

Chairmans Chat

Hello again everyone. This newsletter is going out to all last year's members but from March we will be sending only to 2024 members.

This is the sort of weather where not even the greenhouse or potting shed are enticing me out. (The cloche has blown away countless times) However, needs must as some seeds will have to be sown this month. I have two trays of toilet roll



innards filled with compost ready to sow my parsnips and sweet peas. The chillies won't be far behind. I'm a bit late with them. What I really need is another 3 greenhouses! The hellebores continue to cheer me up each day as I approach the front door, steadfastly standing up again after every frost and rain storm. I am very envious of the



Wisley alpine houses where I saw this beautiful bowl of miniature narcissi just before Christmas. (NARCISSUS ROMIEUXII subs. ALBIDUS) My Golden Dawn narcissi have slowed up thank goodness so maybe for once they will flower for the

show. I'll have to put them somewhere warmer if they go too slow though! Such is life. Well, I am off to bulk order my (peat free) potting compost for the year, using my WGA 10% discount to cover the delivery cost. This will save several trips to top up over the summer, as I am an incorrigible propagator and end up with plants in pots when I have filled up the garden beds. It will also save Mr Cox's back! We are looking forward to seeing you at the first talk, 13th February. The poster is attached. Roll on spring!! *Christine Cox*

MEMBERS

If you haven't received your schedule yet it will be imminent. Apologies for not getting them out when we planned but we had some delays getting subs in and I'm sure you will understand that we can't expect distributors to undertake distribution more than once. The schedule, calendar and January newsletter have been on the website (www.witleygardening.org) since early January, so hopefully you will have been able to access the information you need.

**Next talk
13th FEB
details on
attached
poster**

Advance notice:
David Hurrion 13th
March. There will
be a £5 charge for
non-members at this
talk

Do check out your Surrey Federation newsletter, emailed to you last week. It contains details of a talk by Geoff Hamilton's son, Nick, who has been running Barnsdale. The talk is £10 to our members and £15 to non members.

NON MEMBERS

There will be no further mass deliveries of schedules and membership cards but we will of course welcome you at any meeting for a small fee, except for DAVID HURRION (see note in this newsletter)

You can also rejoin at any meeting if you would like to.

JOINT GARDEN VISIT 2024 now confirmed

HIGH CLANDON ESTATE VINEYARD AND GARDENS
Tuesday 9th July 2.00pm
There will be Art and Sculpture to view.
Suggested donation £7
Please add to your calendar

**TUESDAY 13TH
FEBRUARY**



MARTIN DUNCAN

**Arundel
Castle
Gardens**



Martin became Head Gardener at Arundel Castle Gardens in 2009. The gardens are famous for their unique stumpery garden and one of the country's largest annual tulip festivals which Martin has designed and he and his team maintain.

In his talk, Martin will give a brief background on his worldwide gardening experiences and talk about the famous gardens at Arundel Castle.

Find out more about Martin Duncan on our website

THE CHICHESTER HALL WITLEY
Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 start
Tuesday 13th February 2024

Entry free to members, £2 to non-members.
Welcome drinks available