

**DON'T FORGET THE SPRING SHOW SATURDAY
APRIL 1ST**

**please please please WE NEED YOUR ENTRIES
USE IT OR LOSE IT!!!**

Enter online or by email by 10am Friday 31st APRIL (see your schedule)

You can bring your entries from 8.30 until 10.30 on 1st April and we will help you set them up.

Don't forget **BAKING, CRAFTS, FLORAL ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY** if plants are not your strong point.

THE BAFTA AWARD

At every talk we will be having the BAFTA competition. Just bring **one bloom** that you are particularly proud of, in your own vase, and place it on the table. To vote, you just place a piece of pasta in the container in front of the flower you like best. There is always a prize for the most popular flower.



Tree Peony



**Magnolia
Stellata**

PTO

THE APRIL TALK

We would like to remind you that the April talk is an **afternoon** talk on HERBS Brenda Allen will be talking on growing and caring for herbs, their history and what they were used for and their culinary uses.

There will be herb plants for sale but please note this will be **cash only**

Chairman's Chat

Welcome to our March newsletter. I've finally made it out into the garden to try and put right the chaos that was winter. I just love the moment when I can sow my first seeds, usually the broad

BULRUSH COMPOST

We recently told you that we had investigated but were not able to buy this in bulk from the suppliers in order to sell on to you. It is only sold to retailers. However, a member, Alison, has kindly sent us the local retail outlets for it, which are:

Knights Garden Centres, own label

Coolings Garden Centres own label

Nether of these are particularly local

beans. However, I put my 16 plants from the potting shed out into the cloche to start hardening off andyou've guessed it, there were only 9 the next morning! To be fair, the stalks and leaves were still there but no longer attached to the seed, which had been excavated overnight and eaten. Such is life. On a brighter note, the bulbs planted in pots have been cheerfully greeting visitors at the front door for some weeks now and the shrubby salvias look as though they are making a valiant effort to come back to life.

Didn't we have a wonderful evening at the Nick Bailey talk? Such a good speaker. We must thank you all for the friendly atmosphere you created, which he and his PA were most impressed

with. My thanks also to our very hard working committee who made it all run very smoothly.

We mustn't forget the non-committee members, who give us extra pairs of hands. The husbands who get drafted in to help with setting up for every event, Maggie and Brenda, who always run the raffle for us so cheerfully and Kim, who will always step in when asked.

In addition we have four ladies, Janet, Daphne, Lesley and Jan, who have volunteered to cover us in emergencies. Much appreciated.

DATA PROTECTION

We have had some enquiries as to why we have removed committee contact details from the schedule.

This is a data protection issue.

Rest assured that any contact with a committee member can be made via

admin@witleygardening.org.

you can put fao if you wish. All emails are daily monitored and sent on to the relevant person. We are a very coordinated team.

HOWEVER: we do need another couple of committee members.

Now that we have so many more events in the year, we need more of us to help out. In particular someone who can shadow Trevor, the Show Secretary, and help with the admin. It is asking a lot of Trevor to do this on his own and the rest of the committee already have pretty time-consuming responsibilities. It would mostly be an admin task, but if course would be best done by someone who is interested in finding out more about how shows are run. Trevor is a very experienced gardener, so you would pick up some wonderful knowledge from him and he's a great character!

If you can't help in this way we still need your time to help man the WITSTOCK (aka Witley fair) stall on May 13th. This year we are returning to running a plant stall. The committee will be doing all the preparation for you, but we need you to bring plants on the morning and give a bit of time to relieve others who are serving. *All proceeds go to charity.*

Christine Cox , chairman