



March 2024

NEWSLETTER

Egham Gardens & Allotments Association



WELCOME TO
THE SPRING
NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter – March already and the first item on the Clubs’ calendar was the Daffodil Day event we held on Saturday 8th March outside the United Church. Thank you to Janet for organising it and to everyone who came along to help and who donated plants. Fortunately the weather was kind and we had a good amount of daffodils, plants etc to sell which resulted in our raising £211.55 which was considerably up on last year.

and this is in hand. Perennial is the UK’s only charity dedicated to helping all those working with plants, trees, flowers or grass, and their families live better lives.

Jobs within the gardening industry are often physical, low paid and seasonal, making life challenging. The charity has a number of gardens which have been gifted to them. Donations and visits to their gardens allow them to give vital assistance to those in need. Further information is available on their website <https://perennial.org.uk>

SPRING
SALE



The next event is our Spring Sale on 18th May, again outside the United Church, so when you are sowing your seeds or propagating your plants perhaps do a few extra to donate to our stall. As ever, any offers of help on the day will be much appreciated.

MAGNA
CARTA DAY
2024



Magna Carta Day this year will be on Saturday 15th June and subject to our getting enough volunteers to help on the day, plants and items to sell, we will have a stall there too.

80 THINGS
YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW

Our talk in February by Ray Broughton (80 Things You Didn’t Know) was very interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. Ray delivered his talk with clarity and humour and there were certainly a number of things I (we) didn’t know. His fact sheet is available upon our making a donation to his chosen charity Perennial



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SPRING SHOW & QUIZ

Looking towards April our Spring Show and Quiz is on 11th April so be sure to have these in your diary.

Would the winners from last years' Spring Show please ensure you bring the Cup/Plate to the Spring Show or, if you are unable to attend contact Janet Hales beforehand to arrange delivery – bernard@enterprisenol.co.uk

RHS CLUB AFFILIATION CARD

Don't forget that we have an RHS club affiliation card for you all to use that gives you access to the RHS gardens around the country. The usual charge for 2 adults would be £20.35 (inc. Gift Aid) or £18.50 (exc. Gift Aid) However, using the card 2 adults can gain entry for 50% less – allowing for a treat at the café or a purchase from the garden centre. Please let me know if you wish to use it at any time.

CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE



You will be aware that Wendy Flight has now stepped down from the Committee and away from the Club. A card has been sent to her thanking her for her invaluable assistance over the years and to wish her well in the future.

New Committee members are John Ridge and Sandra Gray and I take this opportunity to welcome them. I am sure they will have some fresh ideas to put forward – no pressure John and Sandra !



BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH. You will recall I put this in the December newsletter and the results are due to be released on 12th April which will give a valuable insight to how our garden birds are faring. Nature is in trouble all over the UK and over the last 50 years we have lost 38 million birds from our skies! Go to the RSPB website to get updates.



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MONTHLY COMPETITION



I am pleased to see that the entries for the Monthly Competition have increased – keep it up.

AROUND THE SHOWS

Dates for your diary!

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RHS Orchid Show, Wisley - 15th – 17th March

RHS Daffodil Day, Wisley – 9th April from 12p – 5pm
10th April from 10am – 5pm

Spring Orchid Day, Squires Garden Centre, Shepperton – 13th April

Looseley Spring Garden Show, Guildford - 19th to 21st April

Spring Live at South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex - 20th and 21st April

Denbies Heritage Plant Fair, Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking - 5th May

FOLLOWING THE JANUARY TALK ON SNOWDROPS. Jill Williams has submitted the article below:

Talking of snowdrops and E A Prof. Alice Roberts where archaeologists are excavating the site of Elsyng Hall in the Forty Hill area, a palace where Edward VI and Elizabeth I spent parts of their childhood. This is now the grounds of Forty Hall, a house owned by the Bowles family from 1895 to 1951, the same family mentioned in connection with snowdrops and the perennial wallflower. They also built Myddleton House on the opposite side of the New River on the site of Bowling Green House, a house which passed to Henry Carington Bowles on marriage in 1799. E A (Gussie) Bowles live there (1865 – 1954) and created his garden. When we visited half a century ago it had been neglected but I believe it is in better condition now. Capel Manor College, also mentioned, is just a little further along the same road.

According to my father, one of my great uncles worked for both a Colonel James who lived in the Dower House of



FOLLOWING THE JANUARY TALK ON SNOWDROPS Continued.....

Forty Hall and for Gussie Bowles and the RHS confirm that he had an anemone named after him. Having been born in 1872 he was still living at Forty Hall and working as a gardener in 1939. Although he didn't die until 1965 I cannot remember ever meeting him, but this would not be a surprise knowing my ever bickering family members. Forty Hall is Grade I listed, Capel House is Grade II* and Myddleton House is Grade II (information taken from Enfield Preservation Society Heritage Walks No. 1)

(Thanks to Jill for submitting this article and if anyone has anything they would like to submit for inclusion in newsletters please let me know. Cynthia)

APRIL JOBS.....

April Jobs.....

- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Protect delphinium and hosta new growth from slugs and snails
- Sow hardy annuals
- Sow carrots and peas
- Plant potatoes, onion sets and Jerusalem artichokes
- Add aquatic plants to the pond after its Spring tidy-up
- Prune hydrangeas
- Check your roses – milder weather can see aphids appear
- Make or buy a bee hotel for solitary bees



Website Address: <https://www.egaa.org.uk>.

Scan the QR code (QR - Quick Response Code) below:



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