

### Chairman's Chat

This piece should be called "The Hapless Gardener". I have been thrilled to discover all those favourite plants that have survived the winter and are now growing and I have spent today in bliss in my garden. But, you know that feeling that a plant looked bigger yesterday? Well sure enough when I looked under the pot there was the slimy culprit. I am lucky enough to back onto some woods so I relocated the offender to somewhere where he (or she) will be more appreciated. Added to that something rampaged through my cold frame last night, turning over pots and breaking my baby clematis which were just ready to plant out. Oh well, another opportunity to chance my luck with taking cuttings from the severed top growth I guess. My bumble bees are out and about. Unfortunately, they love my potting shed and I spend half of my time up there rescuing them (much to their annoyance) and taking them to a pollinator plant. I rescued 5 today and had to resort to keeping the door shut at all times.



Last month we had an amazing talk from David Hurrion. Even though we knew his excellent credentials as a, plantsman, designer, writer, and RHS judge, he still wowed us with a really interesting explanation of the extent of the effects of climate change in this country and how it has affected the range of plants we can grow. He then followed it up with a large range of such plants that can be used to create a tropical and leafy feel in our gardens. David had a very accessible delivery and kept our interest throughout. He also made some very supportive suggestions for the club and brought along his latest book for us to buy.

If you attended the talk and would like a copy of David's plant list please do ask us via the admin email and I will send a copy to you. I am certainly going to try Tetrapanax, which I have discovered at a very good price from a well known online nursery. A word of caution : this is ONLY for use by members of the group and David retains the copyright for it; it is not for re-use or to be sold in any way.

Did you see the piece on Wheeler Street Green in the council newsletter? It's so lovely to see the plan coming together and to know that we were a part of it. Well done again everyone that was involved.



Coming up fast now we have the Spring Show. All information and requests for this are on the next page of this newsletter. Do come along, if only for tea and cake. It's a lovely event. My show daffs, Golden Dawn, are in bloom now, even the ones I tried to hold back in a cool place. The perfume from them is glorious and I will certainly grow them again. I notice that there are a few unopened buds so I'm hoping to still have a few to bring to the show. *Christine Cox*

### COMING UP: TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Our next speaker is the brilliant **Andy McIndoe**, formerly head gardener at Hilliers. Poster with full details to follow.

### COMING UP: SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**Witstock:** The village fair where we have a stall. Save all unwanted plants for us please. Volunteers would be great.

### COMING UP 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

**Chinthurst Lodge.** A sign up form for this ( and details)will be at the next talk. Cost £10

### MARCH BAFTA WINNER



This beautiful white camellia won it's owner some yummy Easter chocs

## SPRING SHOW NEWS SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL

**AN APPEAL:** it would be brilliant if you could bake a cake for the teas in the afternoon. It will take some of the pressure off the committee, who will be setting up on Friday evening and Saturday morning. If you can help with this just send us a quick email. We will be very grateful. Just lately the committee have been subsidising the cake table



### CAN WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ENTER THE SHOW?

We have worked on making the schedule for the show more accessible. The number of blooms needed in a class has been reduced in many cases and we have tried to make the floral art more accessible and cheaper to take part.

### SHOW TIPS

- \*Set up is in the back room where you will find all the vases and water.
- \*When displaying in these vases it is useful to bring some newspaper to act as a stabiliser to stand the stems up.
- \*If the class requires e.g 3 of the same, try to find unblemished blooms which are as similar to each other as you can find. Place the blooms all facing forward.
- \*If you know the variety it's good for spectators to learn what does well, so it's helpful, but not essential, to put the variety on your entry card

Please return  
your spring show  
cups in the  
morning of the  
show



### AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULE FOR SPRING SHOW

Apologies for some errors in the schedule. The Spring Show is on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and, after changes to the number of classes this year, the cups will be awarded as in the table shown.

*Trophies to be awarded*

#### **GEORGE EDWARDS CUP**

For the Best Exhibit of Daffodils and/or Narcissi in Classes 1 – 11

#### **CUTLER CUP**

For the Best Exhibit in Classes 12 and 13

#### **THE REDHEAD BOWL**

For the Best Exhibit in class 30

#### **NORMAN CUP**

For the Best Exhibit in class 29

#### **WITLEY EVERGREENS CUP**

Best exhibit in Classes 17, 22-24

#### **DAVID SWIFT MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Most points in the Crafts Section

#### **WITLEY W.I. CUP (Cookery)**

Best Exhibit Classes 39-42