

West Bergholt Gardeners Newsletter 26th May 2023

Dear Members

I hope you all enjoyed Jaime Blake's talk on 80 Plants from all around the World and in case any of you fancied some of his choices, I attach a list of them which Jaime has kindly supplied me with. They can all be found at Bressingham so perhaps a little trip up there over the summer.....?!

I know its WBGA holiday time now but your Committee are still actively working and having just had a meeting, we would like you to know:

- 1) That, thankfully, a fairly new Member, Martin Worby, has agreed to step forward as our new Treasurer when Terry Claydon retires at the AGM. In the meantime they will work together so that Martin has an understanding of what is involved!
- 2) In line with increasing costs, our Subs for 2023/24 will be £25. We have 8 meetings in the year so this equates to a fraction over £3 per meeting which I'm sure you will agree is, realistically, still very cheap!
- 3) Refreshments - We will not be offering wine any more due to lack of uptake at every meeting. However, we will still have tea/coffee (and water) available on a table near the kitchen from the beginning of the meeting and would ask you to help yourselves at any time using a new flask which we are purchasing.
- 4) Tables - will still be put out (for any hot or cold drinks) but we will be placing them so that there is a clear way through to the front of the Hall for easy access.
- 5) Christmas Quiz - yes, I know its light months away BUT the Committee have decided that Members will be offered a complimentary glass of wine (or non-alcoholic) when they arrive and asked to bring their own nibbles and extra drink if required. This is to cut back on any wasted food which we had last year.

Back to current matters.....Tripsthere will be 49 of us going to RHS Wisley on 12 June. As the M25 traffic situation is an unknown, I have arranged with Kings to have a 30 mins comfort-only stop both ways meaning we will be slightly later arriving there and back here, than I originally said.

With regard to our self-drive to Blunts Hall Gardens in Witham on 30th June in aid of the National Garden Scheme, I would be pleased to have a few more names! As the trip is a self-drive, maybe you could organise some friends to come with you? Its only £10 pp for an initial talk by the Hosts, a wander around the gardens followed by tea/coffee & cake. What more could you ask for on a summer's day?

On the far horizon is the first meeting of our new 2023/2024 season when Marc McHearne from Beth Chatto Gardens will be coming to talk to us about her illustrious horticultural life which I know you will all enjoy. Afterwards we will have our AGM when, sadly, as mentioned above, we will have to accept the resignation of Terry Claydon following 15 + years of solid commitment and hard work as our Treasurer. Only being on the Committee can you understand the work that holding this Office involves and we will be very sad saying goodbye to him that evening.

I hope you are all watching the RHS Chelsea Flower Show? I do not know how they manage to come up with new ideas every year - have you seen the mushroom display? How amazing is that? I love it all and hope you are enjoying it too!

Have a wonderful summer, everyone, and spoil yourselves by spending special time sitting and looking at your garden. Take care! Shirley on behalf of your Committee