

Chair's update – March 2024 – Dates for your Diary March to May

Well, it feels like Spring has sprung. Plenty of daffodils appearing and the snowdrops are well and truly in full bloom carpeting the woodlands in white.

It seems a while since a few of us, around 30, spent a very enjoyable evening at the **Club's Annual Dinner at the Gallow**. The meal was delightful and from the reaction, I feel everyone enjoyed the quiz set by Jane. There was an unexpected tie break, but the eventual winners were my table which happened to have both Gordon and Martin Turner on it. I can assure you that there was no insider knowledge and given the depth of their combined knowledge there were a few questions which stumped them. All in all a great opportunity to mingle and meet other club members. Hopefully, those who did not make it might be persuaded to come along next year.

As I said the spring flowers are starting to appear and now is a good time to look at the schedule for the **Spring Gardening Fayre (Saturday 23rd March)** and see what you might want to enter. You do not need to be an expert grower to enter. We want as many people as possible to have a go and put entries in, who knows you might get a certificate or even a red ribbon. If you are not looking to enter then please come along and support the Club. Refreshments are provided by County Markets, with homemade cakes and Debbie's delicious sausage rolls. This year we have a special class for the pupils of the Fakenham Primary School – a garden in a seed tray, so we hope members will come along and support their efforts.

In April (Wednesday 17th) we are visiting the **Fakenham Garden Centre** for a demonstration **"Everything you wanted to know about climbing plants and never dared ask"**. The demonstration will be led by Oliver, who some of you might recall gave us a very informative and enjoyable demonstration of container gardening last year. So if you have wall, fence or shed you want to cover, this is the talk for you. Or you might already have climbers in your garden which you need some advice on how to maintain. We plan to meet at the Garden Centre at 18:30 for a 19:00 hrs start.

Finally for this quarter we are visiting **Stow Hall Gardens (Tuesday 21st May), in Stow Bardolph about 40 minutes drive from Fakenham**. The gardens at Stow Hall have been in place since the early 1800's with designs on a grand scale including an enormous conservatory, a rose garden, a great greenhouse and a pine stove for pineapples. We aim to arrive at 10am for tea, coffee and cake, followed by a guided tour of the gardens by one of the gardeners. Then there is time for you to walk around the garden. We have to be away by 2pm, so there is time to partake in a picnic lunch in the garden or visit the local pub for lunch. **We are looking to car share so it would be helpful if you could let me know as soon as possible if you intend to go, if you have spare seats in your car and are willing to car share.**

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Members enjoying the Annual Dinner at the Gallow



Time to look out your entries for the Spring Gardening Fayre



Come along and see the 'garden in a seed tray' entries from the local primary school children