



APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Yes, spring has truly sprung and summer is just around the corner. For many, spring is the favourite time of year as new growth everywhere raises the spirits and encourages us to get out and start gardening. Ordered seed packets arrive and garden centres are packed with a huge range of products to tempt us. BBC Gardeners World returns and Monty shows how it should be done, given perfect soil, the best equipment and no doubt an army of gardeners behind the scenes to assist. The short spell of frosty weather in March was a mixed blessing for gardeners; on the one hand it helped to kill off slugs, snails, insect pests and some plant viruses but, on the other, it would have damaged buds of early-flowering plants such as Magnolias and ornamental cherries, as well as seedlings planted by those fooled by the earlier mild spell. And then came Storm Katie! What a blow, in more ways than one. Let's hope it finally blew away winter.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

We currently have over 350 members in an Association run by its members, for its members, but we need more involvement by the large body of membership to help and supplement the sterling efforts of the eleven Committee members, several of whom have served for decades - and continue to do so. This year our highly-respected Secretary, Pat Jackman, retired (of which more later) and, as yet, we have found no successor. So please contact me if you are able to help run our association, even in a minor way. (bobtanner1809@gmail.com Tel: 01903 882127). Also write to me with comment, advice, questions, ideas etc for inclusion in future Newsletters. I look forward to hearing from you.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Some forty members attended this year's AGM at the Museum on a cold but dry February evening and, after a welcoming drink, some nibbles and the purchase of raffle tickets, we got down to business. As Chairman, I welcomed members and reported that 2015, our 90th year, had been very successful. It began in January with the recording of BBC Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time in the Barons Hall at The Castle and continued with three memorable visits to beautiful gardens and an interesting programme of expert speakers.

With the expected unanimous approval of members present, Martin Duncan, was appointed our new President. Martin is Head Gardener at The Castle and has a wealth of knowledge and experience in garden management and design, and horticulture generally. His appointment continues the close association we have enjoyed with Arundel Castle since our Association was formed.

Martin thanked members for the honour of becoming President and looked forward to helping the Association continue to prosper. He said he was particularly supportive of the help we are providing to local schoolchildren who will be tomorrow's gardeners.

The President's first duty was to present Pat Jackman, our retiring Secretary, with an engraved glass bowl in appreciation of the work she has done over the last ten years. Pat thanked everyone for her gift which she proudly showed to members and said she will continue to follow the Association's progress with interest. "Pat will be a very hard act to follow", I said, and mentioned the many and varied roles Pat has fulfilled. So far, no new Secretary has been found so I am having to fill the breach myself with help from Committee members including a newcomer, Theresa Dear, who has taken on the role of Outings Organiser.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2016

The meeting accepted the Committee's recommendation that the annual Membership fees should be increased from April 2016 by £1 to £4, with those over 60 paying £3 and postal voters £5. Our Association still has the lowest annual fees amongst West Sussex gardening clubs.

Amongst the several benefits of membership are the discounts available from these local companies, on production of your signed current Membership Card so please give them your support.

Arundel Arboretum on the A27 (01903 883251 www.arundelarboretum.co.uk) gives a 10% discount.

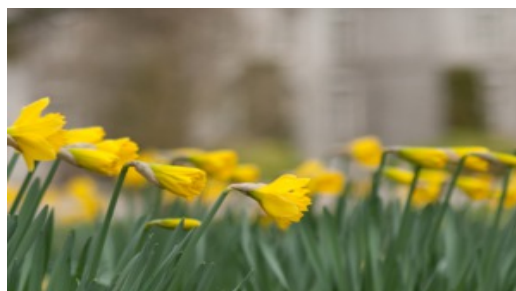
Benton Weatherstone in Ferring (01903 243202 www.bentonweatherstone.co.uk) gives a 5% discount and

Village Nurseries in West Chiltington, RH20 2JX (01798 813040 www.villagenurseries.co.uk) also give 10% discounts.

A newcomer to the list is **Green Thumb** of Chichester (01243 373 642 www.greenthumb.co.uk/branch/chichester) which offers discounts on their lawn treatment services. "First treatment for £10 - for lawns up to 200 square metres".

AGA COMMITTEE

At the AGM the continuing officers and Committee members were unanimously re-elected for another year, plus our new Committee member, Theresa Dear. Your Committee for 2016 is therefore Bob Tanner, Chairman; Ian Pugh, Treasurer; Monica Saunders, Membership Secretary; Theresa Dear, Outings Secretary; Geoff Allen; Janet Bowman; Pam Edwards; John Harrison and Mary Smith. The post of Committee Secretary remains vacant. Our two Vice Presidents, Beryl Morley and Jim Carter are *ex officio* Committee members.



SPRING SERIES OF GARDENING TALKS

Following the formal business of the evening members at the AGM were entertained by Adrian Price whose illustrated talk on **“Moles and Mole Catching”** held our attention and prompted many questions. The emphasis was on “catching and releasing moles elsewhere” but Adrian also showed us his “tools of the trade” including devices to despatch moles as humanely as possible.

Our second garden talk of the season was on Thursday 10th March by Stephen Morpew, making a welcome return after his thoroughly enjoyable talk last year on Japanese Gardens. Nearly forty members heard Stephen talk about **“The History of Europe’s Gardens”** which was very well received.

The third and final talk of the spring series will be on Thursday 7th April when the Head Gardener at Fittleworth House, Mark Saunders, will talk on the subject **“Annuals but not Bedding”**. This talk should attract many members who face the annual dilemma of deciding what new plants to grow and where and anyone who has visited the three acres of tranquil gardens at Fittleworth House will know we are in for a real treat.

As usual, this talk will start at 7.30 in the Jubilee Room at the Arundel Museum and light refreshments will be available to those who arrive early. All talks are free to members and there is a small charge for guests.

GARDEN DIARY

Now the soil is workable again, after the March dry spell, we can all venture outside to tackle the myriad of jobs needing to be done. Cut back this, prune that, split the border plants that have grown too big, deal with those climbers, and the roses. Not too late to move this, is it? Newly ordered plants start arriving and need planting quickly, but where to put them? Didn’t think of that when I ordered. The first early potatoes have chitted and should have gone in by now. Monty says I should be mulching and feeding everything and everywhere,



and I should split the Snowdrops “in the green”. I will have a look at the garden centres when there’s time but I also like to shop at the Association’s Depot in Park Place. It’s open every Sunday now from 10.30 ‘til 12.00 and it’s always nice to chat with Geoff Allen and co.

Annuals or perennials? I think that’s another annual, or is it perennial, question? Luckily, the clocks have now gone forward so we have another hour for gardening in the evening. That reminds me: did the Grandchildren find all their Easter eggs hidden in the garden?

ALLOTMENT UPDATE

First Mike de Lara reports from his Priory Road plot. “Last time, I wrote that I was forecasting a very dry April (again) and so I was going to plant early to get the seedlings established.

I have done so, and the shallots, onions, parsnips, early potatoes and beetroot are all in. We have poor germination of peas and beans on our site so I raise in trays and plant out. The broad beans and early peas are all planted out and starting to grow away. The later peas and mange tout are nearly ready to plant out and the new rhubarb is beginning to appear. We are harvesting the last of the parsnips and carrots, and are now well into the purple sprouting broccoli. We still have some beetroot and Jerusalem artichokes, but holes are beginning to appear in the freezer.

I never trim up the hydrangeas until now, so over Easter I spent several hours trimming off our 8 bushes. They have looked bad over the winter as usual, but if we get a frost after trimming they will not flower again. We all have to use our judgement about the weather, so I hope yours is good, and have a good year.”

GARDEN OUTINGS

We have three super outings planned for you in coming months:-

On Wednesday 11th May we visit beautiful **West Dean Gardens** nestling at the foot of the



Downs on the Chichester – Midhurst Road. Celebrating 25 years since its development there is a fantastic walled garden containing Victorian Glasshouses. I can never visit this garden too often.

On 7th June **Loseley Park** near Guildford is our destination. It boasts 2.5 acres of walled gardens divided into “rooms” each with a unique planting scheme and personality. This garden is considered one of the finest in SE England. It’s perfect for a gentle wander with plenty of seats and stunning views over the North Downs. If that doesn’t



tempt you their famous ice creams might.

Finally, we visit the National Trust's **Woolbeding Gardens** near Midhurst on Friday 15th July. Newly opened to the public the 26 acre gardens, created by Sir Simon Sainsbury, are described as West Sussex's best kept secret.



There is so much to see here but the orchid greenhouse may be the gem.

I look forward to meeting as many members as possible this year, on the outings, at our depot or on my allotment. Happy Gardening!

Bob

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IMPORTANT REQUEST

IF YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS PLEASE INFORM ME OR YOUR DISTRIBUTOR OF THIS NEWSLETTER IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS ELECTRONICALLY



OUTING TO WEST DEAN GARDENS, West Dean, West Sussex on Wednesday 11th May

Name (please print):

Telephone: Please reserveseat(s) at £14:50 each for entry, coach and tip.

Cheques payable to **Arundel Gardens Association** – separate cheques for each visit please.

Where will you join the coach?

Bus shelter on Ford Road/Priory Road at **12.00 noon**

☐

Town Quay at **12.15 pm**

☐

Returning 4.30 p.m. approx.

Please return this form and remittance to: Theresa Dear, 3, Maxwell Road, Arundel BN18 9EU

Please note: tickets are not issued and you will only be contacted if the coach is full to see if you want to go on a waiting list. Any queries telephone 882459.

CANCELLATION POLICY: No Refund unless your place can be filled.



OUTING TO LOSELEY PARK, Guildford, Surrey on Tuesday 7th June

Name (please print):

Telephone: Please reserveseat(s) at £15.50 each for garden entry, coach and driver's tip.

Cheques payable to **Arundel Gardens Association** – separate cheques for each visit please.

Where will you join the coach?

Bus shelter on Ford Road/Priory Road at **12.00 noon**

☐

Town Quay at **12.15 pm**

☐

Returning 5.00pm – 5.30 approx.

Please return this form and remittance to: Theresa Dear, 3, Maxwell Road, Arundel BN18 9EU

Please note: tickets are not issued and you will only be contacted if the coach is full to see if you want to go on a waiting list. Any queries telephone 882459.

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OUTING TO WOOLBEDING GARDENS, Midhurst, West Sussex on FRIDAY 15th July

Name (please print):

Telephone: Please reserveseat(s) at £15.30 for each for garden entry, refreshments, coach and driver's tip. **NOTE Cost only £8.00 for NT Trust Members**

Cheques payable to **Arundel Gardens Association** – separate cheques for each visit please.

Where will you join the coach?

Bus shelter on Ford Road/Priory Road at **12.30 pm**

☐

Town Quay at **12.45 pm**

☐

Returning 5.00 p.m. approx.

Please return this form and remittance to: Theresa Dear, 3, Maxwell Road, Arundel BN18 9EU

Please note: tickets are not issued and you will only be contacted if the coach is full to see if you want to go on a waiting list. Any queries telephone 882459.

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