

SNOWDROP TALK and GARDEN VISIT

Sunday 25th February 2024 2.30-4.30pm

Did you know there are 19 different Snowdrop species and close to 1,000 named varieties and cultivars? Collecting Snowdrops is an addictive passion for some, and Galanthophiles (Snowdrop enthusiasts) will pay hundreds of £'s for a single rare bulb.

Someone I know paid £300 for a pot of 3 bulbs a few years ago!

Katharine Hersee, Chair of Ballinger Hall Horticultural Society, has a passion for growing Snowdrops and has offered to open her garden to us on 25th February for a talk and tour, followed by warm tea and cake indoors.



'Touchwood' Alpine Bank



Galanthus wornowii

Address: Touchwood, Grimms Hill, Great Missenden HP16 9BG

Cost £10 per person to include a talk, tour of her snowdrop collection and expansive gardens, tea and cake. All proceed to the National Garden Scheme charities.

Payment: 1) **Bank Transfer** Lloyds Bank - Account Name: Chesham Vale Gardeners Society; Sort Code: 30-99-50; Ac. No. 23298763 (**please put your name as reference**). 2) **Cheque** (made payable to Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society). 3) **Cash** at one of our February Potato Sales at our Trading Cabin.

PLEASE BOOK BY SUNDAY 18th February. Any queries contact Adrian, and let us know if you may require a lift or can offer one.

Spring Flower Show & AGM

Come join us for this year's AGM. It's **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.



The HEAD GARDENER – a theatre show not to be missed!



It explores the life stories of the two performers, one a theatre maker and the other a garden designer, with a particular focus on mental health and how it can be improved through gardening. It is a gentle and hopeful show which has had brilliant reviews; Alan Titchmarsh called it 'living proof that gardening is good for you'. The project is part of the Healthy Libraries and Rekindle initiatives, so has been funded in turn by Public Health and the Arts Council. **Tickets are only £5.**

Chesham Vale Gardeners Society will have a stand in the library so do come along, enjoy the performance, and come and talk to us. An opportunity to renew your membership for 2024!

From Seeds to Plants – we need your help!

January is usually cold and uninviting, yet the gardener can see the days getting longer, waiting in anticipation for the warmer seasons to come. For the more experienced, or very daring, seeds are ordered, even germinated for early blooms and crops. For me, there's nothing like the joy, and relief, of seeing your seeds begin to grow, then nurturing them until they're large enough to pot-on. The thrill of cultivating your seedlings to young plants ready for my beds, is only challenged by the fact there are unwanted leftovers. I hate waste, so end up desperately offering excess plants to neighbours, and other plot holders alike.

If, like me, you find yourself with excess plants, the society would really like your help. Our two annual plant sales in May are always a success, but last year we saw demand for a greater variety of blooms, herbs, and, not for the first time, especially vegetable plants, which were in short supply. Therefore, we're asking our members to kindly sow extra seeds this year, donating the extra plants to the society for our May sales. Blooms, herbs, and vegetable plants of all types will be warmly received. Help us spread the joy of gardening.

P.S. Don't forget your Sutton's and Dobies Discount codes.

Michelle



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>

Website: www.cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk

TRADING CABIN NEWS - SALE OF SEED POTATOES, ONIONS, and SHALLOTS in February 2024.

A Very Happy New Year to all. What a very wet and dreary end to 2023. Let's hope the weather soon improves so we all have the energy and enthusiasm to be in our gardens again. Roll on the spring! Our annual sale is nearly upon us. We will be stocking the same varieties as in 2023 but with one new addition - **Pink Fir Apple** potatoes. I know some of you grow this variety already and are really pleased with the resulting crop. From my own experience this is a superb tasting boiled potato with a firm texture, ideal for salads and boiling.

Our new Trading Cabin, Plot 37C (next to the Focal Point Café), Cameron Road Allotments, will open on the first three Saturday mornings in February 2024 for our annual sale [Please find the dates in the diary section]. **Do make a note of these dates as we are only stocking the quantities, we aim to sell by the end of February to avoid wastage.**

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, **Pink Fir Apple** ******* AGM, Sarpo Mira ¹ AGM, Setanta ^{1, 3 & 6}, Valor ⁴

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

******* £5.00 per 7lb.; 90p 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 Keeps well in the ground; ⁸ Very early and good in containers.

There is excellent information on growing and recommended potato varieties on this website:
www.gardenfocused.co.uk

Onions: Sturon AGM, Red Baron AGM

Shallots: Golden Gourmet, Red Sun

Prices: £1.30 per half lb.

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 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), sturdy **8ft bamboo canes** for your Runner and French Beans.

Please remember to bring cash with you for your purchases, £3 membership renewal for 2024 and for refreshments, as well as bags to reuse as we are trying to reduce our plastic waste.

Adrian, Trading Cabin Manager

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 2024 membership fee of **£3 per person**.

Several local businesses have generously agreed to continue to offer CVGS members a discount on production of a 2024 membership card; details are below. Please do support these businesses and follow our Facebook and Website for the latest news and offers.

Hildreths Garden Centre, 169 Wycombe Road, Prestwood HP16 OHJ - 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 OHH - 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 OBH - 10% off plants

Please note: **Greenbloom Growers, Chipperfield Road, Bovingdon, HP3 OJN** - is no longer open for trading!

2024 DATES for your DIARY:

- **1st Potato Saturday** - 3rd February; **2nd Potato Saturday** - 10th February; **3rd Potato Saturday** - 17th February. 9.30am to noon. Trading Cabin Plot 37C next to Focal Point, Cameron Road Allotments, Chesham.
- **Remaining Potato Sale** - Saturday 24th February 10am to Noon. Market Square, Chesham (at The Local Produce market).
- **Snowdrop Talk and Garden Tour** - Sunday 25th February 2.30 to 4.30pm. Tickets £10 in advance. [See article in this newsletter.](#)
- **Theatre Show: The Head Gardener** - Saturday 2nd March 11am to 12 noon. Chesham Library. Tickets £5 in advance. [See article in this newsletter.](#)
- **Talk: Garden Birds and their Songs** - Thursday 7th March 8pm. Ballinger Village Hall. Organised by [Ballinger Hall Horticultural Society.](#)
- **Talk: The Ridgeway, John Tyler** - Wednesday 20th March 7.30pm. Bovingdon Baptist Hall, High Street, Bovingdon. £7 for non-members. Organised by [Bovingdon Gardeners.](#)
- **Spring Flower Show, AGM and Afternoon Tea** - Saturday 6th April 2.30 to 4.30pm. Chesham Methodist Church, Bellingdon Road.
- **Plant Sale** - Saturday 11th May 2.30 to 4.30pm. Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall with refreshments.
- **Plant Sale** - Saturday 18th May 9.30am to noon. Clock Tower, Market Square, Chesham.
- **Summer Show** - Saturday 6th July. 2.30 to 4.00pm Chesham Methodist Church, Bellingdon Road with refreshments.
- **Autumn Show** - Saturday 2nd September. 3.00 to 4.30pm, Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall with refreshments.
- **October Social** - Friday October 11th 7 to 11pm, Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall. Theme: 1950's American Diner
- **Other Activities, including further talks and Garden Outings will be announced in future newsletters and member email updates.**