

The Plotholder

Newsletter of the Worthing and District

Allotments and Gardens Association

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Vegetable Society

2014 issue 5 October

Dates for your diary

Saturday November 8th - see below for details of the **West Tarring bonfire and BBQ.**

The Association AGM will take place on **Tuesday 11th November** in the Gordon Room at the Town Hall, starting at 7.30pm and finishing with wine, cheese and soft drinks.

Subscriptions should be renewed **this month** and once you have renewed you can send in your **potato order** too - see below for details on both.

Annual Dinner Saturday 14th February 2015 (plan ahead)

First, of course, we must congratulate everybody concerned on the **successful show**, and here is Jack's report:

full range of pictures here -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127516105@N03/>



"On Saturday, 30th August, we held our 37th Annual Horticultural Show, known as "The Great Village Show", for the fourth time at Oak Grove College. For us gardeners this has been another difficult year with high temperatures and low rainfall resulting in the number of entries being down on last year but the still hall looked lovely, with so much glorious fruit, vegetables, flowers and cookery on display. Outside, in the gardens, there were stalls selling allotment produce, homemade cakes and lots more, including plants and crafts. Our beekeepers John and Sarah Scrace were there, explaining the wonderful world of bees, while Bob Bingham invited people to guess the weight of his giant pumpkin, actually a massive 145lbs! The second hand tool stall was very popular, as was the Association Store "Sale of the Season". The white elephant stall had an amazing array to tempt the crowds and the raffle prizes attracted record contributors. People sat around the gardens enjoying tea and cake and soaking up the warm friendly atmosphere; this is a lovely place to spend an afternoon and the weather was kind. The event was well attended and can go down as another very successful show at Oak Grove. It has developed into such a friendly occasion

with the chance for members to show off the results of a year of hard work and share it with us all.

On the competitive side there were exhibits of a very high standard and it was so pleasing to see newcomers taking part and picking up awards alongside the experienced showmen. Almost everyone won a prize of some sort.



For the first time a category for "Master Gardener" was introduced and won by Tony Payne. Bob Bingham took the Banksian Medal, for most points for vegetables and Best Collection of Vegetables, while fifteen year old Toby Scott had Best Exhibit of Vegetables for his courgettes. Heather Broad won most points and best exhibit in the flower section and Celia Powis took the rose award and cookery cup. Her novelty cake, which looked just like a large wedge of Leicester cheese infested with white mice, was something to behold. Peter Jackson won The Best Allotment award, Best Front Garden went to Jennie Rollings and Margo Hollingdale took the Floral Art Cup.

The novice section was well contested and Nick Mullins had a great day, taking all three trophies. In the fruit section Sue Mantell's pears not only won Best Fruit but were declared Best Exhibit in Show; they were just perfect! This confirms what I have been saying all year - all you have to do is enter and who knows what will happen! The wine section was reintroduced after several years' absence (*or abstinence?*) and twelve bottles were entered, with Jack Powis narrowly winning the cup. Brenda Cox came top in the craft section and the public voted Stuart Russell and John Nutt as our favourite photographers. In the children's section we had nine entrants spread across two age groups, with Carter Duguid winning Best Exhibit for his wonderful group of vegetable animals and the most points trophy going to his sister Sorrell.

The lasting memory of the afternoon was the very friendly atmosphere everywhere, with so many happy people enjoying themselves, particularly our Treasurer when he calculated that the event made a comfortable profit.

Every year I extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard and so willingly to make the whole thing possible, and I do so again now. The team just gets bigger and better, making it, for me, a most rewarding, albeit exhausting, experience.

Congratulations to you all. Well done.

And to those of you who were not there - you missed a treat!

Jack Powis, Show Secretary

CLASS WINNERS

FRUIT 1. G. Aylott, 2. B. Cox, 3. S. Mantell, 4. J. Powis, 5. B. Scott, 6. J. Scrace, 7. T. Payne,

VEGETABLES 10. C. Mantell, 11. N. Mullins, 12. J. Powis, 14. N. Mullins, 16. R. Bingham, 19. T. Scott, 20. D. Cooper, 21. R. Bingham, 23. C. Mantell, 24. H. Broad, 25. T. Payne, 26. T. Payne, 27. G. Aylott, 28. R. Bingham, 29. R. Bingham, 30. C. Mantell, 31. P. Green, 32. J. Scrace, 35. R. Bingham, 36. R. Bingham, 37. H. Broad, 38. P. Mulholland, 39. T. Scott.

FLOWERS - 40. P. Mulholland, 41. S. Mantell, 44. C. Powis, 45. C. Powis, 46. C. Powis, 47. M. Jackson, 51. T. Payne, 52. R. Taylor, 53. R. Taylor, 54. H. Broad, 55. G. Aylott, 56. H. Broad, 60. D. Rolph, 61. C. Powis, 62. H. Broad, 63. H. Broad, 64. H. Broad, 65. H. Broad.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS - 70. M. Hollingdale, 71. C. Powis, 72. M. Hollingdale, 73. S. Mantell.

PHOTOGRAPHY - 74. S. Russell, 75. J. Nutt.

CRAFT - 76. B. Cox.

COOKERY - 80. T. Scott, 81. E. Willo, 82. C. Powis, 83. K. Willo, 84. P. Mulholland, 85. D. Cooper, 86. T. Scott, 87. C. Powis, 88. C. Powis, 89. C. Powis.

NOVICES - 90. D. Cooper, 91. D. Cooper, 92. N. Mullins, 93. N. Mullins, 94. N. Mullins, 95. M. Jackson, 96. D. Cooper, 97. N. Mullins, 98. N. Mullins, 99. N. Mullins.

COLLECTIONS

100. R. Bingham, 101. T. Payne.

WINE - 105. G. French, 106. J. Powis, 107. J. Powis, 108. B. Cox.

CHILDREN - 110. Caitlin Rolph, Carter Duguid, 112. Dulcie Duguid, Siana Rolph, 113. Sorrel Duguid, Fred Woodley, 114. Sorrel Duguid, T. Scott."

There was an illustrated article in [The Worthing Herald](#) shortly afterwards and many pictures can be seen on our web site at <http://www.worthingallotments.co.uk/show.html>

If you want to enter next year and are not sure how to reach the right standard, try www.worthingallotments.co.uk/hints&tips.html

or ask more experienced members in the shop or through our forum: <http://worthingallotments.freeforums.org/>

By the time you receive this you will have finished your winter digging, piled on four inches of compost and be looking forward to burning all those bindweed and couch grass roots. Please remember that the ideal time for **bonfires** is as close as you can make it to 5th November, so that neighbours are expecting it and won't complain about smoke. Even then, dry it as much as you can beforehand and light it when the wind is blowing away from them (having previously checked for hedgehogs snoozing inside).



If you are not able to use that ideal time frame, you can ask your overseers for permission to light a fire at other times, but you need to get their agreement first. Make sure you stay with it until it has burned right down. Adding an MP is optional. See below for our Bonfire BBQ.



Water is often scarce and to make the best of our supply it helps to have butts under your shed or greenhouse roof. This year we are making a real effort to try to get hold of cheap supplies of butts, guttering and pipes. If you have any spare, or know of a cheap supplier, do let us know. Nick Mullins can get hold of 1,000 litre containers (that's 219 gallons!) for only £50, so if you want one contact n_mullins@onetel.com - 07867 802156. (That's n *underscore* mullins)

For Sale - brand new strimmer / brush cutter. Never used. A present from a well-meaning husband who didn't realise it was too big for me.

Model is a Florabest FBS 43 B2 with three alternate heads, petrol mixing bottle, supply of oil, petrol can etc. - everything you need. £100. Contact Paulina on 01903 536248 0750 361 3834





SHOP NEWS

As from 1st November, **Chesswood shop** will be open on Saturdays only until the end of February. Thanks to Richard West for stepping in to the breach.

A **tool sharpening and mending service** will shortly begin from West Tarring stores so look out for posters on site.

The following information all applies to West Tarring and some of it will also apply to Humber and Chesswood:

Seeds for next season should be available from November, subject to delivery. New additions to our range include:

A selection of oriental vegetables including pak choi, Chinese cabbage, radish, vegetable spaghetti.

A selection of salad leaves including rocket, mizuna, mixed oriental leaves.

Brokali (a cross between broccoli and kale) Atlantis F1

Courgette Atene Ploka and Floridor F1

Cucumber Crystal Lemon

Onion Globo

Spinach Missouri

Tomato Black Russian and Apricot Dream

Climbing French Bean Barlotta di Fuoco

Dwarf French Bean Annabel

Broad Bean Karmaz

Over 195 different varieties for you to choose from, and all at the lowest possible price



The **toilets** at West Tarring are being repainted and (once more) repaired. It would be more hospitable and practical if we could put down some decent **lino** so if you have any spare Bill Geddes would be grateful for 2 pieces at least 2x4 ft (or one piece 8x4). Drop it in to the shop for him or contact gedleg@gedleg.plus.com / 01903 505299 / 07963 011248



You may have the prize winning photo of a **fox** on the plot (copyright Stuart Russell). Several people have asked this year how to 'deal with' foxes and the answer is, leave them alone. They eat vermin so our policy is not to disturb them unless they are a major nuisance, each case being decided on its merits.

From our social secretary Tony Payne:

The annual dinner is booked at the bowls club again on **Saturday 14th February 2015**. Menus and a booking form will be in the next issue so keep the date free.

On **November 8th** we shall have a large **BBQ** around a small fire at West Tarring. Food, tea, coffee and a few fireworks are provided for an inclusive sum of £5 (payable in advance but refundable if the weather breaks). Feel free to bring your own alcohol and more fireworks if required. Vegetarians are catered for generously but for ordering purposes it would help to know in advance.





All members are welcome but for safety we are limiting the number to a maximum of 50 so please book in advance by emailing cissbury.23sheila@ntlworld.com or posting a cheque made out to Worthing Allotments and Gardens Associations to 23 Cissbury Avenue, Worthing, BN14 0DU.

I'm in Canada at the moment but will deal with all bookings in date order when I get back.

Tony



Sussex Manures - Delivered Manure

Sussex Manures is offering deals on our aged and shredded horse manure.

Transit Tipper Load 2.5 cubic metres of manure equates to *50 barrow loads*. This is amazing value and a perfect amount for a standard size allotment or to share. It is available at £120 including VAT and delivery.

Bulk bags, (0.6 cubic metres) These are great value, as they hold at least 16 x 60 litre bags of manure and costs £60 including VAT and delivery, or **two** for £110.00.

Puckamuck is horse manure from stables in Surrey and Sussex. We mature it for a minimum of 12 months during which time we shred and aerate it regularly. Finally **we deliver it** in 60 litre bags, in bulk bags or on our 2.5 cubic metre capacity tipper truck.

Puckamuck is naturally baked during the maturing process, the temperature inside the pile is sufficient to eradicate irritating weed seeds but not too high to discourage worm activity or damage the product. It's an age-old, organically sourced fertilizer with which you can only improve the quality of your soil and crops.

Mulch, top dress or mix it in for award winning vegetables, fruit and roses. Use it all year round and put natural goodness back into the soil. We also offer 60 litre bags of manure at £5.00 per bag collected from the High Street Findon or see the website for delivery prices.

Call George Derrick 01903 877689 or 07899 676166 **Sussex Manures Findon West Sussex.** www.puckamuck.co.uk or email: info@puckamcuk.co.uk

Independent Age, the national support community for older people in the UK and Ireland, is in need of a new **volunteer befriender** in Worthing. Here is their message:

“We currently support an older lady in the area who has recently informed us of her need for a new befriender and we are now trying to raise awareness amongst local residents. The lady has a **particular interest in gardening** so we are keen to find a volunteer who could chat to her about this and **take her out from time to time to local garden centres and public gardens.**

All of our volunteers receive a full induction and ongoing training is offered. In addition, all mileage expenses reimbursed. So, if you have a few hours a month to spare and would like to find out more about this opportunity please contact Amanda Jupp, Sussex Area Manager, on 01403 741042 or Amanda.jupp@independentage.org.”



As we gather and ripen our harvest, theft continues to be a problem. This is just one of the excellent sights on display as you walk round, but some uncivilised *^*@~#%^!, unable to resist, has been helping themselves to other people’s produce again, stripping trees of fruit and walking off with squashes, strawberries, beans and even gooseberries. We will certainly prosecute anyone we can find, but we need evidence that stands up in court. We also need to persuade the local police to take the problem seriously and that only happens if we report every theft or break in to the nonemergency number - 101 (not 999). Always quote “Allotment Watch” so the incidents are filed in the right column.

Subscriptions are due by October 31st

It is much easier to **take your membership card and £3 cash to the store** on a Saturday or Sunday between 10 and 12 than fiddle around with a cheque made out to Worthing & District Allotments and Gardens Association. However, as a last resort you may post your card and cheque (NOT cash) for £3, with an s.a.e. for its return to Mrs M Hollingdale, 14 Burlington Road, WORTHING BN12 6DB. You need an up-to-date card to use the shops and it helps us a great deal if we can update our membership lists now rather than chase late payers in spring.

You only need to use this form if there are any changes

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Membership No _____ Tel No _____

Address (if changed) _____

Site (if any) _____

I would be willing to receive 'Plotholder' Magazine by email YES / NO

Email address (PLEASE USE CAPITALS)

Potato Order Form

Name:

Membership no.

Telephone:

Quantity (number of bags) **NB All bags are £3 for 2.5 Kgs**

Early crop:

Aran Pilot _____

Foremost _____

Javelin _____

Main crop

Marfona _____

Desiree _____

Anya _____

Salad Charlotte _____

Total (x£3 each) = £ _____

I will collect from circle your choice W Tarring / Humber / Chesswood.

Send to Janet Robins, 41 Rackham Road, Worthing, BN13 1LW or drop in to her at West Tarring shop, but make cheques payable to Worthing & District Allotments and Gardens Association.

Closing date 25th November