

### Chairmans chat

Spring greetings! And a warm welcome to our new members. Well, for a while I thought spring *had* sprung and got very enthusiastic with the weeding but today I am huddled inside again, having sown all the things that can be sown in February ( in the potting shed of course), and looking forward to warmer days next month when we can really get going. You may remember that some of us helped the parish council in the first stage of improving what is now known as Wheeler Street Green, opposite the Star pub. We planted a few hundred bulbs and then prayed! Well, the good news is that they came up, did not get trampled by parked cars and are looking very jolly. So



many thanks to all of you who helped with that and to the Star, who provided breakfast! We started this club year with a slight hiccup, due to an unwell speaker who had to cancel. Luckily Peter Herring, who has given so much to the club, came out of retirement to present an interesting and engaging talk on Magnolias, one of his specialities. This first talk of the year was a great start to the program and the hall had a friendly and lively atmosphere, with lots of chatter beforehand and questions after. Thank you Peter.



How are your Golden Dawn doing? Mine look quite strong but whether I'll get them to flower at the right time for the show is still up for debate. I have, however, come up with an idea for keeping the squirrels etc off them, by upturning my redundant baskets over them. This has the advantage of not having to find storage space for the baskets.



This year, with the cost of living rising still (despite what they would have us believe!) our membership numbers have fallen. This means that it is harder to keep our costs reasonable. Whilst we have kept the membership subs the same, you will see a notice by the refreshments table giving you the opportunity to donate a small amount for your drink. ( no more than £1) This is not at all obligatory and we know that some of you are keen raffle contributors, so may not wish to do both, but we thought we should explain why this notice has appeared. There is lots more info in this newsletter, so do read on. HAPPY GARDENING! *Christine Cox, chairman*

## **OUR NEXT TALK IS FROM THE VERY WELL KNOWN DAVID HURRION.**

Lots of info on him overleaf and on the website. Reminder poster to follow. Please note there will be a charge for non members of £5 for this keynote talk, but friends can join on the night for £10

WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

**DAVID HURRIION**

## CREATING A TROPICAL GARDEN IN THE UK CLIMATE

One of our keynote speakers

*Not to be missed!!*

David is a well known Gardener, Horticulturalist, lecturer and presenter. He is currently the associate editor of BBC Gardeners' World magazine, a member of the RHS Tender Plants Committee and an RHS Show Judge.

David has appeared on TV and radio and has launched his own You Tube channel back in 2018. He has recently been designing and presenting a wide range of masterclasses for the magazine and other clients.

This year David is hosting garden tours in Kent and Sussex, Cornwall and Yorkshire as well as a cruise covering gardens in France, Spain and Portugal. He is also appearing at all three Gardeners World shows this year, so we are extremely lucky to have managed to book him.

He has travelled to every continent, with the exception of Antarctica, to discover plants and gardens.

He has a passion for tropical plants and in his talk, he will look at some of the best plants to create an exotic look in our gardens without bringing all of them inside for the winter. You will be surprised how many of these plants are hardy!



We would like to remind you that there is possible extra parking up Church Lane, past the church and the school and on the right hand side. Please car share if you can. The committee will help by double parking.



Our February **BAFTA** winner was Jane Foster with her camellia japonica, **Nuccio's Cameo**. Jane has a small garden so grows this in a pot. Well done Jane! Don't forget to bring your favourite bloom to the next meeting, in your own vase, for a chance to win a small prize.

**APPEAL FOR WITSTOCK** if you are doing your spring tidy in the garden don't throw away plants that have outgrown their space. Pot them up and bring along to our stall at Witstock in May. We can no longer get donations from local nurseries etc so your contributions are essential ! Also please consider volunteering an hour of your time on the day to help spread the workload.

Many thanks in advance. *WGA committee*