



Whitstable and District Horticultural Society

February Newsletter 2016

Next meeting



Tina Morrissey

Delights of
Capel Manor.

Tuesday 9th Feb

7.30 pm

United Reform
Church

Middle Wall

Whitstable

CT5 1BU

Raffle

Refreshments

Plant Sale

www.whithort.org

Society News

The festive season has come and gone since we last met and hopefully the worst of the winter as well. There is now a noticeable stretch to the day and signs of new life are just starting to appear outside in our own gardens and open spaces. So we also start a new season with the society.

We closed last year with a well attended and enjoyable AGM meeting. Janet presented the yearly accounts which showed that despite the increased expenditure on events such as Tom Hart-Dyke and subsidised coach trips we managed to break even thanks to the increased number of members. The increase to annual subscriptions from £5.00 to £10.00 notified at the previous AGM as our constitution demands was passed and a new committee was elected. To remind you all the committee now consists of the following people who will continue to work for the benefit of all members to give you a vibrant and progressive society that meets as many of the wishes of the membership as possible.

Janet Henley

Life President/

Treasurer

Kevin Tooher

Chair/ Speaker

Bookings

Sheila Wyver

Secretary/Plant Sales

Gillian Rolfe

Membership Secretary

Tina Morrissey

Publicity/ Newsletter

Theresa Shields

Raffle

Caroline Cable

Refreshments

With Penny Perkins assisting as trip co-ordinator.

Kevin gave a short talk on conifers which due to a date with the NHS I missed. Now I dislike most conifers as an Aunt adored them and I was always required to “do” the conifer section of any venue visited with her as well as maintaining her own collection. A definite case of conifer overload. I have been assured though that even I would have found Kevin’s presentation both interesting and enjoyable so well done Kevin, again..

Various dates have already been set for this year including our annual plant sale at the front of St Alphege church in the town. Kevin has ordered numerous plug plants for us to grow for sale and we are now looking for members to come forward to act as foster parents of some of these plants between delivery and the sale on **Sat 21st May**. Even if you can only house a few of these youngsters please let us know as of course restraint wasn’t practised when ordering. But this sale raises much needed revenue for the society to enable more subsidised trips and well known speakers to be booked. He has purchased hardy plantlets that can cope with being outside from the start so you will not need a greenhouse to “foster” them. Of course donations are also needed from your own stocks so if you are growing from seed or propagating please do a few extra for this event. Especially sweet peas as they ran out very quickly leaving many disappointed customers. Gillian has offered to take on the role of co-ordinating the plant fostering so do see her if you can assist.

We are now in the run up to the Group Gardens Visit to take place on **12th June**. Francine Raymond has organised this and several gardens were assessed and passed for inclusion in the NGS yellow book. You can still have your garden assessed but it won’t go in the yellow book until next year’s edition. However, you don’t need to undergo the assessment process to have your garden included if you have no wish to. We want visitors to be able to visit the full range of gardens in Whitstable for this event regardless of size and design. So again let us know if you wish your patch to be included. Visitors gain admittance by buying a ticket from a central point. The proceeds of this go to the NGS but you can provide refreshments and plant/craft sales in your garden and donate the proceeds to the charity or cause of your preference. We will only require the amount raised and name of the recipients for recording purposes. So have a good look outside the back door and think about adding your garden to this event. Everyone I have spoken to over the years who have participated in NGS or local Garden Safari events have all said it gave them motivation to get jobs done in anticipation of opening and they have enjoyed talking to visitors about their efforts, problems, plants and the little touches that personalise our homes and gardens. They also to a man/woman said they learn so much from visitors by interacting in this way as well as the satisfaction of raising money for the NGS and other good causes and being part of a community event.

September Meeting

We are having to change the date of the September meeting. Although the speaker can still attend on the new date those of you who have already received your new membership cards will have the wrong date on them. Don't worry we will continually remind you of the change during the year.

Finally yours truly is giving the Feb presentation on Capel Manor Gardens. These are 30 hectares of original historical and demonstration gardens that as well as providing opportunities for the students studying all land based disciplines. They are also open to the public to visit for inspiration and enjoyment. Included within the site are the London Gardening Which trial grounds for further education on new products and plants. I studied at Capel and later worked there for several years as an instructor and the Resources Co-Ordinator so I have many anecdotes and background information on the gardens development. All delivered in my usual humorous style. We are following this with a trip to Capel Manor on **Sat 13th August**. Coach and other costs and details to follow. So whatever the weather on Tuesday evening and the call of the armchair do come to our first meeting of the new season and find out more about our plans for the coming year. Don't forget to bring sufficient funds for paying the new years increased subscription and to bag (hopefully) a winning ticket on the raffle or a bargain from our plant sale table.

See you then

Tina Morrissey.