

### OUR ALTERNATIVE to WITSTOCK

Sadly, our stall at Witstock is no more, due to the late cancellation of the show. After quite an effort to arrange alternatives alongside other interested parties, we have had to take the decision to get on with **our own plant stall at the hall on May 10<sup>th</sup>**, the original date, from 10am till 12 midday. Please help the success of this by telling as many people as you can and coming along to support.

Brenda and Maggie will be running a gardening themed BRING AND BUY sale at the sale so feel free to bring items for that stall as well. (remember to bring them early, from 9.30am. With only 2 hours they'll need time to sell them!) any helpers to run the plant sale and/or help set up from 9.30 will be very welcome.

If there are a couple of people (not necessarily ladies) who would be able to prepare teas and coffees, with maybe biscuits, we will do that as well. However, that does depend on manpower.

### Chairman's Chat

Happy Easter everyone. As someone remarked last week, it felt like Easter should have happened, with all the summery weather we've had. Not to be fooled, though, I've remembered to take plants in at night, or cover them with fleece. I'll be glad when I don't have to do that and can get them in the ground.

The dahlias are beginning to sprout and I can't wait to try a couple of cuttings (basal cuttings are the best, I'm informed). Our membership secretary, Jane is ahead of me on that. Thank you all for your response to the Spring Show. It was a really lovely day and the results and some photos are on page 2 of this newsletter. I loved the buzz in the hall and everyone seemed very happy. Thank you also for a magnificent response to our plea for cakes and for all the help given by members during the afternoon. In view of the fact that most of our lobularia narcissi had gone over I thought you might enjoy an excerpt from the committee minutes from 50 years ago. You will find that on page 2 as well. See you all at the next event! *Christine*

### COMING UP

29<sup>th</sup> APRIL

SARAH SQUIRE  
Poster on page 4

7<sup>th</sup> MAY

BELINDA ALLEN  
Please note this meeting will be at  
**GRAYSWOOD .**

10<sup>th</sup> May

PLANT SALE  
Chichester Hall  
10.00 -12.00

### EMAIL PROBLEMS

Do you feel that you are not getting our emails? Every time we do a mass email we get some "undeliverable" messages. Please could you check that your email box is not full. We would hate you to be missing out. Of course, if this is you then you won't get this request either 😊 so if you have a friend in this situation please alert them to my message. *Many thanks*

### AND HERE COMES THE THIRD OF MY APPEALS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

We are yet 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 there is admin to do.

1. Manage the membership renewals **once** a year. This is done on googlesheets.
2. A secretary to take minutes at meetings and write them up.
3. A team to take over refreshments. You don't necessarily both have to attend committee meetings.
4. Someone to update the lovely new noticeboard for meetings. Jane has so far done a sterling job at this, making it a joy to look at, so encouraging members to read it.

We cannot run the club with only three of us, even though so many of you are such a great help with manpower, so this is a serious request.

Contact us via [admin@witleygardening.org](mailto:admin@witleygardening.org)

# SPRING SHOW NEWS

The flower judge, Nicky Cornell, was most complimentary about the high standard of your entries. She brought a trainee with her, so it was good to see a new judge coming through the system.



Trophies Awarded	
<b>GEORGE EDWARDS CUP</b> For the Best Exhibit of Daffodils and/or Narcissi in Classes 1 – 11	LIZ SIMMONS
<b>CUTLER CUP</b> For the Best Exhibit in Classes 12 and 13	JILL LONG
<b>THE REDHEAD BOWL</b> For the Best Exhibit in class 30	LIZ SIMMONS
<b>NORMAN CUP</b> For the Best Exhibit in class 29	LOUISE ASHWELL SYMES
<b>WITLEY EVERGREENS CUP</b> Best exhibit in Classes 17, 22-24	BRENDA O'BRIEN
<b>DAVID SWIFT MEMORIAL TROPHY</b> Most points in the Crafts Section	JANE SWIFT
<b>WITLEY W.I. CUP (Cookery)</b> Best Exhibit Classes 39-42	JANE SWIFT



The tea table made £189 and the raffle made £222 for the club, which easily covers the cost of a club evening with speaker. Thanks to Jan and Barbara for their hard work and for organising the provision of mugs for a decent cuppa. And thanks to Maggie and Brenda for another brilliant raffle. These are an essential chunk of our income throughout the year.

**FROM THE ARCHIVES: the 1<sup>st</sup> Spring show was 50 years ago excerpt from the WGA committee meeting minutes March 1975 And we had the same problem this year! Global warming? Or just the unpredictability of gardening?**

Spring Show: Schedules were available for the show proposed for 19th April but due to the exceptional weather it was felt that most of the daffodil and narcissi classes would be over by then. As these classes constituted a third of the Schedule and it was felt that as this was our first spring show it must be a success. It was reluctantly agreed to cancel for this year.... We should consider an earlier date for next year.

**This particularly made us laugh ...**

The Hon. Sec. noted that the "Old Age Pensioners" class [ in the Schedule] was also referred to as "Retired Pensioners" in the Awards list. It was suggested that "Over 60s" could be used another year and this was agreed

## NEW NEWSLETTER FEATURE

Trevor has kindly passed me the association records (several books of them). There has been a gardening society in the village under various names since the 18 hundreds. Norman Cox has been dipping in to the books and I will be putting excerpts from them in each newsletter. They make fun reading! If this should wet your appetite for creating a historical document for us, do contact us.



Spring Reflections by Liz Simmons

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 .

There has been a lot going on since the last newsletter. Liz Simmons nobly entered the Intervillage Floral Art competition on behalf of the club. Sadly, there was only a 1<sup>st</sup> prize awarded but Liz's entry was beautiful, under the title "Spring Reflections" and she had an interesting morning.



Some members of the committee, aided by three husbands and a volunteer member (thank you Janet Cole) were busy last week upgrading the flowerbeds around the war memorial. Kim Steckel managed to break her arm (a fine excuse!) so was not able to join us as planned for a very enjoyable morning of planting. Do hope you get better soon Kim. We missed you. Of course, the weather helped. We could not have done it without the essential help from the men as some of the planting required a pickaxe(!). Jan and I thoroughly



Before

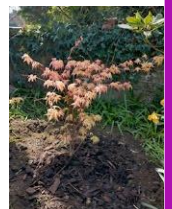
enjoyed planning the planting, buying the plants and working with the parish council, who funded it all. Do have a look at it if you get a chance. As the plants grow it should be a fine sight. In

wanted it to Remembrance Day minimum

have it watered once a week in the first needs attention, please let us know and



particular, we look good for and to need maintenance. The parish council will year, but if you happen to pass by and it we will alert the parish office.



After

Contact us via [admin@witleygardening.org](mailto:admin@witleygardening.org)

29<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
April 2025

# SARAH SQUIRE

CEO SQUIRES GARDEN CENTRES



Sarah's talk, accompanied by a slide presentation, will tell the history of the company which was founded by her grandfather in 1936. Sarah will also cover how the garden centre retail began as an industry and how the company operates today.

## THE CHICHESTER HALL WITLEY

Petworth Road

GU8 5PL

Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 start

Entry free to members. £5 to non-members

Welcome drinks available .