

# ABINGDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

No 106

Summer 2019

### **Talks to date 2019**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 'Violas-An introduction to these wonderful plants' by Jack Willgoss.

### **Future talks**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 'A labour of love' by Rob Potterton (bulbs and alpines for sale)

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 'A Spoonful of Herbs' by Lynda Warren.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 'Winter colour' by Sally Gregson (Plants for sale)

### **Future Outings**

Applications for the next two outings to RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show on 1<sup>st</sup> August and the National Trust Garden at Hinton Ampner on 12<sup>th</sup> September are enclosed.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October Outing to Bodenham Arboretum.

### **A Date for your Diary**

Thursday, 13th August to Sunday 16th August 2020. We will be having a three night break to North Devon next year, primarily to visit the Flower Show at RHS Rosemoor and other gardens in the area and en route. Full details and an application will be enclosed with the December newsletter.

### **World's Biggest Coffee Morning**

Angela Hughes will be holding a coffee morning on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support again this year at 8 Isis Close, Abingdon, OX14 3TA from 10.00am to 2.00pm on Friday, 30th August 2019. All members and their friends will be very welcome.

### **Autumn Show**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at Northcourt Centre

**Christmas lunch to be arranged.**

### **AGM**

There has been some confusion about the date of the AGM in 2020. It will be on Tuesday 21 January 2020, not the 14 January as shown on the card and the A4 program sheet.

## **Summer garden competition**

Entries for classes 88,89 and 90. By 9pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Judging will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Subscriptions**

A few members have not paid their subscription for 2019. They will be removed from our membership list. If anyone would prefer not to receive occasional email from AHS please reply to one of them with the single word 'Unsubscribe'. Thank you.

## **AHS SLEEPOVER TO RHS CHATSWORTH. 5<sup>th</sup> TO 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019**

On a bright Wednesday morning a group of 40 members left Abingdon for a short break to visit the flower show at Chatsworth House organised by the RHS. The weather forecast for the break was not good but so far we were lucky.

Our first visit was to Barnsdale Gardens, the garden from which Geoff Hamilton presented Gardeners World from 1979 until his untimely death in 1996. The garden is now run by his son, Nick Hamilton who was present in the garden, at one time unloading a lorry! The gardens which were featured in the Gardeners World programme are still there, which brought back many memories from the past, and everything was lovingly maintained. I was in awe at the hostas, hardly a nibble on any of them. The tea room was well used for lunch and tea before we started our journey towards Sheffield for our overnight stay.

We were based at the Copthorne Hotel on Bramall Lane, next door to Sheffield United football ground. This is a new hotel of a high standard and everyone was delighted with their rooms. We felt honoured by the presence of Arit Anderson, Carol Klein, Adam Frost and their film crew in the restaurant having dinner at the same time as us, following a day's filming at the Chatsworth Show.

On Thursday morning, after a hearty breakfast, we travelled through the delightful scenic Derbyshire countryside to Chatsworth House for the show. This is the third year of the show and it has grown considerably during this time, but is still friendly with the exhibitors ready to offer advice. My favourite part was the long border competition, with ideas that we could easily transfer to our own gardens. The show gardens also gave us more inspiration, but perhaps on a bigger scale than many of us could manage. The floral marquee was a favourite with the members, our very pretty coach on the way back being proof of that, and the film crew were still filming during the day, more opportunities to spot the stars. There were talks going on throughout the day which made a welcome time to rest. Being in the grounds of Chatsworth House this was an ideal setting for a lovely day out. Some of the members also visited the house and gardens to complete their day.

On Friday morning it was time to say goodbye to the Copthorne Hotel and head south, passing through Chesterfield with its crooked spire and on to the National Memorial Arboretum. By the time we reached the Arboretum our luck had changed and it was raining and remained very wet for the rest of the day. There is a Service of Remembrance held in the chapel every day at 11.00am and we were just in time to take part in this. A new Visitor Centre was opened two years ago and is a very impressive building holding a good restaurant, gift shop and exhibition areas. They have a land train which is undercover and gives a commentary on the memorials as it makes its journey round the Arboretum, a very welcome respite from the rain for us. Buggy tours to the outlying parts of the Arboretum are also available; overall it covers 150 acres, with memorials for many organisations, not only military, such as the Fire Fighters, Police, Boys Brigade and SANDS. I have visited the Arboretum in the past and more memorials are being added all the time. It is a very pleasant and restful place to visit, and I find it very moving. With the rain still continuing we leave the Arboretum and make our way back towards Abingdon. Being Friday afternoon we were expecting hold ups but we made good time and everybody was dropped off safely by 6.30.

Angela Hughes



## Blue Sky Cafe

Join us on the **first Tuesday of each month between noon and 2pm** for a delicious lunch in a friendly atmosphere, at [Long Furlong Community Centre](#), Abingdon. Our facilities are easily accessible with on site parking.

<https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk/>

## SKB Gardening Club

A quick reminder of some key dates.

June 4th: Practical Propagation (Victoria Logue)

Trained at Pershore College, Victoria worked for Bob Brown at Cotswold Garden Flowers. She now runs a tiny plant nursery in the Cotswolds. Victoria will be bringing **plants for sale**.

June 16th trip to Wisley. There are only a few places left and these will go on a first come first served basis. If you want a place (and have not already let us know), please send an email, or ask at the meeting tomorrow. Please pay for your place £12 at the meeting tomorrow, or get payment to Lisa Young, our treasurer (2 Collington Way, on the new Bloor estate).

June 29th Plant stall at the Fete (Saturday): Can you help by donating plants or helping on the stall? Please let me know!

July 13th (Saturday): Garden Party (ticketed event). Tickets from Lisa Young – 07549984187. This will be in Barbara Micklem's garden. A lovely opportunity to socialise. Please get your tickets (£8, includes lunch) at tomorrow's meeting or contact Lisa or reply to this email if you can't make the meeting and want to come to the garden party.

August 20th: Guided tour of Aston Pottery gardens

Free to members but partners and friends £5. Garden tour begins at 7pm, food available (optional, price tbc) beforehand. Tour and food must be pre-booked. We will have something to put your name down at the next meeting, and follow up by email too.

<mailto:skbgardeningclub@gmail.com>

## Sunningwell Gardening Club

June 13th	Visit Bowood House		Details TBC
July 11th	Marcel Floyd	Clematis	
Sat July 27th	Summer Social		
August	No Meeting		
September 12th	Members' Meeting		Competition, produce sale.
October 10th	Cacti and Succulents	Ian Thwaites	
Sat October 19th	Visit Michael Heseltine's Garden		Details TBC
November 14th	Wollerton Old Hall	Andrew Humphris	

<https://www.sdgc.org.uk/index.html>