

A new vegetable garden - Year One!

As a family we had been allotment holders on Ashridge Road for some 30 years, happily combining food production with our love of flowers on a strict budget.

How exciting it was, two years ago to move to a new house near Tring with a large garden where we would be able to grow our own in our own space! We decided to make changes to the way we do things, we had built up the allotment over so many years, turning an area of rough grass into a usable veg plot was quite daunting, so we decided to experiment with the fashionable 'no-dig' method.



We knew early on that raised beds would be our best option - the brook running through the garden and the flooded fields gave us the best clues! So, in year one, our first six beds were raised, a wooden frame for each, the grass covered with thick cardboard and then as much rotted manure as we could lay our hands on. Lucky us, we have our own horses which provide us with an inexhaustible supply - although it can be quite a "faff" to bag it up and transport it about in the quantities we need. We also purchased a large bag of topsoil to top it with, I'm not sure if that is included in the prescribed method but it has worked for us! We planted through the thin topsoil into the muck, hoping that the soil creatures would work their magic and create a wonderful loam in the fullness of time.



Well, time to report now that this has taken a lot longer than we thought, and even now coming into our third season we still have a very lumpy growing medium which did not work very well in the high temperatures of last summer. That said, we have a good germination rate and some vegetables have cropped very well particularly early in the second year despite the heatwave.

Next time - we add to the beds and talk about our new pets!

Lynne Magennis

SPRING FLOWER SHOW and AGM - Saturday 1st April

This year we will be CVGS's second Annual General Meeting, and a change to the venue too, as we host an enjoyable afternoon tea on Saturday April 1st amid the entries for the Spring Flower Show at the Methodist Church Hall, Bellingdon Road, Chesham!



The AGM is **open to all members** and is an opportunity to pay membership, socialise, put forward ideas and observations and even **join us on the Committee as we desperately need more volunteers!** This is YOUR Society and we want to make it work for everyone, so come along, meet the committee and enjoy complimentary afternoon tea amidst the flowers.

The Show Schedule and AGM Agenda will be circulated to all members at the end of February and included will be the photographic class titles for the Summer and Autumn Shows.

Diamonds Galore at the sparkling social!

It was like the opening night to a new spy movie; tuxedos, evening gowns, as well as plenty of glamour! However, this was no ordinary spy. Yes indeed, code name 007, James Bond made an appearance in more ways than one at Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall for our social event!



Decorated in the theme of Fleming's MI6 character, black and white streamers, posters of all the trademark films, creating the perfect atmosphere for our marvellously adorned guests as they entered dressed to impress. Fancy dress was optional, however many adopted their favourite character or wore something in keeping with the spirit of the occasion, as they missed getting out their "glad rags".

Guests delighted in testing their James Bond knowledge on the challenging quizzes our Treasurer (aka "M") had created. The films, the theme tunes, and general Bond trivia; you had to know your Bond! A box of chocolates was the prize for the winning table, shared by all present. A big thanks to Nicola for her hard work preparing the quiz.

There was much laughter, talking and socializing (answer sharing too!) whilst guests enjoyed a delicious three course "Bond-themed" meal. The Espresso Martini Cheesecake, Austrian Apple Cake and Roulette Pavlova deserts would've made the Casino Royale proud. A big thank you to Lynne, Connie and all the helpers in the kitchen. An enjoyable evening was had by all!

Michelle Page

MEMBERSHIP CARD DISCOUNT SCHEME

This year CVGS are using a different colour for our membership card. This will be issued to all paid up members when they pay their 2023 membership fee of **£3 per person**.

Several local businesses have generously agreed to offer CVGS members a discount on production of a 2023 membership card; details are below. Please do support these businesses and follow our Facebook for the latest news and offers.

Greenbloom Growers, Chipperfield Road, Bovingdon HP3 0JN - 10% off when you spend £10
Hildreths Garden Centre, 169 Wycombe Road, Prestwood HP16 0HJ - 10% off plants & compost, excluding sale and special offer products.

JPS Stationers, Market Square, Chesham - 10% off except already discounted or special offer products.

Peterley Manor Farm, Peterley Lane, Great Missenden HP16 0HH - 10% off plant nursery products

Shepherds Nursery, Chartridge HP5 2YD - 10% off plants (but excluding composts and fertilisers)

The Plant Specialist, Whitefield Lane, Great Missenden HP16 0BH - 10% off plants



For enquiries

Email us at: cheshamvalegs@gmail.com

Contact: Adrian Norris (Chairman/Trading Cabin Manager) tel: 07718 609719, 215 Chartridge Lane, Chesham, or Nicola Parkes (Treasurer), Glenelg, Bellingdon, Chesham

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

Trading Cabin Update - FEBRUARY 2023 SEED POTATO SALE (With ONIONS, and SHALLOTS)

4th-18th February 2023

Once again, we'll be opening the doors of our Trading Cabin, Plot 37C (next to the Focal Point Café), Cameron Road Allotments for the annual February Seed Potato Sale! This year the cabin will be open all 4 Saturday mornings in February, from 9.30 am to noon, up to and including the 25th. Thereafter, we will close, reopening our doors as usual on Saturday mornings, 10 am to noon, from Easter onwards, or by individual request to the Trading Manager.

Tea, coffee, and delicious homemade cakes will also be available from 10 am to 12 noon at the Focal Point Café, courtesy of Allotment Group volunteers, on the first 3 Saturdays. Parking is available in the allotment holders parking bay, and kerbside parking along Cameron Road.

What we are selling in 2023:

Potatoes: **First Earlies** - Arran Pilot ⁶, Pentland Javelin ^{2 & 7}, Swift ^{5, 7 & 8}

Second Earlies - Charlotte (salad) ^{3 & 6} AGM, Kestrel ³

Early Maincrop - Desiree AGM, Picasso ⁵ AGM

Late Maincrop - Cara ^{4 & 6}, Maris Piper AGM, Sarpo Mira¹ AGM, Setanta ^{1, 3 & 6}, Valor ⁴

Prices: £4 per 7lb.; 70p 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; ⁶ Good resistance to scab;

⁷ Keep well in the ground; ⁸ Very early and good in containers.

Onions: Sturon AGM, Red Baron AGM

Shallots: Golden Gourmet, Red Sun

Prices: £1.20 per half lb.

As in previous years we are also 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, £3 per person membership renewal for 2023 and for refreshments, as well as bags for your purchases

To request access to the Trading Cabin after the 25th February, please contact Adrian Norris, Trading Cabin Manager, on 07718 609719 who will be happy to open up by appointment.

Adrian Norris

WONDERFUL WISLEY

The outing to RHS Garden Wisley, situated in Surrey, took place on Saturday 20 August 2022 on a lovely sunny day.



The members met at the impressive entrance and were divided into two groups, each group led by a professional guide who explained the history of Wisley and the various planting schemes. Each group walked



extensively around the site, stopping to admire interesting features, have a chat and take photos of the diverse planting schemes. There is a beautiful rock garden with waterfalls, a rose garden, orchard, vegetable garden, and other different themed "garden rooms". Some members visited the Arboretum containing champion trees and the spectacular Glasshouse containing many exotic plants in different climate zones.



The inspirational planning of this RHS Flagship Garden, gave members the



vision of how they could improve on their own gardens, some making notes of their favorite plants as they walked along. Some members visited the Sky Terrace café, pausing to admire the view of the estate, as well as purchase refreshments. After extensive walking around the grounds, members were treated to a delicious cream tea with jam, scones and cake. There was plenty of time to go shopping for a plant and visit the shop selling books and gifts. This was a truly memorable day.

Janet Stephens

DATES for your DIARY in 2023:

- **1st Potato Saturday** - 4th February; **2nd Potato Saturday** - 11th February; **3rd Potato Saturday** - 18th February. 9.30am to noon. Trading Cabin Plot 37C next to Focal Point, Cameron Road Allotments, Chesham.
- **Spring Flower Show, AGM and Afternoon Tea** - Saturday 1st April 2.30 to 4.30pm. The Methodist Church Hall, Bellingdon Road, Chesham.
- **Plant Sale** - Saturday 13th May 2.30 to 4.30pm. Bellingdon & Ashridge Village Hall with afternoon tea.
- **Plant Sale** - Saturday 20th May 9.30am to noon. Clock Tower, Market Square, Chesham.
- **Summer Show** - Saturday 1st July 2.30 - 4pm. The Methodist Church Hall, Bellingdon Road, Chesham.
- **Autumn Show** - Saturday 2nd September 3.00 - 4.30pm. Bellingdon & Ashridge Village Hall.
- **October Social** - Friday 13th October 7pm till late. Bellingdon & Ashridge Village Hall. Theme will be voted on at our AGM
- **Other Activities, including Garden Outings** will be announced in future newsletters and member email updates.