



## Abingdon Horticultural Society

### 2023 Spring Newsletter items

#### Number 119

#### Clubs and Societies Day.

Linda Berry

This year the Clubs and Societies Day was held on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> in the Guildhall. Despite the rain in the morning there was quite a bit of interest in the club and some new members have signed up.



#### Trips.

Robin Carter

There are only a few spaces remaining for the trip to Savill Gardens on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Anyone wishing to go please get in touch as soon as possible.

Robin Carter Tel: 01235 202990 E Mail: [robin.carter78@yahoo.com](mailto:robin.carter78@yahoo.com)

The details of the next trip, to Bourton House Gardens, will be coming out in June.

#### Holiday

Suzanne Hamblin

Not long to go until our holiday to Cheshire, departing on 11<sup>th</sup> June visiting Biddulph Grange, RHS Bridgewater, Chester, Port Sunlight, Tatton Park, Dunham Massey & Trentham Gardens. Thank you to everyone for getting their holiday balances to me in good time. The itinerary and pick up point timings will be sent out shortly.

#### Spring Show.

Barbara Bingley and Karen Fisher

Exhibitors had to brave the Friday downpours to pick their flowers or had to wait until the morning of the show. Luckily show day dawned grey but dry and the sun put in an afternoon appearance. It was certainly challenging to have flowers to enter into some of the classes, but the show was colourful, and the main room was filled with the scent of spring.

The displays of photographs, handicrafts, baking and preserves, and the junior entries showed off the other than growing, talents of our members.

There were a total of 215 entries, including one garden and six Junior. Members generously gave prizes for the raffle, and cakes and plants to the sales tables. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to a very enjoyable show.

Congratulations to the following prize-winning members, who received their cups from the mayor, Councillor Andy Foulsham and his wife:

Janice Stretton Smith - The J& M Barber Cup for most points in the flowers and plants section.

Ron Hamblin - The Best Spring Garden Cup.

Diane Wiggins - The Scott Challenge Cup for Preserves and Baking.

Harriet Mahood - The Challenor Cup for most points in the Handicraft section.

Our two Junior exhibitors, Robyn & Daniel, were rewarded with an Easter chocolate orange for their excellent entries.

Spring Show accounts report. As in previous years the Spring show made a small loss. (£43)  
The Plant Sale made £57.60; the Cakes sale made £45.50. We took £28.00 on the door, teas made £50.96. The Raffle made £115.50, Show Entries and a small donation made £53.85.

Expenditures were £79.80 on prize money, £271.00 Hall Hire, £54.99 on lunch for judges and helpers and £9.05 on sundries (Children's Prizes etc),

Our loss would have been more except for the members that supplied plants, cakes etc. and those who worked behind the scenes many thanks to you all. Also thanks to Barry and Diana Wiggins for organising the raffle.

In some ways it was a successful show and without our members support our loss would have been greater.

### **Plant Sale.**

The annual plant sale is getting closer and hopefully you are all busy growing, dividing and nurturing plants to be ready for Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> May. The sale is from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Northcourt Centre car park. If you have items but are busy on the 13<sup>th</sup> then they can be dropped off before hand at David Bingley's, 69 Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PN Tel: 01235 521337

### **Thank you!**

The committee would like to thank members for their donations of cakes and plants at the Spring Show and for the donations of raffle prizes at the show and other events.

### **Sponsor**

We are pleased that the Charlton Park Garden Centre - Wantage, has agreed to sponsor our Society by supplying us with plants for raffles. Their garden centre has an extensive range of quality plants and garden requisites. They also bring a wide range of seasonal plants and bulbs to the Abingdon Market on a Monday. We hope you will continue to support them.

## Tree

In 2010 the society marked its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary by planting a Hornbeam tree in Ock Valley Walk.

The tree can be located on the left-hand side of the Ock walk if walking from town and is between 2 benches. There is a brass plaque on the tree as shown in the pictures.

### Tree planted to mark society's 125 years

GARDENING enthusiasts have planted a tree to mark 125 years of floral talks and shows in their town.

Abingdon Horticultural Society planted the hornbeam in Ock Valley Walk, Abingdon, to mark the group's anniversary.

Chairman Michael Matthews, a member of the club since the 1960s, said: "We wanted to mark our 125 years, and a tree seemed a very appropriate way. There are a few other memorial trees there which thrive and flourish, so we thought we would have one too."

The group meets for lectures at the Northcourt Centre, in Northcourt Road, Abingdon, during the winter, organises day trips and holidays during the summer, and stages a horticultural exhibition every autumn.

Secretary Ann Marie Lloyd said the club had more than 200 members and was becoming ever more popular.

She said: "We seem to be attracting a lot of new members. We are getting along quite nicely." Further information is available at [abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk](http://abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk)



Strong roots . . . Secretary Ann Marie Lloyd and chairman Michael Matthews planting the tree in Ock Valley Walk  
Picture: ANTONY MOORE

This was the tree last August (2022)



## Blue Sky Eco Café

Susan Hammersley, a member, is one of the volunteers who open the Blue Sky Eco Café on the first Tuesday of every month, except January and August, from 12 – 2pm at Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon, OX14 1XP.

They serve organic, seasonal and locally sourced foods which include wholefoods, plant based, interesting spices, vegan and gluten free options. All food is freshly prepared. Menus are available on the website: <https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk>.

**Request.**

If any members have any useful garden tips, tasty menus they wish to share or any other items of interest they would like to have considered for the next newsletter then please forward these to the secretary, Linda Berry.

**Contacts**

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