed to buy plenty!

June: Four Day Visit to the Gardens of Kent organised by Jeanne Harrison

Day 1 – Penshurst Place & Timbers

Our first visit was to Penshurst Place, a 14th Century historic garden and was a very fine way to start four

days of garden visits. This was followed by Timbers, a 5 acre private garden stocked with unusual hardy plants designed with a flower arranger's eye.

Day 2 – Walmer Castle & Salutation Gardens

Walmer Castle is a Tudor fortress with magnificent cloud pruned yew hedges as a background to long borders leading to the castle. Salutation Gardens, also

known as the Secret Gardens of Sandwich, is a restored garden hidden away behind high walls in the quaint town. The Lutyens and Jekyll gardens spread out from the Grade I listed manor house, now a hotel.

Day 3 – Goodnestone Gardens & Frith Old Farmhouse

Goodnestone Park Gardens was where Jane Austen visited her brother. Dating from the 18th century, the 15 acres of garden include outstanding trees, a gravel garden and 'the best walled garden in Kent'. It has clematis, cornus and wisteria, as well as a parterre and terraces, and a large pond with waterlilies in the walled garden. The nursery concentrates on selling stock

propagated from plants growing in the garden. Needless to say, we bought plants.

Frith Old Farmhouse is a private garden tended by Doctors Gillian and Peter Regan. There are a riot of plants growing as if in the wild that have developed over 40 years. No neat edges or formal beds, but several hundred interesting and unusual plants. Very much a "Marmite" garden – some loved the informality and twisting uneven paths, others hated the need to trek through a "jungle" to see anything.

Day 4 – Downderry Nursery, Great Compton Gardens & Leydens

Debbie and Paul had seen the signpost for Downderry Lavender Nursery when they went for an evening walk. We decided to make a slightly earlier start and followed the signposts through increasingly narrow and twisting lanes. This visit was an unexpected bonus. Great Comp Gardens is described as 'a paradise for Garden Lovers'. A wonderfully quirky 7 acres of garden, with beautiful and rare plants, surrounding a

17th century manor house. William Dyson, the Garden Curator, runs the nursery specialising in salvias. For some of the group, this was the highlight of the week.

Leydens is a private garden owned by garden designer, nursery owner and author Roger Platts. The garden has a relaxed air with densely planted curving borders bursting with a broad range of shrubs and perennials. Leydens is mainly a nursery providing many mature plants for the clients of Roger's designs and again we bought many.

July: Milton's Cottage and Garden organised by Helen Morgan

This evening visit proved to be a perfect, warm and sunny summer evening as our group gathered at the Grade I listed building. The cottage was John Milton's home for less than 2 years while he and his family escaped from London to avoid the Great Plague. As a consequence of the restoration of the monarchy, Milton

had lost his job, his pension and his sight (he had been secretary /scribe to Oliver Cromwell). He was fortunate not to have been sent to the Tower of London for treason since he had held firm views in favour of the execution of Charles 1st.

July: Waltham Place organised by Jane Jenkins

Our visit to Waltham Place Organic Farm and Gardens certainly divided opinions. Some loved it and others thought it was unkempt. This could be down to which of the guided group you were in. If it was led by the very

knowledgeable etymologist / lepidopterist there was a good chance you were able to fully appreciate what the owners were trying to achieve. Plant choices were unusual, massive towers of spotted hemlock, swathes

of horse tail cow parsley and acres of rank grasses surrounded the helipad and distinguished the garden from the usual flowery bowers we normally admire. We were slightly relieved not to be there at night, as over 500 types of moth have been recorded. So that

explained the tangles of grass, for the caterpillars and the flower choices many were rich in nectar. Irises, marjorams, erynguims, monardia, thalictricum and pollen rich day lilies

August: Cedar House organised by Joan Clark & Irene Glyn Jones

28 of us visited the lovely Cedar House garden belonging to one of our members, Sarah Nicolson. It is a chalk garden with a gently sloping lawn which, thanks to a watering system, was amazingly green, unlike most of our lawns which were depressingly brown due to the chronic lack of rain. Sarah gave us a conducted tour giving us advice and naming the wonderful range of unusual plants. Shaped borders hold a great variety of

trees, shrubs and perennials. The wild area, near the natural swimming pond, was due to be cut in September. We had tea and delicious cakes on the terrace and admired the many pots, especially those containing magnificent Agapanthus. The terrace also offered beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. There were also plants to buy.

September: Huntsmoor organised by Frances Billington

Huntsmoor was an immaculately maintained garden divided into different areas and everywhere there are interesting and unusual plants to see. In the front garden the leaves on a pot of Cornus rainbow were turning strawberry pink. The roses surrounding a

circular lawn were underplanted with a low growing catmint to great effect and beyond it a pond containing huge koi carp. Then a path took us by a wildlife area and through woodland to the log cabin and a large deck with a spectacular view over the valley beyond.

2019: The team are already organising the visits for the forthcoming year.

The Visits Team: Joan Clark, Frances Billington, Althea Godfrey, Jeanne Harrison, Jane Jenkins, Irene Glyn-Jones, Helen Morgan, Liz Moulton & Felicity Vickery.

Joan Clark

Chairman

I am pleased to be able to report that the Amersham Gardening Association has had yet another very successful year. The monthly talks continue to be very well attended – thanks to Anne Webb for continuing to find a great selection of speakers to talk on diverse and interesting topics.

The trips, both the many day trips and the holiday to Kent were excellent, giving members the opportunity to visit beautiful gardens and to socialise with other members of the Association. Thanks to Joan Clark and the Visits Team for all their hard work to make the visits possible.

The Quiz Night was, again, very successful – thanks to Carol and Gordon Barrett for organising it and to Tim and Margaret Hillier for preparing the questions and taking on the task of Question Masters.

The Plant Sale was very successful, and raised a substantial amount of money for the Association's funds, in spite of the date clashing with the Royal wedding and the FA Cup Final. There is a lot involved

in preparing for the sale, including arranging the venue, setting up the tables and plants, propagating plants for sale, buying in plants for resale, providing information to potential members and customers and of course selling the plants. If you think you could help in any way, please let Janet Philpott or any Committee member know. Special thanks to Janet Philpott for co-ordinating everything.

None of the above would be possible without the hard work of the Committee and sub-groups. I therefore ask you to help them where possible and to suggest ways the high standards of the Association can be maintained or even improved.

We need to get more members taking an active role in the running of the AGA and it would be great to have some new blood in the Committee to ensure that it reflects the current membership. If you would like to help in any way please let one of the Committee members know.

Colin Ross

Amersham Gardening Association
Income and expenditure account
for the year ending 31st December 2018

	2018			2017		
	income	expenditure	balance	income	expenditure	balance
Subscriptions	1796.00		1796.00	1884.00		1884.00
Deposit account interest	17.84		17.84	5.43		5.43
Visitors and miscellaneous	1856.00		1856.00	141.00		141.00
Plant sales at meetings	100.00		100.00	60.00		60.00
Social activities (incl tea)	0.00		0.00	28.00		28.00
Activities and fundraising						
Outings	22359.00	-21795.65	563.35	15843.50	-15491.00	352.50
Raffle (and tombola in 2015)	993.20	-441.27	551.93	723.50	-245.03	478.47
Quiz night	1148.00	-1131.11	16.89	1484.40	-1409.14	75.26
Plant sales outside	886.25	-312.28	573.97	952.00	-334.80	617.20
Other expenditure						
Speaker fees		-1209.40	-1209.40		-1072.00	-1072.00
Room hire ACC		-408.25	-408.25		-754.15	-754.15
Venue hire (other)		-30.00	-30.00		-30.00	-30.00
Gratuities and gifts		-350.00	-350.00		-380.00	-380.00
Newsletter and postage		-131.96	-131.96		-102.94	-102.94
Administration and publicity		-1988.64	-1988.64		-304.43	-304.43
Social activities miscellaneous shows		-165.34	-165.34		-70.01	-70.01
total	29156.29	-27963.90	1192.39	21116.40	-20193.50	922.90

Amersham Gardening Association
Balance sheet as at 31st December 2018

	2018	2017
Current assets		
Cash in hand	8.61	8.61
Cash at bank (current account)	2376.45	1418.65
Cash at bank (savings account)	10848.7	10830.86
General Fund	10337.98	10320.14
Hussey Legacy fund	510.72	510.72
Total		12258.12
Balance brought forward	12050.6	11461.03
surplus for the year	1174.55	928.33
Balance carried forward	13225.15	12389.36

Signed

Tim Hillier (President)

dated

Some requests for help

We always need people to meet and greet members and visitors at our meetings.

If you can help, please contact Felicity Vickery Tel: 01494 726284, email felicityvickery@yahoo.co.uk

We need people to help with the tea and coffee at our meetings. There is a rota so you are not expected to help at every meeting.

If you can help, please contact Liz Moulton Tel: 014494 784913, email libbym6740@gmail.com

Please remember the raffle at each meeting. The profit on the raffles makes a very useful contribution to our expenses; subscriptions alone do not cover the cost of meetings and speakers.

Publicity. If you know where you could put a publicity poster please contact 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
Amersham Council Offices
Amersham Station
Coleshill Village Hall
South Heath Garden Centre

Committee and Contact Details

President	Tim Hillier	president@amersham-gardening.org.uk
Vice-President	Susan Jeffery	
Chairman	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	David Bender	newsletter@amersham-gardening.org.uk

Discounts for members – remember to take your membership card to claim your discount

[East Building & Timber Supplies](#), 43 - 47 Chiltern Ave, offer a 10% discount on compost, gravel and pebbles, etc to AGA members.

[South Heath Garden Centre](#), Meadow Lane, South Heath, Great Missenden, HP16 9SH, offer a 10% discount on some items.

Past newsletters

There is an archive of past newsletters from May 2014 to the current issue on our website at

<http://www.amersham-gardening.org.uk/newsletter.html>

Local events

If you know of local garden events, open gardens, etc, please email newsletter@amersham-gardening.org.uk to let us know as early as possible, so that information can go out in the newsletter and on the website

Photos from outings

You can see lots of photos from our outings at <http://www.amersham-gardening.org.uk/outings.html>