

A Colourful Autumn Show

Our Show took place in Bellingdon Village Hall on Saturday 4th September. The Hall was ablaze with colours, exhibits (from 29 exhibitors and 224 entries) being laid out on long tables. The judges arrived at 1.00pm, and really enjoyed judging the high standards in the many different categories, including the produce section. The weather was mild and fine, so people had the opportunity to sit outside and have their refreshments. There were many lovely exhibits to admire from home bakes to floral displays, arts, crafts and photography. Also worthy of a mention were the colourful flower displays in different categories. The afternoon was enjoyed by the many visitors, who tucked into the wonderful homemade cakes and there were numerous fabulous raffle prizes to be won too!



Trophies, cups and shields were awarded according to the allotted criteria and the coveted RHS Banksian Medal for the highest score in the horticultural classes. There were also classes for children and it was great to see the next generation of keen gardeners taking part.

A big thank you to all exhibitors, helpers and visitors to make the show the success it was.
Janet Stephens



Committee Member News



Allen and Vince on a Society Coach Outing to Penshurst Place in June 2017

Allen Tilbury and Vince Crompton stepped down from the committee in late August after many years of service to both our society and in the promotion of horticulture and gardening to the wider community including being active members of Chesham In Bloom. We would like to heartedly thank them both for their time, dedication, enthusiasm, energy and skills over the years.

Vince joined the committee in 1996 and became Membership Secretary in 2011. He was also heavily involved with the Town Council allotments over many years, being a founder member and chair of the Allotment Group and in stopping the upper section of the Cameron Road allotment site from being sold off for housing. For his charity work he was awarded the title of the first Honorary Freeman of the Town of Chesham by the Town Council in 2015. Vince has been the stalwart of many a flower show, often winning the bulk of our trophies for his flowers, vegetables and fruit.

Allen joined the committee in 2009 and became Chairman in early 2017. He was also chair of the Allotment Group for a number of years. We would particularly like to offer our appreciation to Allen for being so supportive and enthusiastic for relocating our Trading Cabin to the new plot next to the Allotment Group Focal Point and for galvanising us into action by organising the construction of the cabin base and erection of the cabin itself.

We wish them both all the best for the future and look forward to seeing them at our future events and activities.

Adrian Norris has stepped in as Acting Chairman until our AGM in April.

Blooming at 'Peace In The Park'

The UN's International Day of Peace, on the 21st September each year, has been celebrated since 2019 by the Chesham Rotary Club, with their spectacular event called 'Peace in the Park'. This year's incredible event,



held in Lowndes Park, Chesham, Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society was invited to be a stall holder, as we represented part of the spirit of our local community.

Saturday 18th September was an unexpectedly sunny and warm day, defying all weather forecasters, so arriving at Lowndes Park at 8am, together with over 100 other stall holders, didn't curb our enthusiasm.

Our stall contained an incredible variety of plants to sell, as well as some gorgeous dahlias for display. We had small articles with leaflets on Companion Planting, Composting, Comfrey Juice, the

Mental Health Benefits of Gardening, as well as society information. There was something of interest for everyone.

At midday, on the gorgeous sunny afternoon, people started entering the event, and our area of the park became busy. Visitors started approaching our gazebo, and I'm glad to say, they continued until the end of the afternoon, at around 4.30pm. We received compliments on the stand, sold most of the plants, ran out of many leaflets as interests were piqued by our articles, but, most importantly, encouraged quite a few new members to join our society. Everyone we spoke to had an



interesting story to tell, and a fun, friendly day out.



Parvez Aslam, Chesham Rotary's Event Director, strode around the park, ensuring all was well, and visited all the stall holders. As a member of CVGS, we would like to thank him and his colleagues for all their hard work given to ensure 'Peace in the Park' was a success, as well as for inviting us to be a part of it. For us, it was a long tiring day, but we enjoyed every minute. CVGS looks forward to participating next year too.

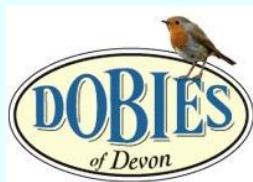
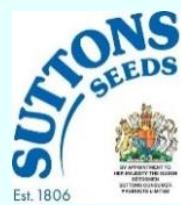
Michelle Page

DISCOUNT CODES 2022

All members with subscriptions paid up to 2021, will shortly be receiving the 2022 Sutton and Dobies discount codes.

If you haven't paid this year's £2.00 subscription, and wish to renew your membership, please send a cheque (made payable to 'Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society') or pay cash to:

Nicola Parkes (Treasurer) - Glenelg, Bellingdon, Chesham, HP5 2XL **tel:** 07973 558675



For enquiries, please contact **Nicola** or **Adrian Norris** (Acting Chairman) - **tel:** 07718 609719 or email us at: cheshamvalegs@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/508594863597197>

Our Twitter handle is: [@CheshamValeGS](https://twitter.com/CheshamValeGS)

TRADING CABIN NEWS - sale of SEED POTATOES, ONIONS, SHALLOTS and GARLIC in February 2022

Our new Trading Cabin, Plot 37C (next to the Focal Point Café), Cameron Road Allotments, will open on three Saturday mornings in February 2022 for our annual sale [Please find the dates in the dairy section]. We are delighted that we are now able to hold our sale next to the café and taste the delicious home-made cakes over a cup of tea or coffee without the arduous walk up the hill from our old trading hut. Parking will also be easier, as there is an allotment holders parking bay and better kerbside parking along Cameron Road.

What we will be selling in 2022:

Potatoes:

First Earlies - Organic Colleen ¹, Casablanca AGM, Jazzy * AGM, Pentland Javelin ²

Second Earlies - Apache*, Charlotte (salad) AGM, Elfe*, Kestrel ³

Early Maincrop - Desiree AGM, Picasso ⁵ AGM

Late Maincrop - Cara ⁴, Maris Piper AGM, Rooster * AGM, Organic Sarpo Mira * ¹ AGM

Prices: £4.50 per 7lb.; 80p per lb for quantities less than 7lb.

* £6.00 per 7lb.; £1 per lb. for quantities less than 7lb.

AGM = Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit.

¹ High Resistance to Blight; ² Good Golden Eelworm Resistance; ³ Good resistance to blackleg and slug damage; ⁴ Good Resistance to Blight; ⁵ Good Disease Resistance.

[Arran Pilot is unavailable due to a crop failure on the Isle of Arran in 2019]

Onions: Sturon, Red Baron

Shallots: Golden Gourmet, Red Sun

Prices: £1.20 per half lb.

Spring Planting Garlic:

Cristo (white) AGM : £1 per bulb

Elephant: £1 per clove

As in previous years we will also be selling **6X manure** [if you haven't tried this then it is an excellent highly concentrated lightweight alternative to traditional bulky farmyard manure being a fibrous chicken manure fertiliser which is oven sterilized to kill off pathogens and weeds. It contains nutrients and all the trace elements that plants require and no manufactured chemicals or lime, with a neutral pH. The fibrous, organic content conditions the soil and adds bulk to stabilize it.], **Growmore**, **Fish Blood & Bone**, **Bonemeal**, **Sulphate of Ammonia**, **Sulphate of Potash**, **Superphosphate**, **Sharp Sand**, **Silver Sand**, **Coarse Grit**, **fine Potting Grit**, **Perlite** and **Vermiculite** (now sold loose by the litre), **Jute Twine**, sturdy **8ft bamboo canes** for your Runner and French Beans. All at discounted retail prices.

Please remember to bring cash with you for your purchases and £2 membership renewal for 2022 as well as bags to reuse as we are trying to reduce our plastic waste.

Adrian Norris, Trading Cabin Manager

Potato Blight - has your outdoor tomato & potato crop suffered from Blight this year?



For the first time ever it affected our entire crop in our vegetable garden and containers at home. Sadly, many allotment holders' crops were observed suffering from the same fate. We stopped growing outdoor tomatoes in our coldframe some time back, as every year, just as the tomatoes were ripening, the plants were hit by Blight, quickly spreading from the leaves and stems into the ripening fruit. This year the Blight, an airborne fungus like organism, started to infect the potato leaves during the dreary, cold, wet, and windy weather of early August. Fortunately, we caught it just in time, before spreading through the stems and underground to the swelling tubers. As heart breaking as it was, even though the different varieties were still growing strongly, the only solution was to immediately cut all the tops off the crops to a few inches above ground. The idea was to prevent the disease reaching the tubers.

As Blight requires a living host to survive, I read it was safe to compost the stems and leaves, so one compost bin was dedicated for this and I plan to leave them to rot down fully for a few years just to be safe! [But opinion is varied, so I will ensure this compost is never put on the vegetable beds]. Once the stems had dried out for a couple of weeks and the tuber skins given time to harden, they were dug up and dried off for storage. Any tubers that had any decay below the skin were discarded and so far they seem to be storing well, although far smaller than normal.

Of the different varieties we grew this year the one that showed greatest resistance, but still got infected but later than the others, was Apache. We would be delighted to hear how you have fared with your potato crop this year and which varieties have been successful for you. Please write to us at cheshamvalegs@gmail.com. We will certainly be growing some of the newer varieties that have been bred to be more Blight Resistant, from those we are stocking in our Trading Cabin in 2022.

Adrian Norris



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2022:

- **1st Potato Saturday** - 12th February; **2nd Potato Saturday** - 19th February; **3rd Potato Saturday** - 26th February. Trading Cabin Plot 37C next to Focal Point, Cameron Road Allotments, Chesham. 9.30am to noon.
- **Spring Flower Show, AGM and Social** - Saturday 2nd April 2 to 5pm. Bellingdon Village Hall with refreshments.
- **Plant Sale** - Saturday 14th May 2.30 to 4.30pm. Bellingdon Village Hall with refreshments and a talk.
- **Plant Sale** - Saturday 21st May 9.30am to noon. United Reform Church Steps, Chesham.
- **Summer Cheese & Wine Evening** - Saturday 18th June. 6 to 9pm. A Chesham town venue to be confirmed.
- **Summer Show** - Saturday 2nd July. A Chesham town venue to be confirmed.
- **Autumn Show** - Saturday 3rd September. Bellingdon Village Hall.
- **October Social** - Friday 14th October 7pm till late. Bellingdon Village Hall.
- **Other Activities, including Garden Outings** will be announced in future newsletters and member email updates.