

# BIDEFORD GARDENER'S CLUB



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

***ALL MEETINGS AT BIDEFORD METHODIST  
CHURCH HALL, HIGH STREET, BIDEFORD  
ENTRANCE FROM HONESTONE STREET CAR PARK***

### ***DETAILS OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS***

- Chairman - Mr. Dave Hopkins  
Tel: (01271) 345246
- Secretary - Mr. Mike Avis, 19 Moreton Avenue,  
Treasurer Biddeford. EX39 3AY  
Tel: (01237) 475914. Mobile 07710 454230  
Email mikeavis44@gmail.com
- Social Sec. - Pauline Spencer (01237) 423587 for trips
- Website - [www.bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk](http://www.bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk)  
Email [info@bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk](mailto:info@bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk)

## SECRETARY'S PAGE

Well Friends,

Last year, for those with internet access, we created our own website [www.bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk](http://www.bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk). This has cost the club nothing more than the hosting fee as all rest has been done by myself with my own software. It is kept up to date with all the information you need. So we start a new season for the Club year and it's going to be another great one. We hope that the activities we have planned will receive a lot of support. We certainly had a great 2017 with excellent speakers, Nick Oliver in March, Howard Will in May in place of the Bristol Trip, Peter Savage in September, James Cox in October and our own Christine Waters in November. We also had a great day out at Toby Buckland's Garden Festival at Powderham in April however the proposed tips in place of in-house meetings in May didn't run due to lack of numbers and neither did the Taunton Show trip. The June meeting was at The Gate House Lee Bay and this also didn't really get the numbers we hoped for. What is clear is that we need a full programme of meetings in addition to the trips so that there isn't a long gap between meetings. Thanks to all those who brought along refreshments for any events and the AGM it made it a great evening and will be repeated for next the show preparation meeting in July and December, both with a quiz.

With the continued increase in postage costs (56p for 2<sup>nd</sup> class) this newsletter is being issued at the February Meeting so apologies if you have not heard the content for the first meeting but it was contained in the Christmas Issue as was a list for the year as far as was known at that stage. Please also offer to distribute the newsletter to any members not able to attend this meeting. Members can collect their newsletter from any of Moreton Nurseries stalls at Barnstaple market on Tuesdays and Fridays. Schedules for the show can also be obtained there too along with show posters etc when these are available in June.

We had another great lunch at The Crealock Arms, Littleham on 10<sup>th</sup> January and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the meal provided by Rick, Clare and their helpers. The provisional booking has already been made for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

On New Years Day we lost a long standing member and show exhibitor, Dave Elliott at the age of 76 after a three year battle with cancer. Having known Dave from schooldays and as my plumber as well it is a great loss. We extend our sympathies to his wife Pam to whom he was married for 52 years, and to the family at this sad time. The horticultural scene locally has lost a great supporter of the shows and his 40 plus exhibits at our show.

February is now the start of club meetings, with a great selection of speakers, trips and events. For the first meeting we have Peter Christie, always a popular speaker, with an insight into local history. March is Easter Floral Decorations with Caroline King and Christine Waters. April is a special meeting to look forward to with Sue Applegate,

formerly nursery manager at Kelways in Langport talking on Iris & Peonies. At the February and successive meetings there will be a chance to book for the forthcoming trips with a £5.00 deposit as usual. See the relevant section for details of these trips and a form is enclosed. On 11<sup>th</sup> May we have a visit to Blackmore & Langdons near Bath, just prior to their Chelsea display and then to Yeo Valley Organic Garden followed by a Plant Clinic and Identification evening with Derek Burdett. In June we have Ken Bishop who with his wife joined us last year, talking on Pelargoniums, a love of Ken's for many years and exhibiting at national shows. July is the Show Preparation night and Quiz.

As before mentioned check the Trips section for details and let us have your booking forms ASAP. Blackmore & Langdon is limited to 33 people.

Subscriptions, if not paid yet, are due at the same very reasonable rate of £5.00 per year for an individual member or for 2 persons at the same address. Send them to myself, or pay them at the next meeting. Please make cheques payable to **BIDEFORD GARDENERS CLUB, not to any club officer. Please also note that unless subscriptions are received by the Annual Show we will consider that you are relinquishing your membership and will discontinue sending newsletters due to the heavy cost of postage. 4 newsletters cost £2.24 of your subscription without the envelopes etc.**

Our 52nd Summer Show on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and will be another great event. The date is to avoid clashing with the National Begonia Society, National Show at Shrewsbury will be on 10th / 11th August a week before our own Show. This makes our show after the South Wales Show on the 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> August and we hope for great levels of exhibit. I'm already promised more cut flower and foliage exhibits for 2018. As usual our show will be at the Pannier Market and we hope to attract many more people. Last year's attendance was very good but still many more could and should visit this great show so we will have the banners this year with the details on them. For the 2016 show we brought back a Floral Art Section with great success. Schedules will be available for the Show at the June Meeting. Please, please get some Children's entries from your children or grandchildren.

Whilst writing this and mentioning shows above I would like to give further mentions of dates for you to consider with entries and attendance. North Devon Show at Umberleigh on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August and Alverdiscott on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August with Appledore on 12<sup>th</sup> August (all subject to confirmation). Our own Club Chairman Dave Hopkins and his band of helpers run a very good local show at Goodleigh Parish Hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August, it is a local show only but well worth a visit to see the volume of entries they get and get some ideas on making entries in our show

We must give a big welcome to the new members who have joined us. Sharon Elliott looks after the provision of the teas at the meetings and she will be glad of some help to cover evenings when she is not available. Dave Hopkins will run the Raffle for the meetings as well. Pauline Spencer has taken on the role of organising speakers and trips

and is doing a superb job already with booking the key speakers for our events and liaising with the coach operators.

Spread the word about the club and our revitalised club.

Best regards, Mike Avis, Secretary & Editor.

## **MEETING / EVENTS DETAILS**

### **TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – PETER CHRISTIE – “PROSTITUTION IN VICTORIAN NORTH DEVON”**

An insight into what went on in our locality in days gone by and the reasons that lead to it. Peter is always a great speaker and his local knowledge is excellent.

### **TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH – CAROLINE KING & CHRISTINE WATERS – EASTER FLORAL ART**

With the success of the November Christmas Floral Art evening we asked if there could be one for Easter / Spring arrangements and we have been lucky to get not just one but two members of Atlantic Flower Club to demonstrate for this meeting.

### **TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL – SUE APPELGATE – IRIS & PEONIES.**

Sue had the position of Propagation Manager at Kelway's of Langport, famed for their Chelsea displays of these plants. Sadly not much remains of the nursery now although the plants are still sold by them. We hope to see lots of you at this meeting it really is a special one but we aren't making it a ticket entry event. Guests are welcome at any meeting for just £2.00

### **TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY – DEREK BURDETT - PLANT IDENTIFICATION & PLANT CLINIC**

Derek and his wife Pauline ran Fairhaven Nursery for many years and he will be asking you to bring in your plants that need a name and those with a problem be it pest, disease or cultural difficulties. Make sure he has plenty to do on this evening

### **FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY – BLACKMORE & LANGDON'S NURSERY plus YEO VALLEY ORGANIC GARDEN at HOLT FARM, by coach.**

Again you will find the full details on the Trips Page. We promise you a great day out and a rare chance to visit both places.

### **TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE – KEN BISHOP – PELARGONIUMS (Geraniums more commonly but incorrectly)**

Ken has been growing these for many years with great achievements at national shows and really knows how to grow them to perfection. Both he and his wife joined at last year's show so we look forward very much to this practical talk.

## **TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY – SHOW PREPARATION & QUIZ EVENING with shared supper.**

We always need one meeting to arrange this annual event and we have moved it to July as the schedule will be largely unchanged this year other than the selection of classes for the Floral Art. In the NBS show we have added a 3 pot class for Double Tuberosus Begonia, Single Stem with No Side-shoots. The Don Dewey Memorial Trophy will e for this class. Please! Please! get some family or friends to generate some Children's exhibits..

## **RAFFLES**

At all of these events, we shall be having a raffle at £1.00 per strip. We welcome prizes to be added to these raffles and of course for Raffle prizes at the Summer Show, which Pauline Spencer will co-ordinate.

## **COMPETITIONS – Flower of the Month**

All meetings will have the usual Flower of the Month competition and it is really good to see more entries coming along for this. No competition April, May or June.

## **SEEDS AND CUTTINGS SWAPS**

It's a great way for members to obtain plants and we will have the facility at any meeting in the Methodist Church Hall. Bring any items you want to swap and we can put a table on for the purpose.

## **52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL OPEN SUMMER SHOW - SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2018 - Bideford Pannier Market.**

Having passed the milestone for the Club, celebrating 50 years of continuously staging a flower show in the town during 2016 we continue to run our annual event. It was a wonderful event with good attendance and great exhibits, despite the RHS at Rosemoor holding a two day regional show. I think last year's traffic chaos may benefit us this time and in fact our numbers were good although not to the 2016 level. This year should be even better. It will be a chance to show the area and its visitors just how good the local growers are and provide a great spectacle as usual. We have yet to confirm who will open the show but take any ideas on this score. We also hope to have the North Devon Beekeepers group with a demonstration hive once again and if possible Atlantic Flower Club and Trevor Cummings with his woodturning which had a lot of interest last year.

The show will be on the same respective weekend as last year's Show and we shall be at the Market making the place look really colourful as always. The NBS national, with which I'm heavily involved this year is at Shrewsbury Show, 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> August, the weekend before our own show. The schedule will be available from the June Meeting and has few changes this year. If you want advance details please ask and they can be provided. At this time we like to remind members of the need to get things planted up and grown on for the Show. It is no good waiting till a week before to grow a plant. Last year we were really good on entries and attendance was much improved.

The new schedule classes have been drawn up and will be available by email if you wish. There is still plenty of room to expand the show and just a bit of effort from members can do this. Please make the effort to exhibit and attend, with it on a Sunday you should be able to do this.

Please offer to help on one of the stalls or even sit at the entrances and take the admission money from the visitors. Door stewarding is a simple job for any member and just involves taking the admission fee and handing out a ticket, an excellent job for those who cannot stand around for too long. Judge's Steward sheets will be brought along to the July meeting so please expect to have your arm twisted to help us out for the many stalls and refreshment counter.

The RHS Banksian Medal for most points in horticultural sections, is here once more for this year's show and this will only apply to the Open Show not the NBS section. The National Begonia Society has again allocated medals and rosettes this year and pays for a judge for their section plus the donation from the South West group. The judge for this section is to be announced Andrew McDougall as last year.

### **CLUB WEBSITE**

With the trend towards internet presence for organisations we have joined the wider world by opening a club website account through 1&1 Internet as our host. It's a reasonable cost per year and was free to join. The website itself has been developed and maintained by myself using Serif Web Plus8 which I have for business purposes. This makes it compatible with Smart Phones and Tablets. We will welcome input to it and we have a Facebook page running too. Have a look for that and "Like" us it helps a lot.

One thing it does provide is a live source of information that I can update with any changes of details on speakers, events, trips etc. Far more suitable than the 3 or 4 newsletters we issue but of course they will still be available for everyone. If you lose your newsletter or need one for a friend they are available on the website at a touch of a button.

New members can now also join through the website, and book trips by downloading the forms and there is a facility to make enquiries on any activity of the club plus a live Google Maps link to enable people to see where we meet. The pages include a Home Page, About the Club, News & Events, with drop down menu for Events, Trips and Meetings, Shows and the Contact page.

If you are an internet user, as many people are today, then have a look and give your feedback. The website is accessed from [www.bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk](http://www.bidefordgardenersclub.co.uk). Make sure you type that in correctly.

### **TRIPS**

With the varied success of last year's trips by car and coach we want to ensure this activity is better in 2018. For any local trips arranged it will be by car to keep costs

down but for the more distant trips we will again be using Taw & Torridge Coaches who provide an excellent coach and driver for each of the trips. All trips start from Kingsley Statue coach pick-up, in Bideford, near Victoria Park and from Tesco Rose Lane, Barnstaple. Details below and a booking form included with this newsletter to book your places. We require a £5.00 per head deposit for the coach trips but just an indication of numbers for the visits by car to give a good idea of numbers.

Thanks for so many great ideas on trips last year which are all in the pipeline for this year. Blackmore & Langdon's Nurseries and Yeo Valley Organic Garden and the Garden House, Buckland Monachorum have all been reviewed and the following visits selected for this year.

**FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY – BLACKMORE & LANGDON'S NURSERY, PENSFORD & HOLT FARM, YEO VALLEY ORGANIC GARDEN. Depart Bideford Kingsley Statue coach stop at 8.30 a.m. Barnstaple Rose Lane (Tesco) 9.00 a.m. with direct travel to B & L and then all the afternoon in the Garden. Fare £20.00 – Admission included. Deposit of £5.00 required with booking form. We will leave the garden again at 4pm. Limited to 33 persons due to coach restrictions at Yeo Valley.**

Visit by coach to the home of so many exhibition Begonias and a chance to see their display plants before they take them to Chelsea Show along with their Delphiniums. Not only can you see them but you can get cutting raised plants, all named for around £4.00, not the catalogue price of £20 - £30 and indeed a much wider range. We leave there at 12.00 noon and go to Holt Farm where you can obtain food in their cafe and see the garden James Cox designed and built and which featured in his October 2017 talk. The garden is only open Thursdays and Fridays, hence the choice of day.

**FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JULY – BOWDEN'S HOSTA NURSERY at STICKLEPATH AND THE GARDEN HOUSE, BUCKLAND MONACHORUM - COACH TRIP Departing Barnstaple Rose Lane 8.30 a.m. Bideford 9.00 am and going direct Bowden's then on to the Garden, which is free admission to RHS members, that's why we chose a Friday. Leaving at 4.00 pm for the return trip. Admission is £7.50 at discount rate if not a RHS member and Coach Fare £18.00.**

We chose this to enable members to visit Bowden's following Peter Savage's visit in September and to visit the superb Garden House as well. Price is based on a 16 seater mini-bus but could reduce the fare by £5.00 if we can get 25 for a 33 seater coach.

**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER –TOBY BUCKLANDS HARVEST GARDEN FESTIVAL –FORDE ABBEY. Depart at 9.00am, from Kingsley Statue coach stop Bideford, Barnstaple Rose Lane 9.30 am. Coach Fare & Admission £18.00.**

This festival has been running now for a two years and has nationally known guest speakers and many displays and stalls to see and partake of. We will have a nice number of leaflets on the event and can obtain more if needed. Our costing is based on group admission of £7.50 and £12.50 coach cost. As always we include a drivers gratuity of £20 for any day trip in the cost of your fare. This is undoubtedly the best Autumn event in the region and features trade exhibits and demonstrations. You also have entry to the

Forde Abbey House as well, so excellent value. We have chosen to go on the Saturday this year.

With all trips we must impress upon members that they can bring friends along as guests and we ask for commitment by payment of £5.00 deposits early so we know how large a coach to obtain. We have to pay for the coach at least 14 days in advance, book early!

### **WHAT ELSE IS COMING THIS YEAR?**

Well carrying on from the great start to the year we have Bill Lee on Vegetables and Allotments in September but gaps yet to fill in October and November but have contact with two speakers.

### **FINAL NOTES**

You are more than welcome to bring guests to the club meetings or trips, we do ask for a £2.00 admission charge at normal meetings in the hall for casual guests and of course would waive this should they become members, which we hope will be the case. We will get the news of the events and information on forthcoming events in Bideford Buzz as part of my new Monthly Gardening Tips section, as a result of a request from the editor, Rose Arno through Janie Harrison.

As most of you know we were delighted to receive a continued great donation of £500 from the Bideford Bridge Trust which will be matched in April by Bideford Town Council, we also had a very unexpected but welcome donation of £500 as well and have thanked the donor for this. These donations along with that from the NBS South West Group, ensures the viability of the Summer Show and that of providing good speakers for meetings and running excellent trips too.

Unfortunately not everyone has access to the internet or we could issue newsletters via this method however we do publish an online version through our website or will send this via email. For this reason we avoid sending by post and ask for them to be collected or handed out to members in your area. The newsletters will be available along with Show Schedules from Moreton Nurseries market stalls.

A final note to every new member, we wish you a very warm welcome and indeed are pleased to think we have attracted some new ones on the past few years. Make the Club your own and take part in as many activities as possible. We hope you will find the Club very friendly and informative. We try to promote this and actively seek your help and suggestions. We have posters for the years programme and Open Nights if you can get these around town. It is your Club, we just carry out the work to our members wishes.

See you at the very exciting forthcoming events.

Mike Avis,  
Editor & Secretary.