



Newsletter July / August 2018

The 74th Flower Show

Plans for this year's Flower Show, being held in Grove Park, are well underway.

The number of classes has increased both for Members and Open Classes. Anyone can enter even if they do not belong to the Society. Please encourage your family and friends to enter. If you don't grow vegetables or flowers there are many other competition classes which include floral art, homecraft, photography and handicraft. There are novice classes for those who have not entered the show previously and age group classes for children. Something for everyone in fact, so give it a try.

The classes are listed with this newsletter. A full Show

Schedule, which includes the rules of the show and entry form, can be collected from the Trading Hut on Saturday and Sunday mornings in July, or contact the Show Secretary Tel:418904. We will be posting a Schedule to all exhibitors who entered last year's show.



Setting up time will be from 6pm to 8pm Friday evening 10th August and 7am to 8.15am on Saturday morning 11th August.

The Town Council has kindly allowed exhibitors to drive their cars into Grove Park to unload their exhibits during the setting up times. All cars must have hazard lights on and must not exceed 5mph. All cars must then be removed from the park after these times. (Nobody wants to receive a parking ticket.)

Please return all last year's trophies and cups to the Trading Hut or John Chapman before Sunday 22nd July.

We have just received the sad news of the death of Liz Hooper and our sincere condolences go to Derek and the family. Liz was associated with the Society for many, many years. She ably assisted Derek with his duties as Membership Secretary and, as former Post Office workers, between them knew all the streets in Weston. Newsletters were efficiently delivered by Liz on her trusty pedal bike right up until her illness last year.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President:
Reg Davis

Chairman:
John Chapman
Tel: 418904

Treasurer:
Rod & Sue
Thomas.
Tel : 627358

Secretary:
Cynthia Filer.
Tel: 514057

**Membership
Secretary:**
Keith Jackson
Tel: 412792

Flower Show
John Chapman
See above

Coach Trips:
Brenda Wall
Tel: 2048

**The Trading
Hut:**
Cliff Slade

Newsletter:
Keith Jackson:
See above

Thoughts from the Editor

In the last issue I wrote about gardeners being optimists and I have also been thinking that if we believe the gardening press, Monty Don et al, they are workaholics as well. Every week, nay every day, there are chores to be done, things to be sown/pruned/planted/cropped, without which the jungle would take over.

Now I'm sure Monty Don is a lovely bloke. I think he has great charisma, knowledge and presence as well as two photogenic dogs but I am pretty sure he has a team of people working his ground so he can poke his trowel into lovely, soft, humus rich soil. What would take me an hour he is able to do in two minutes. None of these people seem to take a holiday.



I am of an age where I still want to be able to travel, walk, enjoy the wild flowers, explore and I realise I won't be able to do that for ever so I am going to do it while I am still able. Given this, I should have planned ages ago. I did my best but it was too late and I will have to rethink my approach next year. I feel I need to have some tips from growers who seem to be able to advance/delay their crops depending on show dates. Are there some things which just can't be grown? I've yet to see an automatic system which waters and pinches off side shoots and ties up the main stem, so maybe tomatoes are a no no. Strawberries - other folk have eaten my berries for the last two years, but I notice that Wimbledon is two weeks later this year (to give a reasonable break after the French Open) and I bet that the growers will manage to provide fruit for the eye watering prices to be charged once again.

I love my garden, my allotment and my travelling. I just wish I could be better at combining them. Perhaps a talk in Jan/Feb when planning my seed order?

Open Garden Events

There are three open garden events this year. Two of which are thanks to the good offices of Rod and Sue Thomas. The first is on the weekend of 7/8 July Saturday and Sunday from 10.30am to approx. 4.30pm. Tea and cakes will be available and proceeds will be in aid of Weston Hospicecare. The theme for the event is "100 years of the RAF" as we are part of Weston in Bloom Team this year which is celebrating this amazing milestone. Weston has a long history of both flying and engineering achievement and we will be offering a short exhibition of some of Weston's historical past association with RAF Locking camp and manufacturing to support the war effort in Weston. Flower displays will be using some unconventional items to spur your own imaginative gardening



The second event is over the weekend of July 28/29 again from 10.30am—4.30pm. There will be refreshments and a raffle and proceeds will go to Childrens Hospice South West

The third event will be on Sunday 2nd Sept, hosted by Jane and Stephen Sands at 1 The Crescent, Worlebury from 2pm to 5.30pm.

Members' Visits



We had a full coach to visit Hidcote Gardens. The weather was kind; after a week that had been too hot for comfort the day of our visit was warm with a pleasant breeze. The grounds looked wonderful and there were superb views of the Vale of Evesham.

There was a really impressive lily pond and lots of little nooks and crannies that led you from one garden to another. Our visit lasted three hours and

then we travelled to Fibrex Nurseries who hold the national collections of pelargoniums, hедера, begonias and hardy ferns. We were given a tour of the greenhouses, a riot of colour and no idea there were so many types of ferns, then let loose to purchase. We then had refreshments with some delicious homemade cakes served on bone china with tea out of teapots. Altogether a good day out was had by all and we are now looking forward to our trip to Cannington Walled Gardens and Monkton Heathfield Garden Centre.



There are still four spaces available on this trip to Cannington which includes a guided tour of the gardens with refreshments included then onto Monkton Elm Garden Centre.

Friday 27th July 2018. £21 per person. Anyone interested please contact Brenda Wall on 01934 620948.

May Meeting

We were treated to a talk on “Lavender the Forgotten Herb” by Carol Hamblin of Lavender and Co based at Axbridge. She outlined the start up and subsequent development of her project as well as the history of the lavender plant in Britain dating back to Roman times. For me the talk stopped just when I thought it was becoming interesting. I longed to know how she produced the oils etc from the plant. I wasn't expecting trade secrets but I am sure they had many interesting stories to tell. However Lady Lavender, as I can't stop thinking of her, did bring a range of products which seemed very popular with members and which sold well. This is just my opinion and I would love to have others. Why not a readers letters section? Please write or email and I will include some next time.

Don't forget. Tickets for Jekka McVicar's talk in November are going well. They are available in the Trading Hut and they are strictly limited because of the capacity of St Peter's Hall. Don't leave it too late.

Things to be doing at this time of the Year

This is quite a difficult one to write as it is a time of the year when things are racing ahead. August is often very different from July and the magazine covers both months. Equally I am trying to work out how things might go whilst writing this in June. So take what I say with a big pinch of tolerance.

Autumn sown garlic is probably out by now. My crop is usually affected by rust but it doesn't seem to make much difference. Onions need checking over and the ones going to seed have that spike removed. Use these ones first, they don't keep well. Early potatoes can be lifted during this period, when the tops start flagging and the flower heads appear I like to take a root or two to make a meal and see what state they are in. If they are a reasonable size I will dig the rest en bloc to avoid the slugs eating them before I do.

Beans and peas need to be picked on a regular basis to encourage the plants to continue to produce flowers and hence more pods. They need watering lots and lots to keep the beans or peas soft and succulent. If you are lucky enough to have some cherries keep an eye on them to get them before the birds. If a tree is small enough some net or a fruit cage can keep the little devils away. By the way if anyone fancies writing a guide to pruning fruit trees send it in and I will publish at the appropriate time of year.



In one of his many diaries

Alan Bennet notes for August "The garden and the countryside already shaggy and unkempt, August is the middle age of the land, shambling pot bellied and in need of a haircut". So keep on tidying, watering and trying to bridge that awkward gap when there is often a lull before the early autumn flowers burst in with all their brash glory. And when you've finished working don't forget to enter the.....

Private Garden Competition

Weston Horticultural Society will be holding the Private Garden Competition during the week of 16th July this year.

The gardens will be categorised as Large, Medium, Small and Front Gardens. There will also be a competition for the best hanging basket.

Your garden does not have to be full of bedding plants. The general scheme, tasteful arrangements, cultivation and cleanliness are taken into account, as well as the variety of plants, tubs and hanging baskets. Weston in Bloom will be sponsoring the prizes for 1st 2nd and 3rd placed gardens in each category.

An entry form can be obtained from John Chapman, Tel: 01934 418904, or email 1951chapman@gmail.com

Congratulations

I am pleased to be able to tell everyone that 23rd August is Bert and Cynthia's Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They were married in St. Andrews Church, Blagdon in 1958 and now have 3 daughters, one son, 7 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. I have persuaded Cynthia to send me a wedding photo and I think you will agree they formed a handsome couple. Good wishes to you both and thanks for all your hard work with the society,

