



NEWSLETTER

February - March 2014

Affiliated to



www.algs.org.uk

Secretary Mrs Jane Lay, The Gleanings, Marlin Square, Abbots Langley, WD5 OEG
Tel: 01923 447281

SPRING SHOW

29TH MARCH

At Henderson Hall

11 am to 1pm

QUIZ NIGHT

11TH APRIL

Book with Jo Bromwich NOW

TRIP TO WALES

Deposits to Adrienne NOW

077121 90656



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

YOUR NEW 2014 COMMITTEE –

Officers-	President	Hon. Mrs Bella Stuart-Smith (until 2018 AGM)
	Chairman	Chris Bromwich
	Secretary	Jane Lay
	Treasurer	Myles Darbyshire
	Trading Secretary	Jeremy Foster

Committee –	Ass. Trading Sec	Joe Johnston
	Talks Organiser/ Quiz Box Office	Jo Bromwich
	Depot Rota	Pat Colwell
	Tours/outings	Adrienne Barnes
	Carnival organiser/ Show computer	Sue North
	Quiz compiler	Yvonne Merry
	Website	John Merry
	Show Schedules/Raffles	David Sutherland
	Apiary Manager	Kate Macnish
	Publicity	Pam Cotton

Auditor - Norman Meldrum

We had an excellent AGM with some 57 members attending. We welcomed Bella Stuart-Smith as our new President for 4 years and said goodbye to Peter with our thanks. Peter was presented with an Honorary Life Membership and a voucher to spend on a plant for his lovely garden in recognition of his presidency. Jane was also made an Honorary Life Member to recognise her 30 years as being our Secretary and also Bryan Ellis who retired after being on the committee and as our Assistant Trading Secretary for so many years. We welcomed Joe Johnston who has offered to take over Bryan's place and Adrienne who took Kate's position.

I was happy to inform members that we had applied to the BBC to go on the Gardeners' Questiontime again but we have to find a venue which hold 150 people. Jo reported that she had booked Chris Beardshaw to talk to us in 2015 and obviously tickets will be sold to attend this event. Please watch out for notice of the date in the Newsletter once things have been finalised. We will open tickets to members only to start with and open it up to the public if we do not sell all the tickets to you the members.

Afterwards Graham Bailey gave us a superb insight into how the Games Makers made the 2013 Olympics.

NEWSLETTERS

During this year we are hoping to encourage all those members on email to have their Newsletters by email NOT by hand-delivery. We appreciate that some of you are NOT on email and the status quo will remain for you but this action will save the Society some many pounds which could be spent on other things for the whole of the membership.

JOBS TO DO

1. Start repotting permanent container plants removing some of the old soil and replacing it with new.
2. Cut back herbaceous perennials and deciduous grasses left for winter interest before new growth starts.
3. Finish pruning climbing and rambling roses and bush roses towards the end of the month.
4. Sow vegetables such as broad beans, leeks, peas, onions and salads under cover for early outdoor planting.
5. Renovate overgrown deciduous hedges such as beech or hornbeam. If reducing more than 50% stagger the pruning over 2 years pruning different sides of the plant.
6. Start warming soil for early sowing of vegetables by covering the soil with polythene or clothes.
7. Prune autumn fruiting raspberries close to the ground. If you want really early fruits leave the odd cane unpruned.
8. Sow chillies, sweet peppers and a few tomato seeds for early fruits.
9. Sow sweet peas in the greenhouse or cold frame.
10. Check plants in the greenhouse for any bugs
11. To reduce club root apply lime to the soil 8oz per square yard if necessary.
12. If you can maintain temperatures of 10C or 50F you could pot up dahlia tubers
13. Prune overwintered fuchsias to one to two buds on each shoot.
14. Dig in overwintered green manures.
15. Prune late flowering clematis viticella down to 30cm above the ground.
16. Cloche strawberry plants to encourage early fruiting.
17. Last chance to prune your fruit trees with the winter prune before they burst into bud.

DAHLIAS UPDATE

Inspect your dahlia tubers regularly during the winter in case of any rot. When the weather is a little warmer check if there are any shoots growing and if so take basal shoot cuttings when they are approximately 3" use (new) hormone rooting powder and pop into a propagator. Once rooted pot them on into 3 1/2" pots in new compost. You will find that these make better dahlias when finally planted in the garden than using the old tubers. You could instead split up the larger tubers when the shoots are showing and pot them on once they have established new white roots and shoots.

CORDON CURRANTS

Do you grow delicious redcurrants, white currants and or pink currants? They usually take up a lot of room in the bed so have you thought of taking hard wood cuttings and keep each plant to a single stem. Yes, you can buy cordon currants but it is much more appealing to grow your own and cheaper too. All currants are very easy to propagate and root all you have to do is cut a branch off the parent plant just below a leaf node and push into the soil. Once rooted replant in a row if you want more than one into the final position 3ft apart, let the cutting grow upwards and tie on to horizontal wires. Prune back the tips by a quarter, just above a bud. Remove side shoots from the lower 6in of stem, then cut back all other side shoots to one or two buds from the main stem. Carry on pruning in subsequent years from early June to mid-July. These plants can also be grown in pots if you do not have a vegetable plot.

DO YOU HAVE A FIG PLANT?

I have one and often wondered how and when to prune it. When pruning to encourage fruiting it is important to understand how figs grow. In this country figs only produce fruits once a year and need pruning in November in milder areas but in colder areas wait until the spring frost has finished. Remove all dead, old, crossing and diseased wood and any vertical branches. Pinch out the growing tips of about half the young stems in June each year to encourage more short side shoots. These will bear embryo fruit in late summer of the next year which will mature the year after. Remove all immature fruit around leaf fall in the autumn as they will not survive the winter. The tiny figs produced near the ends of the youngest branches in late summer will usually overwinter unscathed in the south to ripen the following summer.

MANURE

From our Depot – horse manure per bag. Don't forget that our Depot is well stocked with manure in bags for you to collect, and is ideal if you only want small quantities and instantly.

For delivery -

Dave Birkin Tel: 01442 832997 - £40 approx. for a 5 tonne load. It is a mixture of horse and cow manure and is around 18 months old.

Braziers Dairies - 07956945114

For collection – don't forget to take your wellington boots, fork/spade and bags

a. Mansion House stables (opposite the AL School entrance on the Bedmond Road) also provides horse manure for free to collect in the right hand side far corner. You have to go there when someone is working at the stables and ask if you can take some. They usually will be pleased to see you as they have to pay to get it removed!

b. There is a house on the right hand side going down Chequers Lane, before the bridge, where you can acquire manure. Knock on the door before helping yourself.

c. There are stables run by Debbie Randall (07721327763) on the A405 on the same side as Burston's. Due to the dual carriage way you need to go past Burston's, over the next small roundabout to the big M10 roundabout, come back on yourself about 100yds BEFORE you reach the next small roundabout (Park Street/Tippendell Lane) the stables are on the left hand side. The stables are usually open each afternoon between 2 – 3.30pm and often on Saturday mornings. The manure is usually well matured. Note you must telephone Debbie BEFORE you go as she is not always there.

If you know of any other supplies and would like to share this knowledge please let me know.

GARDENERS

I am always being asked to recommend someone to do their gardens for them. I am sorry I do not believe I should recommend anyone but here are a few names of people willing to help you, please let me know if you know of anyone else –

Keith Dancey (local) – 07976 397510 or 397510

Paul Rennell (local) - 01923 261349 (evenings)

Sevvy's Garden Service (local) – 07986545366

info@sgservice.co.uk www.sgservice.co.uk



PEACH LEAF CURL

Do you have a peach or apricot tree in your garden? I expect the tree sometimes has curled, swollen and blistered red blotches on the green leaves? Fungicides based on copper ie Vitax Bordeaux Mixture, Bayer Garden Fruit and Vegetable Disease Control) will give good protection. Spray in the autumn just before leaf fall and again as buds begin to swell in late January NOW and a third time two weeks later. If your tree is by a wall or a fence cover it with a large sheet of polythene or glass to keep it dry keeping it in place from January to mid May. I hope you enjoy your lovely fruit.

2014 SHOW SCHEDULES PHOTOGRAPHS (NEW ITEMS REMINDER)

Spring Show 29 March - "Winter Wonderland", "Fungi", "Down in the Woods", "Reflections", "Focus on Foliage", "Birds Feeding", "Six Legged Friends", "Cloudscapes", and "Staying on Stamens". For the Young Exhibitors aged 4-7 and 8-12 the subjects are: "Pets at Play", "Spiders Webb" and "The Best Photograph from the Window of a Moving Vehicle".

Autumn Show 13 September – "A Woodland Scene", "At the Carnival or Fairground", "A Fuchsia Flower in Close Up", "Frozen in Time", "A Different Perspective", "A Landscape in Moss or Lichen", "Wildlife" (in the garden or countryside), and "Nightlife". For the Young Exhibitor the subjects are "Best Snowman", and "An Unusually Shaped Vegetable".

We are lucky to have been donated 2 new trophies for this show – a beautiful cut glass vase donated by our retiring President Peter Tomson and a lovely cut glass cup donated by Yvonne Merry in memory of her mother.

Please make the effort to exhibit something in our shows, because without your support they will not continue to be the success and local attraction they been in our village for so many years.

COFFEE

At the 2013 AGM when Smiths Coffee owner came to talk to us all about coffee production and sold us some of their coffee which you may want to buy more locally. If you attended the last AGM you will have met member Anne Richardson who is a supplier of Smiths coffee of Apsley. If you are interested in ordering from her phone 07888 723594 and she will deliver locally to you.

WADDESSEN MANOR GARDEN CENTRE

This Centre is closing on February 25 and they have lots of plants on sale. If you are interested drive up to Waddesdon Manor, go past the main entrance and opposite the pub turn left. Now is your chance to purchase some excellent plants at lower costs.

DEPOT NEWS

Remember that the depot is open every Saturday from 9 till 10 am even through the winter months. Keep your garden birds well fed! We also have good stocks of heavy horse manure to improve your soil and fleece and bubble wrap to help keep the frost from your more delicate plants. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with deliveries, but we would welcome anyone else who is available during the day to help from time to time. Jeremy is very interested to hear from you about what you think of the peat free compost and the Vitax plant feeds we sell in the depot. Please contact him on our web address above



UP DATE ON PESTICIDES FOR EDIBLE CROPS

There are more restrictions on what can be used for pest and disease control on fruit and vegetables than ornamentals. Of synthetic pesticides, only those with a specific label recommendation for an edible plant can be used.

There are restrictions on the maximum dose, number of applications, spray interval (time between applications) and harvest interval (the minimum period between application and harvest), usually specific to each crop. Follow the instructions and crops that can be sprayed – listed on each product's label, which should be read before purchase – to ensure the crop is safe to eat. Due to these restrictions, there are no suitable synthetic pesticides available for many crop pests or diseases.

Organic Pesticides - The exception to these restrictions are non-synthetic "organic" insecticides, including those based on natural pyrethrins, fatty acids and plant oils. Often labelled "for use on most edible plants" with a one-day harvest interval, they are contact in action and have short persistence, but offer good control of soft-bodied insects such as aphids.

Fungicides - The only fungicides available to use on vegetables are copper-based, to treat blight on potatoes and tomatoes, leaf spot on celery. Only products containing copper and liquid concentrates of difenoconazole or myclobutanil can be sprayed on fruit, such as apples, pears, plums and gooseberries: again, refer to labels for details.

Go on www.rhs.org.uk for brand names and active ingredients change. For up-to-date lists of what gardeners can buy, search "Pesticides" at the RHS website.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

I am still coming across several email addresses which bounce back, so please let me know any changes on leon.lay@ntlworld.com or contactus@algs.org.uk as we cannot send you up to date news or Newsletters if we have the wrong email address.

ABBOTS LANGLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY MEETINGS

If you are interested in history local and other come along to the meetings on the last Monday of each month starting at 8pm, venue the Manor House. On 24th February there will be a talk on London Bridges and Tunnels. Guests cost £2. Look forward to seeing you.

ABBOTS LANGLEY COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROJECT

This is going ahead at last at Primrose Hill playing fields and we are pleased that John Kersey has agreed to take on the project using his knowledge of fruit trees. Some 32 apple, pear, plum and gage trees have been ordered and would you and your family like to take part in planting these trees? Maybe your child's class or school would like to join in? If so please contact me and I will pass on your name and telephone number.

Planting days are Saturdays 1st and 8th February – please come and join us but don't forget your spade and wellingtons about 8.30am



ALGS TRAVEL CLUB 2014

I have now booked the coach for our Spring trip to the Tulip Festival at Pashley Manor on Saturday 26th April. The outing will now, due to the rise in the coach company's costs, be £22.00pp. Please secure your place by letting me have this amount ASAP. You can do this by seeing me at one of our social evenings or putting an envelope through my letterbox containing your name, contact details and payment. Cheques to be made out to ALGS. For those of you who also wanted to go to Compton Vervey in June I am proposing that we run this as a car share outing. More details on this to come.

It is also time to book up for our big trip to Wales:-

Day 1: Departing from Abbots Langley on Friday 16th May, we travel north stopping at the World's first public biodynamic garden at Ryton near Coventry in the Midlands. From there we will continue to the historic town of Ludlow. The last leg of the journey is to Aberystwyth where we will be based for the rest of our trip.

Day 2: We begin the day with a visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth. We move on to the nearby Dyfi Osprey Project. Then before returning to our hotel we will make a stop for a cream tea at nearby Ynyshir Hall.

Day 3: Today begins with a visit to Cae Hir Gardens before moving on to Lampeter. In the afternoon we'll see the 18th century Welsh gentry estate of Llanerchaeron.

Day 4: Sees us leaving Wales and returning home. We visit Hampton Court Castle & Gardens in Herefordshire on the way and arrive back in Abbots Langley in the evening.

The cost of the trip based on a minimum of 25 people is £379.00pp. If our numbers reach 30+ then we have a £20 discount making the cost £359.00pp. (Single room supplement is £29.00pp). NT & RHS properties are free to card-carrying members, non-members will pay these costs locally.

Please call or email me if you want to ask any questions about the above outings.

Adrienne

Tel: 077121 90656

Email: barnesadrienne@aol.com

Adresse: 14 Little How Croft, Abbots Langley, WD5 0BR

PLEASE SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WHEN PURCHASING AT THE DEPOT

**DO YOU HAVE A PARISH COUNCIL ALLOTMENT OR ELSEWHERE IF SO PLEASE
LET ME KNOW WHERE FOR MY RECORDS**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN. PLEASE
PAY YOUR £5 AT THE DEPOT, SOCIAL EVENINGS OR TO
SECRETARY JANE.**

**NOTE - IF YOU PAY YOUR RENEWALS BY POST PLEASE INCLUDE
A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE OR A 50P STAMP**



FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

For flower arrangements for any occasion at prices below the florist shops. Ideal for weddings, funerals, anniversaries, etc. contact Jo Bromwich on 01923 443758. Note -Jo does not provide flowers only.

SPRING BARBEQUE BREAKFAST AT THE DEPOT

SATURDAY 19th April

Come and enjoy Chris' wonderful bacon and eggs in French bread with coffee or tea with the help of Jo and Kate

FUND RAISING

This is a most important part of our Society which gives benefits to all members in some form. Jo Bromwich likes to get good speakers for our social evenings and they can be expensive, and we like to run two shows in the year, and I am sure that all of you who take part in these activities enjoy them. We also run two quiz nights in the autumn and spring as well as our biggest fund raiser the Carnival stall. Please support our funding raising when you can.- we always welcome unwanted gifts for our Raffles at meetings and shows. Thank you.

WEB SITE – www.algs.org.uk

Our web site has lots of useful information and we are regularly updating the site. If you want to contact us by email use - contactus@algs.org.uk

OUR DEPOT STOCKS A LARGE RANGE OF WILD BIRD FOOD AND VERY REASONABLE PRICES

(Prices can change with new stock)

Mixed seed	£1.10	Feeder seed	80p
No waste mix	£1.90	Peanuts	£2.00
Sunflower seeds black	£1.40	Niger seed	£1.40
Sunflower seeds stripy	£1.30	Fat Balls	20p or 6 for a £1
Sunflower hearts	£1.90	Square Fat blocks	90p
Suet Pellets 1k	£3.00	Coconut shells	from 60p
Suet pellets 3.5k	£9.50	various plastic wild bird food containers	



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The Society needs a new concrete plinth in front of the Depot to allow deliveries to be taken into the Depot on a pallet truck. At the moment it is very difficult as we have to lay down boards to get over the mud and stones. We need your help in digging out the front of the Depot to prepare it for the ready mix. We have been very lucky to get funding for this from Paul Goggins in 2012 and Sara Bedford in 2013 from their Locality Budgets. This is not just for the members of the society but the allotment holders on Manor House as this will help them when they get large deliveries of manure delivered so we hope that everyone will come up trumps to get digging. This will take place in the spring as it is too cold now for the wet concrete to set satisfactorily.

I would like to be able to have a list of helpers ready for when we start this project, so please email me on leon.lay@ntlworld.com or phone 01923 447281 or on the Society web site above or speak to Chris or Jeremy to let us know if you are willing to help an hour, 2-3 hours, a morning or the whole day. As they say "more hands make light work" and we hope that this will be so for this project.

DEPOT DUTIES – 8.45 to 10.10am

If you make a mutually agreed swap, please don't forget to let Pat Colwell know so that he can keep an accurate record. Being on duty involves 1¼ hour's duty on a Saturday morning, only once or twice a year. There will always be a Committee Member on hand, to give guidance. Many hands make light work! So if you are willing to join the list of volunteers to help serve in the Depot, please let Pat (443721) know and he can add you to the list if there is a cancellation by someone. Many thanks to all members who have helped out this year.

We have had several members forget their depot duty! Please may I remind you that if no helper's turn up it does leave the committee member very vulnerable and they may not be able to cope on their own and have to close?

DUTY ROTA (correct at going to print but always changing)

FEBRUARY

- 1 John Merry, Jean Bell, Terry Bray
- 8 Jeremy Foster, Bob Cockerell, Jean Robinson
- 15 Kate Macnish, Joanne Nottage, Anne Richardson
- 22 Myles Darbyshire, John and Anne Cox

MARCH

- 1 David Sutherland, Norman Meldrum, Roy Jenner
- 8 Chris Bromwich, Lesley Campbell, Richard Tovell
- 15 Sue North, Joyce Davies, Sally Sanderson
- 22 Jane Lay, Alan Alexander, Bella Stuart-Smith
- 29 Pat Colwell, Roger Gotts, Pauline Bryant

APRIL

- 5 Jo Bromwich, Jo Domaniewska, Susan Harris
- 12 Kate Macnish, John and Brenda Kersey
- 19 Adrienne Barnes, Peter Barnes, Madelene Harris ***** **BBQ BREAKFAST**
- 26 Myles Darbyshire, Anne Richardson, Roger Silvester

MAY

- 3 Jo Bromwich, John Sutton, Brian Hibberd
- 10 Jeremy Foster, Barbara Foster, Alan Wragg
- 17 Adrienne Barnes, Tony and Julia Pink
- 24 Chris Bromwich, Keith Gissing, Sandra Higgins
- 31 Jane Lay, Brian and Wendy Norris



JUNE

- 7 Sue North, Vince Watts, John Noonan
14 Pat Colwell, Les and Anne Whitmore
21 John Merry, Peter and Maggie Shallcross
28 David Sutherland, Keith Robertson, Barbara Rowbottom

Please put these dates in your diary NOW. Please look through them and if they are NOT OK please swap NOW to make life easier for Pat.

I appreciate you could be ill at the last minute on the Saturday morning but please phone me on 01923 447281 before 8.30am so that I can inform the committee member not to expect you. Several of you have not turned up at all which is very bad for the committee member who may have had to work on their own and be vulnerable with the money in the depot

BUTTERFLIES IN GLASSHOUSE

The Glasshouse at Wisley will once again be transformed into a colourful paradise this winter, as the popular Butterflies in the Glasshouse event returns on 18th January to 9th March. Pre book your timed ticket online at www.rhs.org.uk/wisley

SNOWDROPS EVENTS

You could have a walk around the local churchyard at St Lawrence to see snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils or would you like to see carpets of different snowdrops and spring flowers? Visit Benington Lordship in February. Go on www.beningtonlordship.co.uk or telephone 08701 261709

RHS EVENTS 2014

Chelsea Flower Show 20 – 24 May; BBC Gardeners World Live 11-15 June; RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 8-13 July; RHS Tatton Park Flower Show 23-27 July; RHS Wisley Flower Show 3-7 September plus others.

APIARY NEWS

Not a lot to report at this time of year suffice to say that we have made checks on the bees at intervals and have decided to add Fondant as a feed to help guard against starvation. We have noticed that with the relatively mild weather conditions on some days the bees are out flying and bringing back pollen. Fingers crossed for an early spring and not a long drawn out winter like 2013.

HONEY JARS

Please return your honey jars if you have purchased honey from us. This should save money in not having to buy so many jars next year. If you have purchased larger jars of honey from the shops and are hexagonal we would be pleased to receive those as well (with labels removed).

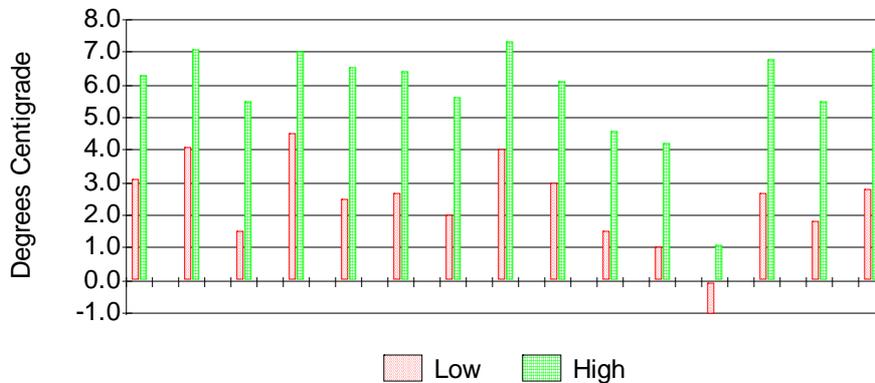
We hope you enjoyed our Bees honey.



TEMPERATURE REPORT

15 Years compared 1999 - 2013

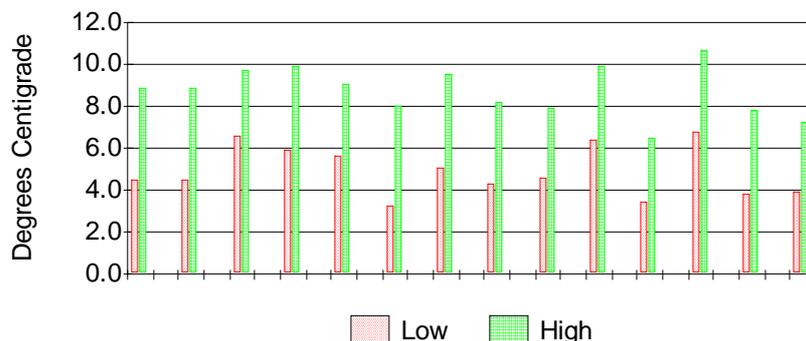
Average December temperatures



A relatively warmer month on average! Second only to 2006 for daytime temperatures. Better than average for the night time.

14 Years compared 2000 - 2013

Average November temperatures



A cold month, with just three years having colder nights and just one year having colder days. This month, there were only 5 days with daytime temperatures into double figures - three of those days were the first three days of the month. In 2011, there were 17 days with daytime temperatures into double figures, six of them at the end of the month!

At the end of December, I will be able to compare 15 years as these readings commenced on 24th November 1999

SOWING POPPIES FOR FLOWERING IN AUGUST

There are lots of plans in the pipeline to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War in August. One of them is to plant field poppies around the village and possibly in your gardens. I appreciate most of us the opium poppies in our gardens which seed everywhere but not all are red and some are lilac. We are not sure whether the poppies sown this year will flower this year but it worth a go and they will flower next year if not. Perhaps you would like to take part? I expect we can buy the seeds now so please get sowing.



PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL EVENINGS AND OTHER EVENTS IN 2014

Held in the Manor House, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley (opposite Popes Road)
unless stated

Meetings start at 8pm unless stated

Doors open at 7.40pm

If you have any ideas for future talks please contact Jo Bromwich on 01923 443758

February 20	Ann Richardson on her trip to India
March 20	Andrew Babicz on Seasonal container gardening
March 29	SPRING SHOW in Henderson Hall
April 17	David Curry on Biodiversity in the Churchyard
April 11	QUIZ NIGHT - please note the change in date
April 19	BARBEQUE BREAKFAST IN DEPOT
April 26	Trip to Pashley Manor Gardens, Sussex £20 per person
May 15	Roy Barrows on Orchids (plant hunter and orchid importer)
June 7	ABBOTS LANGLEY CARNIVAL STALL
June 29	Trip to Compton Verney, Warwickshire £20 per person
July 5	SUMMER BBQ BREAKFAST
July	ALFS FESTIVAL EVENT – DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED
September 13	AUTUMN SHOW in AL Community Centre
September 18	John Marshal on Chrysanthemums – growing and showing
October 16	Kate Harwood on 20 th Century Plant Breeding
November 1	AUTUMN BBQ BREAKFAST
November 20	John Tyler on Life in a Nutshell, natural history in miniature.
November 28	QUIZ NIGHT
December 18	Christmas Sparkle Night plus Jacky Nutkins on light hearted tales of a professional gardener and quiz
December 20	WINTER BBQ BREAKFAST, MULLED WINE AND CHRISTMAS MINCE PIES

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME – Guest entrance £2.00