



## HARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

### CLUB NEWS

Thank everyone who came to last month's meeting we had a fabulous evening. We would like to say a big thank you to the members who helped provide the six varieties of soup and the lovely selection of breads that were available, we always know this is the biggest attraction of the evening and it would not have been a success without all your help.

At this month's meeting we will be voting for the charity we would like to support with some of the proceeds from this year's plant sale. Further on in this newsletter you will find a list of the charities that have been put forward by members for this year. If you are unable to attend the February meeting and wish to vote please let Andy or Kate know and we will add your vote.

Kate and Andy

**Our meeting this week:** Wednesday 22nd February.  
Hardington Village Hall 7.30pm

**Snowdrops, Fair Maids of February.**

**A talk presented by Mickey Little from Avon Bulbs.**

Avon Bulbs are a small family owned business that has been operating for over 30 years from their base near South Petherton. Up until 2018 when they took an indefinite break from Chelsea Flower Show they had won Gold Medals at every RHS Chelsea Flower Show over the previous 25 years with a tally of 30 Chelsea Gold Medals in total!

Mickey will be bringing a selection of bulbs for sale, so don't forget to bring some extra money with you.

Who can resist some plant retail therapy!

**Refreshments:** Clare Middleton and Sue Hubbard

**Raffle:** Ann Egerton

Please note that the committee are keeping a careful watch on the on-going COVID risk to members, we will be keeping the hall well ventilated during our meetings, so remember to bring layers of clothing, and we ask that you do not attend if you are feeling unwell.

**Next month's meeting:** Wednesday 22nd March  
"Roses" a talk to be given by a Gold Club speaker.

Refreshments: Helen Parrot and Anne Lunt

Raffle: Jo Szamj

## **PLANT SALE**

We have our annual Plant Sale coming up on Saturday 13th May from 2pm. If it's not raining we will have plants at a number of locations around the village. If wet, we will be in the Village Hall. Plants will be available in exchange for a charitable donation. Last year we raised £1,100 and sent £510 to Motor Neurone research and £500 to DEC for Ukraine. We will have voted for which will be this year's charities at the February meeting.

As you sow this Spring, please can you sow a bit extra for the sale. Vegetables were a best seller last year, especially courgettes, squashes and cucumbers. French beans are also popular. Plant hunters were also looking for something jolly for the border, such as mesembryanthemums. And perhaps you have a bully in the border; the plant that is just taking up too much space that could now do with being divided. Why not make three plants? One for your border and two for the sale! Even it's just a few plants, with our membership now standing at 68, we will then have plenty to sell to raise money for worthwhile causes. Thank you for your efforts.

Sally Thompson.

## **PLANT SALE CHARITY**

The charities that have been proposed are listed below with comments from some members of the club as to why they want us to support them.

### **Help for Heroes**

The charity that is close to my heart is 'Help For Heroes'. My niece is currently serving in the British Army and the tasks & good work she undertakes, never ceases to amaze me.

The charity supports UK Armed Forces & focuses on Veterans to help them live better lives, following service in the military.

Proposed by *Gerry Manning*

### **The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) for Ukraine**

DEC brings together 15 leading charities to provide a UK coordinated response to international disasters. DEC is delivering food, warmth, clean water and medical care to the people of Ukraine, both to those who have remained in their homes and 13 million Ukrainians who have been displaced by the conflict.

As winter temperatures plummet and with daily attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, President Zelensky has said that generators are as important as armour to protect the civilian population. One vital way the DEC charities are assisting is by distributing and installing both small portable generators as well as larger ones to provide power to shelters. For more information on the work of DEC in Ukraine go to [dec.org.uk](http://dec.org.uk).

Proposed by *Sally Thompson and Margaret Casey*

### **Akamba Aid Fund (AAF)**

AAF is a small independent UK charity based in South Somerset. It was founded in 2000 with the specific objectives of relieving poverty, sickness and distress, coupled with the advancement of education in the Kyuso Sub-County, Eastern Province, of Kenya.

The Akamba Aid Fund focuses on three main areas:

- Provision of clean water and sanitation
- General health, including a focus on eye care and women's health
- Education at Primary and Secondary level

Tanya is a trustee for AAF and both Stewart and Tanya have been involved with the charity AAF for many years, raising awareness, fundraising and making visits to Kenya to oversee projects. A little money goes a long way in Kenya and the charity can only survive through the generosity and kindness of its donors. Every penny donated finds its way to the Akamba families that so desperately need assistance. Trustees give our time and experience for free and pay our own expenses to ensure this happens.

Proposed by *Stewart Ogden*

### **Blood Cancer UK**

The reason I chose Blood cancer is Stan had leukaemia.

For me, research into finding better treatments and outcomes would mean so much, especially for the young people out there with blood cancers. Research is ongoing and every support they receive goes a long long way.

Proposed by *Sue de Boehmler*

### **Green Fingers**

Is a national charity dedicated to supporting children who spend time in hospices around the UK. Their aim is to create inspiring gardens for the children and their families to relax in and benefit from.

They create beautiful, well-designed outdoor spaces for children to enjoy with their family, friends and siblings, whether through play and fun, or therapeutic rest and relaxation. The Greenfingers Charity is driven by the belief that time spent outdoors, away from the bedside, can offer children and families under considerable stress a vital opportunity to embrace the benefits of being in the fresh air and engaging with the natural environment.

Proposed by *Clare Middleton*

### **Crisis (Homeless)**

I support Crisis as it helps homeless people to be rehoused temporarily or permanently, particularly in the current difficult times. They support homeless people get back on their feet and find work.

Proposed by *Janet Amos*

### **MIND (Somerset)**

With one in four people experiencing mental health issues, coupled with the state of the country now there is even more need to help fund support for people with mental health problems.

Mind Somerset provides support for anyone needing mental health services when maybe it is impossible to get support within the underfunded NHS.

Proposed by *Dave Amos*

### **Yeovil for family & CAP**

Proposed by *Jo Szmaj*

Kate and Andy

### **FREE COFFEE GROUNDS**

If any members of the club would like coffee grounds for their garden or to add to their compost bin there is a plastic box situated near the back door of The Village Café in East Coker. You can help yourselves or Kate will bring the box to club meetings so you can help yourselves then.

Kate



## KINGSPRING HOUSE - Winter Success!

Linda has kindly shared some photos from their Winter garden.



Glorious Winter sunshine lighting up some of our gardens shrubs.



Helleborous white spotted. The maroon spots vary flower to flower.



Mahonia Lionel Fortescue –these mahonias flower later than Mahonia Charity.



Iris Reticulata 'Harmony'. These are one of the earliest irises to flower.

Linda



## EVENTS

### Rare Plants Fair

*The Bishop's Palace, Wells BA5 2PD*

Sunday 19th March 10am-4pm (last entry 3.30pm)

Carefully selected nurseries ensure that there are genuine growers who produce most or all of the plants that they sell themselves. The nurseries that exhibit at each fair are chosen so that the widest possible range of plants are on offer to visitors, including perennials, shrubs and trees, alpines, bulbs and exotic plants.

All of the nursery owners are experts in the plants that they grow, and some are National Collection holders. They are all always happy to offer all the advice that you need to select and grow the right plants for your garden. And don't forget that all of the nurseries are happy to bring pre-ordered plants to the fairs that they are attending, so don't forget to visit their websites to see what they can offer!

Tickets include 14 acres of stunning RHS partnered gardens and access to the medieval Palace and Chapel.

#### Admission:

- Discounted rate – £8 adult
- under 16s – free
- Bishop's Palace Members and Wells Heritage Pass holders free

Tickets are purchased on arrival from The Rare Plant Fair.

Please note that The Rare Plant Fair is not included with The Bishop's Palace Admission Ticket (Annual return option – People's Ticket). HHA membership and all discount vouchers cannot be accepted for this event.

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*Thank you to all this month's contributors. We kindly ask for your stories, plans or anything garden related for next month's Newsletter.*

*Please send to Alice Manning - [hgcnewsletter21@gmail.com](mailto:hgcnewsletter21@gmail.com) by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.***

