

Chairmans Chat

Dear members, what a great turn out we had this week and we were well rewarded for coming out in the cold with an excellent talk on propagation by Ray Broughton. Thanks to Catherine, our events secretary, for sourcing this. Who knew that salt was now a banned substance in the garden (slugs or no slugs!) and tomato ketchup is perfect for cleaning tools. (leave on for 4 days)

Our next talk is by the brilliant PIPPA GREENWOOD and we signed up 45 of you last night to attend. All details are on the poster at the end of this newsletter. I will be advertising the talk to non - members in local clubs and also via the Surrey Federation at the beginning of March, (The cost to them is £10) but the details are already on the website for the general public to see. We obviously want members to have priority so please do book (free) on the website asap so that we can keep an eye on the number of visitors we can fit in under the hall insurance.

Membership cards will have to be shown that evening for obvious reasons.

PLEASE CAN YOU TRY TO CAR SHARE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE to reduce parking problems. If you have trouble there may be space up Church Lane in a small car park there on the right hand side.

Thanks to those of you who brought a BAFTA entry. The winner was Dot Parkinson with this beautiful Iris. Well done Dot. See you all on the 12th March.

Christine Cox, chairman



Keep looking after our garden birds!

I am sure that many of you will have enjoyed joining in with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January.

With binoculars at the ready, feeders and bird table filled with seed, I spent an interesting hour counting how many of each bird species visited my garden. I had 15 species in all.

It is good to remember to keep feeding the birds throughout the cold days of February when natural food reserves are limited. Most berries will have been eaten by now, seeds will have dropped from flower heads and the bugs and caterpillars will still be hiding away until the weather warms up.

The RSPB are advising people that it is important to keep our feeders, bird tables and bird baths clean by washing them regularly to limit the spread of avian diseases.

National Nestbox Week starts on 14th February so if you are thinking to put up a nest box, now is the time to do it.

Birds will normally start to nest in early March but they may start earlier if the weather is mild.

It is best to make sure that all hedge cutting is completed by the end of February to avoid disturbing any nesting birds.

If we look after the birds now by encouraging them into our gardens, they will reward us in the spring by feasting on the slugs, snails and aphids...hopefully!

Catherine Bullock

CLUB NEWS and DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Surrey Horticultural Federation are delighted to announce that the speaker for our Spring Talk will be award-winning garden designer, author, journalist and presenter, Ann-Marie Powell!

We hope you'll join us on **Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.30pm**, when we'll be welcoming **Ann-Marie Powell to Normandy Village Hall**, Manor Fruit Farm, Glaziers Lane, Normandy, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 2DT. Surrey can hire speakers that we, as a small club, cannot afford so it's a great opportunity.

Details on how to get tickets for this event are in the SHF newsletter, which Jane has forwarded to you already.

WITSTOCK 10TH MAY 2025

As many of you will know, for many years WGA has run a stall at the local village fair. Now rebranded as Witstock, this is a fun occasion with lots of live music, professional bar and food vans and many many stalls from local companies and organisations. This year the date is Saturday 10th May and we will be asking for you to help man the stall. Please look out for a rota to sign up to. If we have plenty of helpers then people can have a break to enjoy some of the afternoon. Also needed will be your spare plants for the stall, so pot up any extras as you do your spring planting please or indeed follow Ray Broughton's advice and sow seeds for us!

Jan and I have agreed a budget with the Parish council to spruce up the War Memorial. Look out for an appeal from us for help to dig holes, plant up and generally improve it's appearance

AND HERE COMES THE FIRST OF MY APPEALS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

We are approaching a time when some of our lovely committee will have to leave us. They have been good enough to let us know well in advance so PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE consider joining us, either from October, or shadowing from now, which would be much easier for getting to know the system.

BRING AND BUY OPPORTUNITY

Brenda and Maggie, who run our brilliant raffles, are hoping to run a Bring and Buy stall at the Spring Show, Saturday 5th April. This will be for gardening related objects, not plants. Plants need to be donated to the Witstock stall please.

☺☺ more details to follow

GOOD NEWS FROM SQUIRES

I recently forwarded a message from Squires offering gardening clubs even more savings. You will have to register independently but will still get our 10%. (Sarah Squires is coming to talk to us about the company later in the year). Do look out the email. It may prove very useful!

Inter Village Floral Arrangement Cup

How would you like to represent our club at this annual event? For once it does not clash with our own show. Do let us know if you can do this. The club will fund any flowers you need of course. All details are below.

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society are delighted to be hosting the competition for the Inter Village Floral Arrangement Cup at our Spring Show. Details are below:

Saturday, March 29th 2025

Venue: Marindin Hall, Frensham, GU10 3DG (on the A287)

Title: Spring Reflections

Size: 45cm - 45cms

Staged on tabling with black cloths

No background colour supplied

Show open 2.30 - 4pm, prize giving at 3.45pm

Exhibits to be removed between 4 and 4.30pm

Any entries should be staged between 9.15 - 10.45 on the morning of the 29th Mach.

PIPPA GREENWOOD



12th Wednesday
March 2025



Please Book on the website as we expect a large turnout. Non members should pay online. Details below

Something Nasty In The Garden

'Something Nasty in the Garden' - A round up of garden pests and diseases, how to recognise, control or avoid them.

Pippa trained as a botanist at Durham University and started working at RHS Wisley in 1985, running the Plant Pathology department.

A few years later Pippa joined the BBC and became a presenter on Gardeners World, becoming well known as their expert on Garden Pests and diseases.

Pippa is a gardening consultant and has written many books. She also writes several columns in magazines and newspapers and is a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4 Gardener's Question Time.

**ENTRY FREE TO MEMBERS BUT
PLEASE BOOK ON THE WEBSITE**

NON MEMBERS: please pay £10
in advance by BACS

Witley Gardening Association
Sort code 30-93-49
a/c number 00364888

Any problems with this please email
admin@witleygardening.org and we will
sort something out for you.

**THE CHICHESTER HALL
WITLEY**

Doors open 7.00pm for a
7.30 start

Welcome drinks available