



### Diary Dates

Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 7:45 <sup>pm</sup>	Talk at the Village Hall - My Greenhouse Year by Gillian Taylor
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February -	Gratwicke Road Shed re-opens from 10.00 <sup>am</sup> - 11.00 <sup>am</sup>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 7.30 <sup>pm</sup>	AGM at the Village Hall
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March -	Gratwicke Road Shed hours increase from 10.00 <sup>am</sup> - 12 noon
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 7:45 <sup>pm</sup>	Talk at the Village Hall - Chelsea Secrets by Pip Bensley

## Talks

We look forward to resuming our programme of talks on 26<sup>th</sup> January, when we welcome Gillian Taylor from Hampshire. Her talk entitled "My Greenhouse Year" promises to be a timely reminder of how to make good use of our greenhouses in the coming season. It was unfortunate that our speaker for November, Jacqueline Aviolet, was unable to make the talk as her car broke down on the M25! Jacqueline has apologised to us for this and we have provisionally booked her to speak this year. Our sincere thanks go to Graham Tyler, who, at very short notice, arranged a quiz for us, which was enjoyed by the nearly 60 members who attended and made for a very sociable evening. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank Graham for arranging our raffles. Thank you Maria Webb and Alison Grant who are our regular tea makers. As Maria was not available for this talk, Jane Stone stood in to help. It should also be said that we need people who might be able to assist by making teas on an occasional basis, so please let us know if you could be available for this.

## AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will take place this year on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Please do your best to attend and help us to make decisions about the future of your Association. We need new Committee Members, and, in particular, we need a new Treasurer as Catherine Wood is standing down at the AGM, and a new Newsletter Editor as David Griffiths is moving away. Without a Treasurer, we are unable to operate, so we have very little time to find a replacement. If you can contribute in any way, please let any Committee Member know as soon as possible.

**Gratwicke Road Trading Shed:**  
Closed for January Opens again 5<sup>th</sup>  
February 10-11

## Happy New Year

We wish you all a brilliant gardening year on your country estate, your window box and everything in between.

## Gratwicke Road Trading Shed

Thank you to those cashiers and helpers who have offered their continued support for trading on Sundays in 2023. The rotas are currently being prepared, but as we have also lost some of our more experienced helpers recently, we are very stretched to provide cover for the opening hours we have been accustomed to. We especially need younger, strong helpers to weigh out goods and help less able members take goods to their car. The more helpers we have, the easier the load and with enough help we are aiming to limit the number of sessions to 4 or 5 per year. The job is not too strenuous and you learn a lot and make new friends. Please volunteer if you can otherwise the future of our trading shed is in jeopardy.

Sadly we don't currently have enough volunteer helpers to be able to offer a service on Saturdays in March as we did last year. This is a pity as the Saturday opening trial was deemed to be a success, bringing in proportionally more revenue and spreading the load during our busiest month. On a positive note, we will be opening as planned on Sundays from 5<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m, and this will be extended until 12 noon from Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We are also intending opening on Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April) and on the May Bank Holiday (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May).

## Plant Stalls

We are intending selling plants at Bean Pole Day at Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 and at the RBH League of Friends' Fete in June. As always, we will need your plant contributions to help make a success of these events.

## Membership

The membership year is January to December. Membership renewal for 2023 will be available at the Talks in the New Year, as well as at the Trading Shed from 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023.