

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Chairman's Chat

We hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, although that cold and flu seemed to get around a lot of people and take a long time to clear up. We have been busy bees during the break, getting the schedule, membership cards and compliment slips to the printers and investigating the problems we have been having with the mic and speakers. Norman and I have been up to collect the speakers and, after couple of sessions of investigation, he has improved the operation considerably. We tested them up at the hall so fingers crossed. We had thought we would need a new mic kit but his efforts have saved the club £200. The program for this year is excellent so we look forward to seeing you all again. (see box on page 2 for renewal reminder). Just a word about the new style membership cards. You will notice that they are not quite as sturdy as the plastic ones we had before. There are two reasons for this: obviously we wanted to dispense with the plastic and also the 2025 cards cost just over £30 compared with the £83 we have previously paid. I do feel that the cards I have ordered (classed as "durable") will be well up to the job for a year.

Well, I am ashamed to say that I have not been tempted out into the garden during this wet and cold weather, although I am lucky enough to have a greenhouse and potting shed. It's still a mission to get me out there to check on the contents! Meanwhile I am looking forward to Spring



Our first meeting of the year is on Tuesday 18th February (poster on page 3) We are looking forward to seeing you all for the start of another great program that Catherine has put together for us. Get it in your diary!

This year we have had another request to help out in the community. The Parish council have asked if we can improve the planting around the Witley War Memorial. Jan and I have been to assess what needs to be done. It seems very manageable so we have agreed to get a small working party together for the early Spring. Do watch out for our request.

On that note, many of us were dismayed to see the bulbs we planted last year (at Wheeler Street Green) mown down much too early. The Parish council did put in a complaint to the contractors who have donated 500 bulbs. However, we declined on your behalf to plant them all, especially as we have volunteered our manpower for the War Memorial.

Another group will be approached. You are, of course, welcome to offer your services independently to the Parish if you would like to help out with the bulbs.

Warmer activities, such as our wreath workshop have definitely been the order of the day. Many thanks to Jan, who showed us the method, to Catherine, who ran the kitchen and took photos, but also to you all for a very enjoyable and companionable afternoon. I'm glad you all enjoyed my mince pies, which I made rather a lot of in the run up to Christmas! Your wreaths were really quite stunning.



RENEWALS FOR 2025

Information on how to renew your membership, which is due on 1st January 2025, has been sent out twice now by Jane, our membership secretary. Do please help her by paying promptly. Once Larissa, our treasurer, receives your payment you will be added to the delivery list. The cut-off date is 20th January, after which time the packs will be complete and the delivery lists closed. This is a massive undertaking for Jane and her team and we all have to do our best not to make it harder than it needs to be. Thank you for your understanding. If you have not been able to make the deadline don't worry, you will still be able to pay and pick up a pack at any meeting, (first one 18th February) or email admin@witleygardening.org to arrange to collect from Jane. However, you will obviously miss out on speakers (**PIPPA GREENWOOD in March! This will cost £10 for non members**) newsletters, emails and discounts until you are signed up. Thank you to our helpers, who have volunteered to make up the 160 membership packs with Jane. We are most grateful to them and to all of you who have volunteered to deliver the packs. Many thanks Christine



RAY BROUGHTON

PROPAGATION

Tuesday 18th February
2025

Ray is a well-known horticulturalist and an entertaining speaker. He trained at RHS Wisley and has been teaching a wide range of horticultural subjects for many years.

Ray joined Sparsholt College as a lecturer in 1981 and became Head of the Horticulture Department. He has been awarded a fellowship by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture.

Ray's talk will include many tips and advice on propagation including seed sowing and taking cuttings. He has earned a reputation amongst gardening clubs for giving fun talks full of useful information.

Ray will donate his fee for the evening to the Perennial Charity which is dedicated to helping people working in the horticultural industry.

THE CHICHESTER HALL WITLEY

Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 start

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

Welcome drinks available