

Chairmans Chat

Well it seems a long while since the April newsletter and I am just about fitting this one into May. In the intervening time we've had a couple of very successful events. We had our annual trip to the lovely Grayswood hall, where Belinda Allen, who also very kindly does some show judging for us,



came to talk on companion planting, one very eco friendly way of keeping your plants happy. As she is also an expert on herbs, Belinda brought



including and many of these and her crib sheet on which plants (and which very much do not!) it was a

kept our busy evening, what with the herb sale, the raffle and the BAFTA to fit in.



We also had our hastily arranged WGA Plant Sale on 10th May, in the absence of Witstock, which we had planned for. (Well what else were we going to do with all the plants that we had encouraged you to save.) Were thrilled that so many of you helped in so many ways, not least buying the plants! As 12 noon approached, we only had a handful of plants left and I know those of you who came along enjoyed the buzz. The bring-and-buy gardening paraphernalia, run by Maggie, Brenda and Jan Peto, was a success. And well done, Brenda, for offloading two large pieces of equipment to the shop at the recycling depot.



COMING UP

WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE
WITLEY MANOR JOINT
GARDEN VISIT 6pm till 8pm

This is a members only evening
All details on this, including how to pay, are on page 3 of this newsletter.

Please note that you do need to book this visit by 11th June at the latest please.

PLANT PASSION

Wednesday 9th July 2pm till 4pm.

This visit will cost £10, to include refreshments, and you will need to travel to Clandon. Join us for a visit to see seasonal, sustainable flowers for the cut flower market growing in the Surrey Hills. This is a successful business run by Claire Brown. The company provides special occasion flowers for events such as weddings etc., flower farm experiences such as workshops, More details on arrangements to follow.

MY SALVIAS

Back to basics: Having got the greenhouse sorted I've turned my energies to repotting my beloved salvias. I admit to being a bit of a salvia fanatic. Mostly because flower all summer in my garden and manage dry weather well. I used to think that small "hardy" but that's not always so. As a result, find seem to be half hardy are grown in pots collapsible cloche over the whole lot in winter.



I've discovered long ago that they the sandy soil and leaves meant any of mine that I and I put a large In the spring they size with fresh



Jezebel, last summer, backed by Amistad.



Blue Butterflies

all get sent up a pot compost and it's such a useful thing to do. Not least because, as I empty the compost out, I invariably find chafer grubs (about ten in one of them!) which the birds make short work of. (Usually the robin is the first to the feast). "Flower Child is in flower already and I look forward to a good show by the rest as the summer progresses. One of my hardiest salvias in the ground is Jezebel. This year it tried to pretend it had died but I held fast and sure enough the new shoots came up from below ground and its already big. Blue Butterflies, however, is not hardy at all in my garden and has to go into the heated greenhouse. I keep my Amistad cuttings in the greenhouse too, leaving the mature plants in the ground with soil mounded up over the roots. I have done this successfully for several years.

More on my obsession with these lovely flowers in future newsletters. *Christine*

COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. Liz Simmons has kindly offered to manage the membership renewals in January. Myself and Larissa will support her and Jane, our current membership secretary, is in the process of writing an instruction sheet (for want of a better word!)
2. You may have noticed that all communications, including replies to emails, are now coming from me and that will continue.
3. We potentially have someone to take minutes at meetings.

We Still Need:

Someone to mastermind refreshments. You don't necessarily have to attend committee meetings but would top up supplies and store the "tea" box. The plan is to have a group of about 8 members to rotate the actual manning of refreshments. We still need a few more volunteers for this please.

Thank you so much to those who have come forward and, as always, those who always help out in so many ways.

FROM THE ARCHIVES (Book 3)

HOW ATTITUDES HAVE CHANGED;

The first entry in book 3 is 6th July 1898 and contains the printed Schedule of Prizes for the **Witley, Milford, Peper Harow and Hambledon Cottagers Garden Show and Industrial Exhibition** to be held on 19th July 1899.

"Most of the Garden Show Schedule would be familiar to the modern gardener but Class 46 "A pot of musk" has been dropped, as has the whole Poultry section and "Greatest Number of Queen Wasps, dead, pinned on cardboard" (to be delivered to a member of the Committee before 1st June. This last was heavily incentivised: 1st Prize 3/- plus 2/- for every 100 Queen Wasps exhibited. This was presumably as a result of the previous show in which *All the Wasps have apparently been killed; there were practically no entries this year*"

Thank goodness we have become wiser!

GRAYSWOOD OPEN GARDENS

As you know Grayswood are incorporated into our club now. They have an Open Gardens day on 1st June, 11.30 to 4.30 in aid of the Church and grounds maintenance. Tickets available on the village green and Wyck House Holdfast Lane. 10 gardens, Teas, Plant Sale, Classic cars.

Would any members be willing to open their gardens in May/June 2026 to help raise funds for the Clockhouse in Milford (AGE UK) The Clockhouse would only need you to organize the refreshments. Many of you already know what a great job they do so if anyone can help in this way please contact us .

WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE

WITLEY MANOR JOINT

GARDEN VISIT 6pm till 8pm

This is a members only event

We have invited Milford Gardening Club to this event, as well as members of The Friends of All Saints, by request from the owner.

ARRIVAL ARRANGEMENTS

There will be someone on the gate to check you in between 6.00 and 6.30. If you arrive after that then ring the buzzer and the owner will let you in, but **you must then make yourself known to Catherine, to be checked in.**

PARKING and DISABLED ACCESS

Parking will be on the field accessed by the first gate adjacent to the Chichester Hall. If wheelchair access is needed the front gate from the main road can be opened but prior notice must be given in advance for this. If coming with wheelchair via car, it is better to come in via the Chichester Hall entrance, but you can park by the house. We can put up a sign to disabled parking. If local people are walking and want to come in the front entrance they can buzz at the back door.

COST

The cost is £10 and the proceeds will be divided between WGA and Friends of All Saints. Please book and pay in advance, either on a club night or by BACS

1. Online payment - this is our preferred method of payment, and for those of you with internet banking should be the easiest. You can pay your £10 directly to our bank account:

Account name - Witley Gardening Association

Sort code - 30-93-49

Account number - 00364888

Please make sure you include your full name as the payment reference (We do have members with both the identical surnames and identical initials so your full name will avoid confusion)

2. Telephone banking - if you have telephone banking set up with your bank, you can make your £10 payment directly to our bank account, *quoting the same payment details as above.*