

Granby and Sutton Garden and Allotment Club

Notes of Meeting 4 October 2011

1. Programme for Winter 2011-12

The draft programme of speakers was reviewed.

It was agreed that:

Tracey Akehurst will speak on 'Once upon a time at Christmas' in November

Don Whitton will deliver a new talk on Euphorbias in December

Mike Armstrong will speak on Orchids in February

Mike Davey will speak on 'Plants of the Desert' in March

Ian Cooke will talk on Exotics in May.

A Snowdrops visit to Little Ponton Hall in February was proposed.

Stan to find out opening dates and include in the programme.

Later: Little Ponton Hall should be open 11/12 February 2012

A visit to the Spading Bulb Festival in April/May was proposed.

Stan to find out dates and include in the programme.

Later: Spalding Flower Parade is Saturday 5th May 2012

2. Summer Visits Programme 2012

A number of members expressed a desire to visit the Chelsea Flower Show. After discussion it was felt that a visit on the Wednesday by train would be best.

It would be necessary to check what tickets can be obtained from our RHS affiliation but RHS members can obtain 4 each so we could probably get 12 or more from RHS members.

Stan to check out the dates and ticket details.

Later: The show is 22 to 26 May so **Weds 23 May** is the proposed date.

4 Tickets at Members Rates are available from the affiliation scheme but only for the Public Days, Thursday to Saturday. However RHS Members can still purchase tickets for the Weds.

Tickets go on sale in November

I have set an alert for Train Ticket sales.

If there is more than 10 people traveling East Coast Trains offer a Group Travel Facility.

A firm commitment to purchase tickets will be required in November.

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3. Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Christine said that the Parish Council is considering a hanging basket or tub competition using red, white and blue flowers for the diamond jubilee celebration on 2/3 June 2012. She would welcome suggestions as to how this could be organised. There was discussion about the varieties of plants that could be grown and it was felt that the colours required in early June would be difficult, as it is too early for bedding plants to be flowering well.

Christine would welcome suggestions from members as to how this idea can be taken forward.

4. Subscriptions

Members Subscriptions are due in October and Shirley would be pleased receive renewals of £10 per member.

We have funds of £381.43 following the £250 donation by John and Isabel from the proceeds of the entertainment evening recently held for which members expressed their gratitude.

This will help with the funding of the winter programme.

5. Home Produce Show

The Home Produce Show on 10 September was felt to have been an enjoyable and successful event.

It was felt by some that the timings need to be adjusted as there were fairly lengthy periods when little was happening.

The classes will be reviewed for next year's event and it was felt that some classes specifically for children are required.

Some disappointment that the event did not attract entries from a wider community in the village was expressed and ideas as to how to generate greater interest in the show were sought.

It was suggested that getting a large banner or banners produced that could be put up in prominent places in the village a few days before events would be a means of reminding people of events.

David said one of his family was involved in a business producing banners and he could investigate costs etc.

6. RHS Affiliation Details

Details of the benefits of our RHS affiliation had been requested by members. Later:

Affiliation details have now arrived and will be sent out with these notes.

Stan Taylor

9/10/11