



# Whitstable and District Horticultural Society

## February Newsletter 2016

### Next meeting

**Andy Garland**

Host of BBC Radio  
Kent's Gardening  
Programme



Me, My Life and  
Allotment.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
March**

**7.30pm**

United Reform  
Church

Middle Wall

Whitstable

CT5 1BU

**Raffle**

**Refreshments**

### Society News

Plans are ongoing for the Open Gardens Event on the **12<sup>th</sup> June**. We have hired the garden of the Umbrella Centre at St Mary's in the High Street. Where we will be having a plant sale alongside some selected nurseries. I love nothing more than a good look around other people's gardens and as those included all face the same problems of heavy clay soil and the resulting drainage problems. Alongside the additional exposure to the elements of living on the coast. It will therefore be especially interesting to see how they have combatted them. So I am really looking forward to this event. As we hope to make it a constant in the town's diary I am looking to enter my own space after its make over this year.

### Trips

Janet has booked the coaches for both the Hampton Court Show and Capel Manor visits. The cost for both trips includes travel and entry. The Capel Manor visit on **Sat 13<sup>th</sup> August** is priced at £22.00 and we are awaiting information on any parking fees for the Hampton Court trip before a final price is reached but Janet does not expect it to exceed £35.00. Which for travel and entry is very reasonable. Penny will be at a separate table over the next 2 meetings to take your deposits of £10.00 per person per trip and thereafter for additional payments so you don't have to pay the full cost in one go.

Pick ups are at both Tankerton and Tower Parade for 8.30am and we will be leaving both venues at 3.30pm returning to both locations. Hoping to miss the worst of the M25 traffic. We are also looking at another evening meeting at Maytree Nursery, Dunkirk in May. Brian and Sandra open the nursery exclusively to us in the evening

when you can follow Brian on a tour or simply spend the whole time shopping. The evening always ends in the house enjoying some splendid home bakes and refreshments. All that is asked is to give a donation for the opportunity which Brian and Sandra collect for various charities. Last year it was dry on our visit but there was a lively wind. Hopefully the weather will be even kinder this year and be dry, warm and with less of a breeze.

### **Plant Sale**

Kevin has finally taken his finger off the buy now button for ordering plug plants for our annual sale at St Alphege on the 21<sup>st</sup> May. So the need for foster parents for these plants is nearly upon us. They do not need a glasshouse and all that is required is to pot on into 9 inch pots which we can supply or you can get from Meadow Grange Nursery who run a second hand pot scheme for charity. We will also supply or reimburse you for compost if necessary. So once the potting up is done it is only a case of watering when required for a few weeks until the sale. Volunteers will be needed on the day to collect our babies and help with the sale. As last year we will also have a stall for garden sundries so if the urge to spring clean extends into the shed or garage. Put the things you no longer need or want to one side for the sale. Gillian bravely offered to coordinate the fostering so let her or any of the committee know if you can help. Even a couple of trays on the patio will be useful. Don't forget to strike extra cuttings or sow extra seed for the event as well. Houseplants are also welcome.

I will be helping Gillian at the front desk next week so she can take subs or new member registrations. So don't forget if you haven't renewed your membership to bring enough funds to the meeting to cover this and have enough for the trip deposits, raffle and any plants you wish to purchase.

The Transition Town Whitstable seed swap is on the **12<sup>th</sup> March** as part of the farmers market at the Umbrella Centre. This is a great idea but I have found that seeds gained are sometimes quite old so do check the dates on the containers. Don't forget if you wish to reserve a place on a trip or can offer some space for nursing our plants but can't make the next meeting you can always email the society on these or any other matter. [enquiries@whithort.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@whithort.org.uk)

Finally we are all looking forward to our next speaker. Andy Garland. He presents the BBC Kent Sunday morning gardening show alongside several well-known horticultural personalities. I am sure he will have some great stories about the show as well as his own gardening activities.

Tina Morrissey.