



## Abingdon Horticultural Society

### 2023 Autumn Newsletter

#### Number 121

#### Autumn Show

Barbara Bingley

Our Autumn Show was held on the hottest day of the year, but we all kept our cool in the Northcourt Centre. The venue was filled with 373 colourful quality entries, including eight in the children's section. Entries were up by over 60 from last year, despite challenging weather during the growing season – as usual! This year's most popular classes were dahlias, single rose, pot plant in flower, herbs, tomatoes, jams, and photographs of birds or insects, something beginning with F, and one including a water reflection.

Gabby Barody, the deputy mayor, presented the awards and congratulations goes to the following:

John Fitzpatrick	Spokes Cup Watt Shield National Vegetable Society medal for most meritorious exhibit Banksian medal	Fruit and vegetables Allotment produce Six kinds of allotment produce Most points flowers, fruit and vegetables
Victoria Middleton	Macklow Centenary trophy Dahlia cup	Flowers and pot plants
Ormand Lucas	Ledger Rose Bowl	
Harriet Mahood	Mollie Fisher Salver Frank Haynes Cup	Floral arrangements Beverages
Linda Caldicott	President's Cup	Baking and preserves
Barry Wiggins	Harry & May Nye Cup Muriel Welch Memorial Cup	Photography Crafty meal on a plate

Thank you to all who contributed in so many different ways to the success of this year's show.



This year our Autumn show had a good supply of plants, flowers and produce even though the weather was very hot and sunny. We had 1 Summer entry, 8 children's entries, and 364 general entries. With 2 donations.

We raised:

Door £30.20  
Cakes £88.00  
Teas £32.00  
Raffle £74.00  
Plants £51.50  
Donations £5.10  
TOTAL £275.70  
TOTAL INCOME with entries £372.80

Our outgoings for the show were: -

Prizes £154.60  
Catering £60.21  
Hire of Hall £271.76 (this is based on last year's costs)  
TOTAL expenditure £486.57

As can be seen unfortunately the show made a small loss of £113.77.

## **Trips**

**Robin Carter**

On Thursday 24th August we had our trip to Bourton House Gardens and Chastleton House and Gardens, both are near Moreton in the Marsh. We had 34 members who came with us on a brilliant day out. Thanks to Jill Wells for helping me organise a coach after the trading crash of Heyfordian Coaches which left us in the lurch.

As we were informed Bourton House Gardens is small, so it was decided to combine the two venues. The gardens at Bourton House were really spectacular and not to be missed, the borders were full of wonderful and unusual plants. If you want a garden to visit on your own that is the place to go. Some of us had Coffee and Lunch in their small cafe located in a Tithe Barn with an interesting sloping floor! After lunch we boarded the coach for the quick transfer to Chastleton House and Gardens.

Another interesting venue which has not been updated since it was built in the 1600s except some drab painting of internal panels in the Victorian era. The Gardens were good with a large walled veg plot and a newly restored formal garden. We were informed that there wasn't a tearoom, but the Church next door was open tea and coffee etc were sold.

The only small problem was the walk back uphill to the coach which was a little tiring for some of us after a long day.

We did all make it, although the visitor administrator did say he would personally take anyone back to the coach if really needed. Compliments to the staff at Chastleton they were first class and looked after us really well.

Regarding the weather like the trip it was perfect it was sunny all day and not too hot.

I am now in the process of trying to find venues for next year and any Ideas will be greatly received. One word of information the prices for next year will be higher by about £5-£6 each as the coach prices have soared and we need to cover our costs.



### **Christmas Lunch 2023**

**Linda Berry**

This year we will be holding the Christmas Lunch at Cosener's House on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30 for 1 pm lunch.

The price for two courses is £24.95 and three courses £29.95. This price includes a pre-lunch drink and a hot drink and mince pie after.

Menus will be sent out shortly and Linda will be available at the next talk to take choices and payments.

### **Holiday 2024**

**Suzanne Hamblin**

Details for next year's holiday have been distributed, we currently have 30 people signed up for the holiday to go ahead, with all 10 of the single rooms reserved and both of the spaces for the mobility scooters taken. If anyone else is interested details are below with twin and double rooms available, please contact Suzanne Hamblin to register your interest, email [suzanneis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suzanneis@hotmail.co.uk)

### **HOLIDAY TO COLCHESTER - VISITING RHS HYDE HALL & NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES 9TH TO 14TH JUNE 2024 (6 days / 5 nights)**

I am arranging a holiday for Society members to visit:

- Sunday - Cliveden, Nr Maidenhead SL1 8NS (National Trust) on our way
- Monday - RHS Hyde Hall, Chelmsford CM3 8ET - full day
- Tuesday - Sutton Hoo, Woodbridge IP12 3DJ (National Trust) in the morning and then a few hours in Colchester to explore the town
- Wednesday - Cambridge University Botanic Garden - full day
- Thursday - Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill CB25 9EJ (National Trust) - full day
- Friday - Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens, Colchester CO7 7DB on our return journey home

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Colchester on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis. This is great location for our planned itinerary, the hotel has a fitness centre, an indoor pool, sauna, spa and free Wi-Fi.

The cost of the holiday is £788 for non-members of the National Trust or £739 for those who are National Trust members to include hotel (no single supplement for 10 rooms), transport, entrances and gratuities for the hotel and driver. The minimum number for the holiday to go ahead is 30. More than 35 would result in a reduction to the cost.

If you would like to join us on this break, please complete the booking form below and return it with your deposit of £85 per person. The cheque will not be banked until the holiday is confirmed, then it will be non-refundable. Please return the booking form as soon as possible, deposit cheque to be made payable to Abingdon Horticultural Society. The balance will be due at the beginning of April 2024.

The Just Go! Holidays single trip holiday insurance will be £35.99 per person, subject to pre-existing medical conditions and this sum should be added to your deposit (Deposit & travel insurance £120.99) if you do not have your own Travel Insurance.

Coach pick up points, bus stops unless otherwise stated (times to be confirmed at a later date)

1. Radley Road/Cameron Avenue
2. Radley Road/Norman Avenue
3. Oxford Road/opposite the shops
4. Oxford Road/Northcourt Road
5. Oxford Road/last bus stop before the roundabout
6. Dunmore Road/bus stop at the end of Farm Road
7. Wootton Road/opposite John Mason School
8. Ock Street/War Memorial bus stop
9. Drayton Road/Saxton Road bus stop (going out of Abingdon)

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Return to: Mrs Suzanne Hamblin, 131 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3RX.

Please reserve a twin / double room (please indicate) for the holiday to Chelmsford from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024. I enclose my/our deposit cheque of £85 per person payable to Abingdon Horticultural Society.

\*I would like to take Just Go! Holidays single trip holiday insurance at £35.99 per person subject to pre-existing medical conditions (please add to your deposit cheque payable to Abingdon Horticultural Society) or

\*I have arranged my own Travel Insurance (details to be supplied on a Form of Indemnity prior to holiday) - \*please delete as appropriate

Name(s) & title(s) .....

Email address .....

National Trust Member - Yes / No                      RHS Member - Yes / No (please indicate)

Address .....

Telephone number .....

Coach pick up point .....

## Talks

The next talk is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October when Andrew Miolajski will be talking about adapting to a changing environment and the movement away from pesticides. We hope you can join us.

## News from Members

### Tender Shoots.

The next talk from Tender Shoots is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October when Timothy Walkers' talk is called 'Bordering on insanity – creating an all-year-round border'. He was the former curator of Oxford Botanic Gardens. Google Tender Shoots Gardening Club for login details. <https://tendershoots.uk/>

### Blue Sky Eco Café

Susan Hammersley, an AHS 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. The next dates are October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>.

They serve organic, seasonal and locally sourced foods which include wholefoods, plant based, vegan and gluten free options. All food is freshly prepared.

Menus are available on the website: <https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk>.

### Garden tip

I have been given the following tip from a gardener who has used Caliente Mustard green manure to combat soil borne diseases 'Caliente Mustard 199 is an excellent green manure that has biofumigant properties. (Biofumigation is the suppression of soil-borne pests & diseases by the release of naturally occurring gases). By combining the lush organic matter with the plants biofumigant properties the activity of beneficial soil microbes is increased, so they can outperform the pathogen microbes and this helps keep harmful soil diseases down.' Extract taken from <https://www.sowseeds.co.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.

## Sponsor

Charlton Park Garden Centre - Wantage, sponsors 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.

### Contacts

[secretary@abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk)  
[membership@abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk](mailto:membership@abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk)

Website: [www.abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk](http://www.abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk)