

Chairman's Chat

Well, we had another very personable speaker in Graham Dillamore, who gave us a really good talk on the gardens of Hampton Court Palace. It certainly opened my eyes to the history there and I'm determined to go and visit them, seeing them in a new light. From members comments after, many of you felt the same so it was a very good evening for us. Thanks to Catherine who does all the research and booking for these talks. The BAFTA is becoming very competitive, with some beautiful entries. The winner was a



lovely Magnolia Fairy, entered by Dot Parkinson, who won a bottle of wine, as I forgot to buy the chocolates! Lucky Dot! Our Spring Show was a very successful occasion, with compliments from the judges and the usual great atmosphere in the afternoon. Though I doubt I was the only one suffering from all the pollen in the



hall with tissues at the ready!! Report is on page 2 but we thought you would be interested in the way the finances worked out, rather than wait till the AGM. See below and you will see how important all your help is with the raffle and teas. It was good to see many more cookery entries than usual and the continuing success of the floral art, which we previously came close to dropping due to lack of interest. We have two extra dates for your calendar in June and July, which are detailed on page 3. The info was not available when we did the calendar last November, so does not appear on it. We are asking for manpower again on 23rd for the plant sale. If you can give us some of your time stewarding the plants or serving teas we would be very grateful. (There is no need to handle money for the plants.) Do please have a good read of the newsletters. We try to make sure that everything you need to know is in them and they are an important way for us to keep you informed. Well, I'm off to do battle with the garden again. Having spent all week trying to avoid plants overheating I woke on Sunday to frosted dahlias. The hapless gardener strikes again! On the plus side, several of the mini plants bought for the plant sale are now in 3inch pots, so looking good. HAPPY GARDENING, Christine



COMING UP !!

Wednesday 6th May at
GRAYSWOOD

CAROL GUBLER, Aspects of Fuchsias

Another excellent speaker who will demonstrate and also bring plants to sell.

Saturday 23rd May
PLANT SALE

10am till 12.30

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ! And tell all your friends!

If you have plants to donate please bring them from 9am so that we have time to price them. Many thanks

Summary of SHOW finances

You can see how expensive the hall is, although the judges mostly charge very modest rates.

Tea & Cakes - profit
£133

Raffle - profit £194

EXPENSES

Judges - £89

Hall costs - £170

SPRING SHOW REPORT



Time for tea



JUDGES TIP, Diane our cookery (WI) judge, always tries out the recipe that we give. She suggested a good tip is to leave the banana cake in the oven after you have turned the oven off. This apparently prevents a soggy middle.

George Edwards Cup.
Louise Ashwell



The Redhead Bowl.
Catherine Bullock

Cutler Cup.
Barbara Kinnes



Norman Cup.
Lesley Ives

Witley W.I.Cup
(Cookery)
Lesley Ives

Witley Evergreens Cup
Lesley Ives



David Swift
Memorial Trophy
Jane Foster
In a dress she
designed and made
herself for a very
special birthday!



WELL DONE ALL OF YOU!!

CLUB NEWS

PLANT SALE 23rd MAY 2026

Please continue to prepare for our plant sale . If sowing seeds taking cuttings, or dividing isn't your thing then maybe you can consider helping to serve on the morning
We are planning tea/coffee and biscuits. Every little helps!

EXTRA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are pleased to say that Catherine has liased with Marion Lewis, who has secured us a date to visit

Watts Gallery garden. The date is 10th June pm

and should nicely fill the "June Gap " in our programme

The joint garden visit with Miford has been confirmed by them for 7th July pm. And is to **Losely** . The cost will be £12 plus an optional £7.50 for afternoon tea.

There will be full details in due course, but we will, of course have to book and pay in advance.

You may have noticed that we have bought a new speaker system. It's a portable PA system, with the advantage of 2 microphones to save swopping over all the time and it can be taken to Grayswood. We needed a new mic set anyway and with the added problem of the weight of the two other speakers it was time to give our joints a rest and have something more portable. The "old" speakers will need to be sold and it would be great if anyone would take this on. I am not completely confident with the process. The part exchange value offered was pitiful so we'll try to get a better deal from someone.

NEW BANNER.

Trevor's family advised us that the banner they kindly prepare for us was at the end of it's life and they sourced a new one, which we think is excellent and eye catching. Hope you noticed it!



FLOWER SHOW
HERE THIS
SATURDAY



They have organised the reverse so that it can be used for the plant sale. Magic!

WEDNESDAY
6TH MAY 2026

CAROL GUBLER

Aspects of Fuchsias

Carol is the proprietor of a specialist fuchsia nursery Little Brook Fuchsias near Ash. The nursery is currently selling over 500 different types of Fuchsias. Carol will bring along plant material for her demonstration and some plants for sale. These will include some of our favourite fuchsias and some new varieties.



GRAYSWOOD VILLAGE HALL

Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 start

Entry free to members, £5 to non-members.

Welcome drinks available