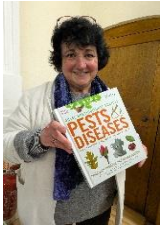


Chairman's Chat



Firstly, thank you all so much for the friendly and positive reception you gave to the wonderful Pippa Greenwood. It's not the first time that a celebrity has commented on how lovely you are. One of our visitors decided to join, she had such a nice time. We had a great talk about all that's working against us in the garden and the actions to take that give us a bit of an advantage. As one member commented: "because not all members are absolutely au-fait with everything"

It was great to see how full the hall was what a brilliant evening you had. It celebrity well worthwhile for Catherine.



and many of you have let us know made the effort of securing a

Thank you also for supporting the raffle.

Maggie and Lesley did a great job for

us. The raffle is one of the essentials to the future of this club. The membership money that comes in, even from our 160 members, just doesn't cover the talks and hall hire these days.

We had a full table for the BAFTA competition and the winning flower was a very unusual hellebore, grown by Catherine. It's name is "Harvington Yellow Speckled". I wonder how they thought of that! 😊



We have our wonderful show on April 5th. Do try and enter. Just one entry per person of something that has done well this spring would make all the difference. It's a time to celebrate our hobby and sit down for tea and home- made cakes with friends. Full information is on the last page of this newsletter.

We have a few appeals for your help, which are on the next page. It's all about being a part of the community and the committee cannot do it all. We are very good at organising but each have our own limitations on our time and health. You will no doubt have seen the club's contribution to Wheeler Street Green, the area around the new Witley sign. It has been looking glorious again this year. We have now been asked to help with the War memorial. There has also been a request from NHS to help revamp Milford Hospital patients' garden. Many of you will know the work of Clockhouse and there is a request from them also. All these are on page 2 of this newsletter.



How are your show bulbs coming on? Five of my lobularis have flowered and the other five have no buds yet at all. My fingers are well and truly crossed. I think I will put the pot in the sun next week to encourage the other five buds to appear! See you at the show! *Christine, chairman*

AND HERE COMES THE SECOND OF MY APPEALS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

We are another month closer to the time when some of our lovely committee will have to leave us. Many of you are very generous with your help but we will need someone to manage the membership renewals **once** a year. This is done on googlesheets. A secretary to take minutes would also be great and a team to take over refreshments. If we had two people for each of these you wouldn't have to both come to every committee meeting.

Are you an RHS member? If not, you might like to benefit from a perk of our affiliation, which means you can get 50% off visits to partner gardens. Speak to us about borrowing the card.

CLUB NEWS AND APPEALS FOR HELP

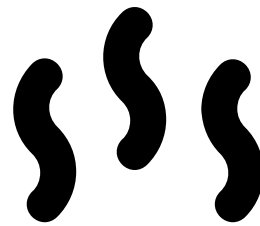
PLANTING APPEALS

This year we have been asked to help with the War memorial. There has also been a request to help revamp Milford Hospital garden for patients.

Jan and I have planned the memorial and bought the plants. We also had a meeting with the parish council clerks today. We have been very happy to do all the liasing and planning but will need some people stronger than ourselves (not difficult!) to dig holes for planting. It's not a huge space so should actually be an easier and shorter job than Wheeler Street Green. The date for this is Tuesday 8th April. Please let us know if you can attend, even for an hour. We will start at 10.00am, meeting at the memorial. We may even have a sociable lunch/drinks break at the pub opposite

INTERVILLAGE FLORAL ART CUP URGENT

Liz Simmons has stepped forward to offer to enter this competition for us. We need to enter very soon now but Liz will need some support. The date is Saturday 29th March but the deadline for entries is 22nd March so do reply soon if you can help Liz. Otherwise we may have to decline to enter



The RSCH Foundation Trust Have asked for our help with revamping the patients' garden at Milford hospital. The committee are tied up with our other planting project but if anyone can put together a working party we will help as much as we can with the logistics. Please contact us and we will forward you the relevant email so you can find out more about it.

Do you have an excess of mugs in your cupboard? We would love them to use in our pop- up café at the shows. Please bring them along to the show (in the morning if you can) or bring your own mug for us to fill!!

Have you used your "Friends of Squires" APP yet? It's easy to use on your phone. There are loads of advantages to it, including a half price plant (any) for a limited time. You can also use your 10% WGA membership perk alongside the offers gained on the app.

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 .

Contact us via admin@witleygardening.org

SPRING SHOW NEWS SATURDAY 5th 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. 😊😊

MUGS

The price for tea and cake will be slightly higher this year, to cover costs but we intend to serve the teas in mugs. Last year we appealed for you to donate any spare mugs to the club and we still need plenty of these please. It's fine to bring them on the Friday, or morning of the show. Alternatively, bring your own mug for us to fill 😊😊

SHOW TIPS

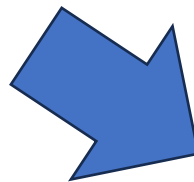
- *Set up is in the back room where you will find all the vases and water.
- *When displaying in these vases it is useful to bring some newspaper to act as a stabiliser to stand the stems up.
- *If the class requires e.g 3 of the same, try to find unblemished blooms which are as similar to each other 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
- *Most importantly, please ask advice if you need it!

You can enter online or, if paper is better for you then use the form in the schedule and put through my door:

Silver Glade, Gasden Lane Witley GU85QB

Many thanks,
Christine

Please return
your Spring Show
cups on the
morning of the
show



<i>Trophies to be awarded</i>	
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