



## Abingdon Horticultural Society

### 2023 Winter Newsletter

#### Number 222

#### AGM

The AGM is Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 19:30. Hope to see as many of you as possible there.

#### Meeting Dates and speakers

Tuesday 16th	January	19.30	AGM & Quiz	
Tuesday 20th	February	19.30	Peter Skeggs-Gooch	Thorncroft Clematis Limited
Tuesday 19th	March	19.30	Sue Bedwell	Irises & her relatives
Saturday 13th	April		Spring Show	
Tuesday 16th	April	19.30	Lara Cowan	Mindful gardening
Saturday 11th	May		Plant Sale	Bring and buy

The dates for the other talks of the year are 21<sup>st</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Subscriptions

The subscriptions for 2024 are due in January. The cost of a Single membership is £11, and a family membership is £18.

To pay by cheque, make it payable to 'Abingdon Horticultural Society' and send to the Hon. Treasurer. Karen Fisher, 1 Langley Road, Abingdon OX14 1YB.

Or, payment can be made by bank transfer: Sort Code 30-10-04 Account number 00180678 Account name 'Abingdon Horticultural Society' Please use your surname and postcode as the reference (e.g. ShepherdOX141YL. Please email any forms to [membership@abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk](mailto:membership@abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk).

Membership data will be held on a computer system.

See [www.abingdon-hortsoc.org.uk/data\\_protection](http://www.abingdon-hortsoc.org.uk/data_protection) for our DP policy.

#### Membership

The club has received a new members BACS payment, but they have not submitted any details. If anyone knows of a family that has recently joined please can they let Karen Fisher know on the membership email.

## **Christmas Lunch – Linda Berry**



This years' Christmas lunch was held at Coseners House Hotel where 49 people had an enjoyable time. Many Christmas jumpers, ties and adornments were on show.

## **Spring & Summer shows - Barbara Bingley, Show Secretary**

Our 2024 shows will be held on 13th April & 7th September. The schedules are available on the website.

Every year the schedules are updated to reflect entries made in previous years and to include some new classes. Due to a lack of entries there will be no whole garden judging in 2024, but we hope that more members will enter the summer basket & container class. For the same reason the wine classes have been dropped.

The Muriel Welch memorial cup will be awarded to the winner of class 70, in the Autumn show, for a decorated vegetable cake. There are many vegetables that make tasty and interesting cakes!

In the photography class "I 'spied & snapped", we have reached the letter G. It is never too soon to plan your entry for this class.

Every entry contributes to the success of a show and it is always good to receive entries from new exhibitors.

Happy Showing

## **Winter Gardening Tips - David Bingley, Chairman**

I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and wishing you a happy and healthy new year.

I hope to start pruning our very overgrown apple tree soon, the old adage was 'thin out branches so a pigeon can fly through the tree'. That will allow air and light to get to the leaves and fruit. Autumn raspberries can now be cut down to just above ground level and canes that fruited in 2023 on your summer raspberries can be removed. Old wood on gooseberry bushes needs removing, again a good air flow will help reduce mildew next year and make the fruit easier to pick.

Now is the time to split rhubarb crowns for transplanting, the tap root goes down a long way so be prepared for some hard work when (if) you do this.


Slugs and snails are an increasing issue in our garden and on the allotment after a wet autumn and some mild winter days. There used to be a Song Thrush that had a stone to open up snail shells in the next-door neighbour's garden but we haven't seen it in for a few years now. However, we do have a few frogs so perhaps they will help keep, [small] mollusc numbers down. I am not sure what predators eat the giant slugs.

## Holiday 2024 - Suzanne Hamblin

Numbers for this year's holiday to Colchester are currently 29, with plenty of space still available for anyone else who would care to join us. There is one single room available and a number of twin and double rooms so if you are interested details are at the end of the Newsletter. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me - 01235 527804. We also have one space available for a collapsible mobility scooter - please call Suzanne to reserve this place.

Please see the form at the end of the newsletter for the holiday details and return slip.

### Dobies

Dobies are offering members a discount on seeds and plants. Please enter the following code at the checkout:  This gives 50% off seeds and 10% off potatoes etc.

### BBOWT

We had a very interesting talk from Fiona Bennett-Meere the Wilder Gardens Community Wildlife Officer for the Oxfordshire and West Berkshire area. For members who are interested in further information or to add their address to the wilder map the website address is [bbowt.org.uk](http://bbowt.org.uk).

### News from Members

#### 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 February 6<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup> then closed in August.

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>.

### Requests

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.

Any raffle donations for the AGM would be greatly appreciated, which Barry and Diana Wiggins will be pleased to receive on the day - Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Anyone who has unwanted packets of seeds please bring them along to a talk for us to pass on to members who would like them.

## **Obituary**

We are sorry to advise that Simon Love, one of our members, sadly passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, our thoughts are with his family and friends. Simon's funeral will be on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 1 pm at South Oxfordshire Crematorium, Garford.

## **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)

## **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.

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, which 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)

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

Please reserve a single / 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. Membership Number .....  
RHS Member - Yes / No (please indicate)

Address .....

Telephone number .....

Coach pick up point .....