

STOP PRESS

CORONA VIRUS IMPACT ON BGC

After the government update on 16th March 2020 we are cancelling our April, May and June meeting.

To keep abreast of future meetings, please view our website or Facebook page for updates or call one of our committee members.

As the newsletter was ready for printing before the update some of the articles may now be irrelevant.

EDITORIAL



Well, what can I say. Have you all managed to dry out yet!!

As I am writing this editorial, my grass is 'as high as an elephant's eye' and I am dreading the first cut.

Some of my late flowering tulips, are already sending up flower buds. The world's weather has gone crazy.

I've rifled through the freezer and found I still have an abundance of blackberries, so being a little fed up with pies, crumbles and puddings, I thought I'd hit the vodka for a change and brew some blackberry vodka. Can't wait and hopefully it will be ready for drinking in the beautiful spring sunshine.

I've decided that if I've got to isolate myself then my garden and allotment will be my salvation.

Gardening according to research is good for your body and brain.

Take care of yourselves.

Newsletter cut off dates:

Issue 170

Last date for articles	6th June 2020
Delivery to distributors	29th June 2020
Delivery to members by	5th July 2020

Denise Kovarovic

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As I write this in March I'm beginning to wonder if I'll ever get any gardening started this year, what with all the rain, cold, windy weather we've been having over the winter & then family commitments I'm getting seriously behind. I've still to clean the greenhouse from the last growing season!

I hope you are doing better than me & that you've all stayed well through our country's latest crisis, at least if you had to self isolate you will have been able to include your garden in your restricted zone.

We held our AGM at our social evening in March & it was well attended, which was good to see. You will be able to read the minutes of it on later pages.

It's been good to see the beautiful spring flowers begin to bloom & has given me hope that soon we can get out & do what we do. I plan to get my allotment sown with the early crops, hopefully by the time you read this I should at least have some seed potatoes planted & a few seeds as well.

Having my son & family living with us with 2 young children has impacted on my use of our conservatory for early sowing (fiddly fingers & all that!) I might have to resort to buying plants in this year so I will be looking to our plant auction in May to fill a few gaps.

I hope you feel we have an exciting programme of events for you to enjoy this year.

Linda Barratt

linda.a.barratt@gmail.com

DAFFODIL & CONTAINER COMPETITION

7th APRIL 2020

TULIP COMPETITION

5TH MAY 2020

For daffodils and tulips three cut blooms to be displayed.

TRADING POST NEWS

Fully stocked for gardening sundries.

75Ltrs John Innes - £6.50, Jack's Magic - £5.00

60Ltrs compost 2 for £9.00

New in for 2020 Growmoor professional compost 80Ltrs - £6.00

Sunday Trading Post Rota to 3rd May 2020

Date		Name	Contact No.
5th	Apr	Anne Brett	635045
12th	Apr	Nick Miles	07849 431069
19th	Apr	Richard Wells	634904
26th	Apr	John Brown	272285
3rd	May	Peter Morris	233435
10th	May	Denise Kovarovic	632528
17th	May	Bob Gwynn	632221
24th	May	Richard Stirley	635811
7th	Jun	Anne Brett	635045
14th	Jun	Nick Miles	07849 431069
21st	Jun	Richard Wells	634904
28th	Jun	John Brown	272285
5th	Jul	Peter Morris	233435
12th	Jul	Denise Kovarovic	632528
19th	Jul	Bob Gwynn	632221
26th	Jul	Richard Stirley	635811
2nd	Aug	Anne Brett	635045

If you are unable to attend on your duty day please arrange alternative cover **and let us know**, thank you.

Derek Lloyd
Nick Harrop

derek@mi-world.co.uk
nharrop1316@gmail.com

COACH TRIPS



Elton Hall and Gardens Friday 3rd July

Cost £26 per person

This extraordinary, romantic, part Gothic house has been in the Proby family since 1660. It is a fascinating mixture of styles, reflecting the taste and interests of succeeding generations. Every room contains treasures – magnificent furniture and paintings from early 15th century Old Masters to 19th century artists such as Millais. The library, one of the largest in private ownership, possesses such treasures as Henry VIII's prayer book.

The beautiful walled gardens have been restored during the last thirty years and now include mature topiary, an orangery and stunning herbaceous borders. The trip includes a tour of the house and the gardens.

There are no picnic facilities at Elton Hall, however the Mulberry Cafe, within Bosworth's Garden Centre, is open all day for refreshments.

Note: The garden is accessible for wheelchairs etc but not the house.

Ashwood Nurseries and John's Garden Tuesday 25th

August Cost £20 per person

This visit has been arranged as a follow-up to the speaker in June who is from Ashwood Nurseries. They are a traditional working nursery and garden centre with a world-wide reputation for their specialist plants, notably cyclamen, hellebores, salvias, lewisias, primula auricular, hydrangeas, conifers and hepaticas. They stock a huge range of plants, shrubs and trees all displayed in beautifully maintained sales areas and greenhouses. The Garden Shop has a superb selection of seeds, bulbs, composts, books, garden accessories etc. and the Flower Shop stocks a wide range of artificial blooms, foliage, candles, ribbons and arrangements.

There is also a fantastic gift shop, a very good tea room which serves hot lunches as well as coffee, tea and cake, and the Nursery Show Garden to wander round for inspiration.

John's Garden behind the Nursery is the creation of the nursery owner, John Massey. This beautiful three-acre garden has been featured on television and in many magazines and is an absolute delight, with informal borders, woodland dells, pool and rock garden, bordered by the Staffs and Worcs canal.

Booking forms enclosed with this month's newsletter

Helen Staniforth

SOCIAL SCENE

CLUB SKITTLES EVENING WITH SUPPER

On Friday 10th January 2020 we held our skittles evening. As always it was a lot of fun and a good meal was enjoyed by everyone.

Thanks very much to Denise Kovarovic who kept the scores on the board.

At the end there was one clear winner for the Mens and congratulations go to Paul Wilkinson who attained a score of 19. For the Ladies there was a three way tie between Jill Staniforth, Sue Gwynn and Caroline Wood who all had a score of 12. The play off lead to a win of 16 points for Caroline Wood, Jill Staniforth came second with 15 points and Sue Gwynn third with 12.

Congratulations to our winners!

CRIME PREVENTION BY DARREN STRETTON PCSO

On Tuesday 4th February 2020 the Club welcomed Darren Stretton our local PCSO. Darren presented solutions to help fight crime in general, and brought along some devices for purchase if desired. His talk hit on very relevant topics such as garden, shed, tool and personal security.

There was a general warning to be aware of door to door cold callers.

As the evening drew to a close members had a chance to chat to Darren and purchase any devices at cost.

Many thanks to Darren for his helpful information, the evening was a real success.

The Neighbourhood Link was mentioned where we can all help to fight crime in the area. For more information or to register go to

www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AND THIS YEAR'S CHARITY

On Tuesday 3rd March 2020 we held our AGM. This year's annual show will be the 74th and will be held on Saturday 15th August. Bob Gwynn our Show Manager thanked all who had helped in whatever way with the show. He went on to say that this year children who enter will be given 6 sunflower seeds so that for the 75th show there can be entries for the largest sunflower. The Show for 2021 will be held on 21st August.

Derek Lloyd reminded us what great value the items are from the trading store, and asked us to "please continue to support the store". Derek went on to thank all who help out at the store and everyone who supports it.

Helen Staniforth said that the coach trips had been well supported and in total there will be 4 this year. We had an enjoyable visit to Oldroyd's Rhubarb Farm on 22nd February, on 3rd July there is one to Elton

House and Gardens, followed by Ashwood nurseries and John's Garden on 25th August and on 26th September to RHS Garden Bridgewater. There is a lot to look forward to this year on the social scene.

During the AGM the Charity the Club has selected to support this year was announced. We are supporting Leicestershire & Rutland REMAP. Martin Grant came along to present details of the charity to us. In essence the charity will custom make devices to assist individuals with disabilities to enable better independence in whatever way is required. REMAP has many highly skilled individuals who tend to work from home compiling various devices.

Martin is a woodworker but REMAP has IT specialists, people with backgrounds in plastics, fabrics, electronics and metal work to name but a few.

REMAP was established in 1964 and has now grown to having 80 groups within the Country. They have 3 Occupational Therapists on their panel from whom they can seek advice and suitability for any items created. Last year they made 88 devices for a cost of £4500. Any device is supplied free of charge, anyone with a disability can make a request and REMAP will do their best to make this possible when a commercially available item does not work for that individual.

REMAP is a very worthwhile charity as it enables disabled people to have a better quality of life, better independence and in some cases an ability to further enhance enjoyment of hobbies.

Many thanks to Martin for coming along and explaining fully how the charity operates and for showing us demonstrations and a few video clips.

Vicki Parsons

BURBAGE GARDENING CLUB

Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd March 2020, at Burbage Constitutional Club

Present: Linda Barratt, Helen Staniforth, Anne Brett, Bob Gwynn, Derek Lloyd, John Brown, Jill Price, Janet Matthews, Pat Evans, Martin Grant, Caroline Wood, Trevor Allcoat, Jack Staniforth, Jill Staniforth, Pat Wood, Sonja Edwards, Val Hawkins, Vicki Gilbert, Alison Howkins, Heather Evans, Hannah Simpson (visitor), Richard Stirley, Pam Stirley, Judy Buckell, Kathryn Manning, Janice Bold, Howard Bold, R Jackson, J. Shore, Malcolm Dale, Sheila Bevans, Linda Noble, Paul Kendrick, Sylvia Whitworth, Geoff Whitworth, Joan Robbins, Jordon Coles, Becky Ansell, Derek Wheeler, Davinda Chera, Val Adams, SD, Parsons

Apologies: Denise Kovarovic, Gill Higgins, Aileen Lloyd. Mary Hanson
Sue Gwynn, John Baggot, Peter and Sheila Fisher, Jo Bowtell.

1. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th March 2019**

The minutes were signed as a correct record as there were no amendments.

2. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

3. **Reports**

(a) Chairperson

Welcome to the 2020 AGM for Burbage Garden Club. I'm very pleased to see so many of our members making the effort to attend, for what, for most, is not the most exciting of evenings. Hopefully we can get through the Agenda quickly and in as friendly

a manner as we can. Firstly let me introduce our current committee Vice Chair- vacant, Secretary-Helen Staniforth, Outings Secretary - Helen Staniforth, Treasurer-Anne Brett, Social Secretary -Gill Higgins, Press secretary – Vacant, Trading Secretary - Derek Lloyd, Membership Secretary - Denise Kovarovic, Newsletter Editor - Denise Kovarovic, Show Manager - Bob Gwynn, General Committee- John Brown and Mary Hanson. Chairperson - myself Linda Barratt.

As you can see we still have vacancies on the committee and would welcome members to come forward if they feel able to help us spread the load. Alternatively if you would like to go on a list of helpers that we can call on when we need, please give your name and contact details to John Brown and then when we need additional help we can arrange a team to assist with events etc. This is in addition to the show and the basket volunteers. Following on from last year's AGM the committee decided that the management of the website needed to be someone on the committee and Denise stepped into the breach so she has added that role to her two other jobs and has done an admirable job of revamping the website. The web address is burbagegardeningclub.org.uk. Please take a look to see regular additions of photos and write ups of our social evenings, trips and events by Vickie Parsons, so thank you to you both. Vickie also adds the write ups and photos to our Facebook page. It is looking good.

We have had a good year as a club with lots going on for our members to participate in. For a relatively small local club we are able to offer our members a wide variety of interesting activities to participate in, from our yearly show (74th this year) , various outings, lots of interesting speakers, the emptying and planting of the 113 hanging baskets for the Parish Council again, Spring & Autumn .This is widely supported by an army of members on the four sessions - two to empty and two to plant and I thank all of you that give up your time to join in with this - the camaraderie's second to none as are the cakes and tea breaks. I would particularly like to thank Trevor Allcoat for his valued help and

experience. Not so good was the emptying in October, in monsoon conditions. We have again been asked to empty and plant the baskets and we are negotiating with Thurlaston Garden Centre for the plants to keep it local. Paul, the owner, is still offering a discount for our members, on production of a membership card of between 5 and 10% on plants.

At our monthly social evening we have the monthly raffle run by Jan Bold - thank you Jan, she welcomes suitable donations for prizes. As a committee we enjoy feedback on how events are appreciated or even if they are not, it helps us move forward.

I'm very pleased to announce that our very own Bob Gwynn was presented with the Chairman's Community Award 2020 last night at the Millennium Hall, this award is presented annually to an individual whose voluntary efforts have made a positive difference to the Parish community, for his work with our annual show, before as unofficial show manager and now as official show manager. Bob was presented with a certificate to keep and the John Moore vase to hold for a year. So congratulations to Bob, a very worthy recipient. There will be photos to see in a few days on the website and on our Facebook page. Lastly I would like to give a big thank you to the rest of the committee for their hard work and dedication & for their unstinting support to myself in my first year as chairperson.

(b) Secretary

Helen Staniforth said she had dealt with the usual correspondence relating to the renewal of the insurance £425.27 (which has remained the same for the last two years), the affiliation fee to the RHS of £35 (which again has remained the same for several years), and the membership fee to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd of £3 per member equalling £351, plus several pieces of correspondence. The Club will again be having a promotional stand at Burbage Common Open Day on 17th May and all the correspondence dealing with that is in hand.

(c) Treasurer

Report Awaited from Anne Brett

Proposed by: Jack Staniforth

*Seconded by: Trevor
Allcoat*

(d) Membership Secretary

It was reported that membership for 2019 held steady and healthy. There were three honorary members, thirteen life members and 127 paid up members, totalling 143.

Membership renewals for 2020 should have been paid by 1st March and Denise asked that membership renewals should be done as soon as possible. (Twenty people signed up at the AGM.)

(e) Show Manager

Bob Gwynn gave the following report.

The Burbage Gardening Club 73rd Annual Show was held on Saturday 17th August 2019 at the usual venue of Hastings High School. Entries seemed to be slow coming in and at 10:30am I was wondering what sort of a show we were going to have. The show benches in the hall and gym looked a little sparse. This was somewhat of a disappointment as we had done our best to publicise the show and had had great coverage in the local media and on local radio. Yours truly joined the BBC Radio Leicester "Down To Earth" phone-in on Sunday 4th August to publicise the show. Also BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio sent Keith 'Wedge' Wedgebury to do two live broadcasts from the show on the Saturday morning, one with yours truly again and the second with Trevor Allcoat and Phil Burgess. The clips are on the website if you didn't catch them.

However by 12 noon we had ended up with slightly more entries, 642 than 636 in 2018 but a few less exhibitors, 120 compared with 128 in 2018. Sadly a few of our more prolific exhibitors were absent but we gained some new exhibitors so perhaps our publicity efforts had not been in vain. The numbers were 97 adults compared to 102 in 2018, and 23 children compared to 26 in 2018. Dahlia entries were down with only 4 exhibitors in the Dahlia Championship and a couple of the Floral Art exhibitors who had

pre-booked failed to show up. The spectacle of flowers and pot plants in the hall still gave the visiting public plenty to look at while the vegetables in the gym were still generally of very good quality with only a few empty classes. The children's tables were once again full with 79 entries overall, just a few less than 2018, which is always encouraging. Photographic entries were up this year, Jim Tomlinson had put the show on his Facebook page and with Claire, from the Hinckley Photo Centre, jointly sponsoring with Jim may have helped in this respect.

All in all still a good show and some very positive comments from exhibitors, judges and the visiting public.

I would like to thank the show committee for their continued support and hard work throughout the year but also every one of you who entered the show, sold or bought raffle tickets, sponsored classes, donated raffle prizes, made cakes and/or helped in any way with setting up on Thursday, running the whole show on Saturday and clearing down on Sunday or in any other way. You all know who you are, your help is invaluable and very greatly appreciated. I'll be knocking on the door again for help this year please.

The collection for West Leicestershire Community First Responder Group at the entrance to the show raised about £270 in the collection jar. But on the Monday morning after the show an anonymous donation of £100 for the charity was pushed through my letter box, thank you to whoever made this very generous contribution or if you know who it was please pass on our thanks. The presentation to WLCFR Group with the proceeds from the plant auction, show entrance donations and a few sundries rounded up by a few pounds from the general account amounted to £900 and was presented to Derek Windybank at the October social meeting.

We were very privileged to have Mitch Irving, retired reporter for the Hinckley Times, to present the cups and trophies this year. Thank you to Linda, our chairman, for hosting Mitch which I believe shows how much we value Mitch's generosity in giving up his time to do this. Mitch kindly included a mention of the show in his regular column in the Hinckley Times the following week.

All raffle prizes were claimed and collected by the Sunday after the show or within a few days. The lottery return was sent to H&BBC Environmental Services under the terms of the club's lottery license.

The show made a profit of £327 on a turnover of just over £2,500.

2020 Show: The 74th Annual Show will be held on Saturday 15th August this year at Hastings High School, the school is already booked. The lottery license and TEN for the bar have been organised and paid for. The NDS medals have been purchased and delivered and the RHS Banksian Medal has been ordered. The rosettes have been ordered although we already have enough for the adults as past winners have kindly returned some of theirs.

We have decided to give the children their sweets or an alternative as they enter this year to avoid them 'disappearing' from the show benches and all children will be given a few sunflower seeds, kindly donated by Kings Seeds, for "The largest sunflower head" class we intend to include in the 75th show.

The chosen charity this year is Leicestershire and Rutland Remap and Martin Grant will give us a short presentation on their work after the AGM is closed.

The show committee this year is: Trevor Allcoat, Anne Brett, Nick Miles, Derek Wheeler, Caroline Wood, Pat Wood and myself Bob Gwynn

2021 Show: The 75th Annual Show will be held on Saturday 21st August 2021 (the latest it can be as this year it is the earliest it can be as it is always on the 3rd Saturday in August)..

(f) Social Secretary

In the absence of Gill Higgins, the Chairperson read out the following report on Gill's behalf.

2019 started well with a fun skittles evening in January, but in February the speaker did not turn up, leaving a roomful of people wondering what the new Social Secretary was up to. However

the speaker came later in the year and delivered a good talk on Bark and Berries.

We had speakers presenting their specialist plants; Don Witton spoke about his National Collection of Euphorbias and Andrew Ward shared his admiration for asters.

Paul Green introduced us to his “dark and delicious plants” which many of us were happy to buy from him and Darren Rudge gave us tips on pruning. Patsy Rayner showed us beautiful pictures of Japanese gardens and explained the significance of various elements.

To end the year we had a Gardeners’ Question Time panelled by our own experts which turned out to be very much enjoyed by us all so a big thank you to the panel.

In December we played dominoes and ate mince pies to get into the Christmas spirit.

Looking forward to this year, we have the Hickmans of Hoyland Nursery in April to talk about Agapanthus and clivias; they usually bring plants. Andrew Mikolaski is returning to talk about hostas and Philip Aubury will give us an insight into our soil.

Prior to the Club’s trip to Ashwood Nurseries, Howard Drury is coming to introduce John’s Garden and in July, prior to the show, Chris Small is coming to give us tips on show preparation. The Birmingham Botanic Gardens are interesting and in October Simon Gulliver will tell us why.

The winter months are a bit different in that we are having our social domino evening in November and in December Jane Barnes is bringing cheese to support her talk on Stilton cheese. There will be skittles in January 2021 and Dave Baggot is sharing his knowhow on snowdrops in February 2021.

Finally, two important events to remember this year are our auction in May and annual show at Hasting High School in August.

The attendance figures for our social evenings are as follows:
April 2019 – 62, May 2019 – 52, June 2019 – 46, July 2019(plant auction) – 53, August 2019 – 64, September 2019 – 51, October 2019 – 46, November 2019 (gardeners’ question time) – 55, December 2019 – 40, January 2020 - 36, February 2020 – 44.

(g) Outings Secretary

It was reported by Helen Staniforth that during 2019 three trips were organised - the first was to a Plant Hunter's Fair at Cholmondeley Castle Gardens on 28th April, the second to RHS Harlow Carr on 29th June and the third on 10th September to Anglesey Abbey for the dahlias. All were well supported and, I think, enjoyed by all. The Club's first trip in 2020 was to the rhubarb sheds in Wakefield on Saturday 22nd February. Two further trips have been organised as follows. On Friday 3rd July a trip has been arranged to Elton House and Gardens, near Peterborough, and on Tuesday, 25th August there will be a trip to Ashwood Nurseries and John's Garden (a representative from there is coming to speak at our social evening in June). It is possible that there will be a trip to the new RHS Bridgewater Garden in late September/early October. Please advise Helen if you have any suggestions for trips in 2021.

(h) Trading Secretary

Derek Lloyd reported that 2019 had been a good year. There was a delivery of stock plus the potato orders in the first week of February. Sales were very busy March to August. Potatoes were ordered in October for February 2020. Orders from Kings Seeds catalogue were collated for delivery in November. The most popular composts were Clover enriched selling at 75 litres for £5.60, Clover 60 litres was sold for two bags for £9.00 which was excellent value. Tomato 4-plant grow bags were good value at £2.80 and canes ranging from 3' to 7' were half price compared to garden centres. Also for sale were ground cover, fleece, and bubble wrap, plus fungicides, fertilisers, pesticides, weed killers and many other sundry items – all better priced than most garden centres.

New for 2020 is Growmoor 80 litres professional compost at £6.00, which the Club has purchased from the nursery that grows the plants for the baskets. The Club will be monitoring this over the year and would like people to report on it.

Finally, Derek thanked everyone who helps to run the store on a weekly basis and asked all members to support the store.

4. Election of Officers

The following officers agreed to stand for another year and were duly re-elected:

Chairperson	Linda Barratt
Vice Chairperson	Vacant
Treasurer;	Anne Brett
Secretary:	Helen Staniforth
Outings Secretary:	Helen Staniforth
Social Secretary:	Gill Higgins
Trading Secretary:	Derek Lloyd
Newsletter Editor:	Denise Kovarovic
Membership Secretary:	Denise Kovarovic
Show Manager:	Bob Gwynn
Press Secretary	Vacant
General Committee:	John Brown
General Committee:	Mary Hanson
General Committee:	Up to 4 vacancies

Show Sub-committee: Bob Gwynn, Anne Brett,
Pat Wood, Trevor Allcoat,
Derek Wheeler, Nick Miles
Caroline Wood

Proposed by: Jack Staniforth Seconded by: Derek Wheeler

The following two people agreed to join the committee:

Jan Bold

Proposed by Bob Gwynn Seconded by Derek Wheeler

Trevor Allcoat

Proposed by Heather Evans Seconded by Derek Wheeler

It was noted that Derek Lloyd has taken the decision to step down as Trading Secretary at the 2021 AGM. Fortunately, however, John Brown has volunteered to take over the position. Many thanks go to Derek who has been Trading Secretary since 2009.

5. Any Other Business

(a) Review of Tenancy Lease on Store

Following the sad loss of Geoff Briars last July, a member of the club was given a document about the lease of the Trading Store by Geoff's wife, who came across it when sorting out his papers. This was given to members of the committee. Helen Staniforth duly found our copy of the original lease. On reading through the document it came to light that the lease of 28 years had lapsed. A meeting was convened with as many members of the committee as we could with two founding members of the club invited for us to discuss the way forward & the club's history. It was decided that I as chairwoman would contact Burbage Parish Council to arrange a meeting, which I duly did. After much discussion between myself and members of the Millennium Hall staff a copy of the lease was scanned and emailed to them. As some of you may be aware the Millennium Hall has been undergoing major building works and this impacted on how they were able to respond to us as they had suspended as many meetings and working party groups as they could until after Christmas, plus their records were unobtainable at that time as they were unable to access their archives and records. The staff at the Hall were having to move offices around the building works, which all delayed things. We were told that it had been decided to ask the Allotments Working Party to look at the situation and make recommendations to the Parish Council. This was later delayed by the Chairwoman of the Allotment Working Party being unavailable as her husband, Peter Hall, had been taken seriously ill and subsequently died, which I announced at a previous social evening as he was a long standing member of the club. The Allotments Working Party finally met on Wednesday 26th February 2020. As of today we are awaiting official results of this meeting but I am confident that it will be favourable. The recommendations of the working party will be presented to the F & GP (Finance and General Purpose) meeting on March 16th before going before the full council meeting in April for confirmation. Should we be able to take on a new lease it will be the club's responsibility to pay for the costs for ourselves and the council and also the cost of the valuation of the Trading Store that the council would require before setting the yearly rent. The rent has never been increased in the 28 years of the lease. It is standard procedure that the tenant pays any costs in the drawing up of the lease in my experience. As we go forward, we as a committee have taken steps to ensure that this situation does not arise again by adding the lease to be

discussed at the AGM each year with a countdown of the remaining years of the lease left.i.e 27 of 28 years remaining. If you have any questions I will try to answer them now but if I am unable to they will be recorded and we as the committee will try and answer them as soon as possible. Any questions, please state your name and the question and it will be recorded for the minutes. *There were no questions arising.*

(b) Daffodil Competition

Bob Gwynn queried whether the club should bring forward the daffodil competition next year as the changing weather means they are in flower earlier. AGREED.

(c) Coronavirus

Members will be notified via the website or on the facebook page if any social meetings need to be cancelled in the next few months. If in doubt, members were asked to check with a committee member.

6. Dates for the 2021 AGM and Annual Show

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 2nd March and the show on 21st August 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m

PLANT AUCTION 2020

Please make a note that this year's plant auction will be held earlier on **5th May**. We have made the change so as to be able to auction different varieties of plants.

Denise Kovarovic

THURLASTON GARDEN CENTRE

We have managed to negotiate a discount for our members on production of your membership card. Discount is between 5% and 10% at the checkout.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Bulkington Gardening Club

We share information with Bulkington Gardening Club and they have sent us information on speakers for this year and the trips they are running. Meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Bulkington Village Centre. See their website for more information.

Talks include Clematis on 15th April, Every plant tells a story on 20th May and Gardening for butterflies on 17th June.

Future outings include RHS Harlow Carr - 25th July and Bodenham Arboretum - 31st October

Phone Paul Nash on 024 7649 1820 for more information.

Plant Hunters Fairs

www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk

Some fairs fairly local to us - see website for full listings and newsletter with interesting articles

19th April 2020	Middleton Hall 9am - 4pm
25th April 2020	Sandwell Park Farm 10am - 4pm
9th May 2020	Donington-le-Heath 10am - 4pm
25th May 2020	Carsington Water 10am - 4pm
31st May 2020	National Memorial Arboretum 10am - 4pm

Dahlia & Chrysanthemum Plants Sale

16th May 2020

Bulkington Working Men's Club Car Park

10am

Denise Kovarovic

BURBAGE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNITY AWARD 2020

On March 2nd 2020 Burbage Gardening Club are proud to announce that Bob Gwynn received the Burbage Parish Council Chairman's Community award for work done in the community for Burbage as Show Manager.

Bob officially took on this role in 2018 but had been working as part of the Show team prior to this with former Show Manager Helen Roberts. Bob commented, "It's not just down to me, there is a general committee, the show sub-committee and armies of club members who help with the baskets and the show. So I'm happy to accept the award but it will be on behalf of the club as a whole."

Mr Paul Williams Councillor and Chairman for Burbage Parish Council made this award presentation speech:

"If we capture our thoughts of bygone Burbage, then we could think about hosiery, but we should also think about plant nurseries. The village had numerous around the village, many of National standing.

As a child I would only walk a few yards from home to find a sign proudly saying; "Gold Medal Roses". But the interest was not confined to the professional, it was an outstanding hobby in the area, to which many in the village would have national awards and also not confined to roses, but sweet peas, chrysanthemums, or fuchsias to name but a few.

It is in this context that in 1946 the Burbage Allotment Garden Association was formed and laid the foundations of today's Burbage Gardening Club. The most powerful connection between this village history and the residents of Burbage is the annual show. Running a garden show takes several volunteers, who each contribute in many different ways, but any successful event needs somebody to step-up to take a coordinating lead.

Bob Gwynn was one such volunteer who participated in the show under the direction of Helen Roberts. When Helen retired in 2013, Bob

stepped up, initially one step back from the title Show Manager, helped the coordination with others, but finally in 2018 accepted the full title of Show Manager.

Club Chairman Linda Barratt has commented: "If a job needs doing, he does it. Bob will always try to help."

Bob considers himself a "gardener on and off since childhood" although there have been breaks, home ownership reconnected him to the soil, mainly growing vegetables and that has expanded to a parish allotment.

I know Bob wishes to accept the award on behalf of the whole team of volunteers and his thoughts recognise that community events are reliant on more than a figurehead. But this evening I'm very pleased that, just as we did 10 years ago with Helen, we are recognising Bob's outstanding contribution to the community, thus carrying on this important connection with the "roots" of the village".



BLACKBERRY VODKA

1Kg Blackberries
250g Granulated Sugar
70cl Vodka

Wash blackberries and put into a sterilised preserving jar

Add sugar and lightly crush berries

Pour over vodka, seal jar and shake

Leave to infuse 2 - 4 weeks

Strain into bottles

I took my 'eye off the ball' and left the jar for five weeks and feel the sweetness has jaded a bit. Good idea to taste after two weeks until desired flavour achieved.



Looking in my freezer I still have some strawberries and tomatoes so I think I'll get cracking and make some jam and strawberry ripple ice cream and possibly make a tomato based spring vegetable soup.

Denise Kovarovic

SOCIAL MEETINGS CALENDAR 2020

7th April

Agapanthus



Steve Hickman

5th May



Plant Auction



2nd June

John's Garden



Howard Drury

7th July

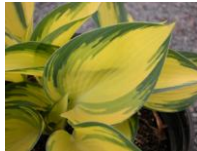


**Show
Preparation**

Chris Shaw

4th
August

Hostas



Andrew Mikolaski

1st Sept



Love your soil

Phillip Aubury