**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDEN SOCIETY** Newsletter — **February 2017**

**Annual General Meeting**; Church Hall, Holy Trinity, Southend Crescent, Eltham, SE9 2SD

The A.G.M. this year is a couple of weeks later than usual due to availability of Committee Members and the Hall and is confirmed for **Friday April 21st** at 7 p.m. for 7.30. Please do come to this important event — it is not usually well attended but it is a key date in our Society as our Committee Members are re-elected or new ones brought in to replace anyone who maybe dropping out. Also it is the Society Members chance to put their views forward and ensure that the Officers and Committee Members are doing everything possible to run the Society to the best ability for everyone. Please do come along — we want to see you!

**Spring Outing:** Tuesday 13th June -Nymans West Sussex.

This is one of the National Trust's premier Gardens and is situated 5 miles south of Crawley, a journey mainly down the M 23. The total cost for each person is £34. I know this is a little more than we usually pay but our regular Coach company has shut down and we have had to find another one - DJ Coaches and their charge for a 19 seater is £380! The Garden entry fee is £ 11 per person but if you are a member of the National Trust then entry is free provided you have your membership card with you. Otherwise the rest of the charge covers the drivers tip and raffle prizes. There is a cafe, shop, plant sales and visitor centre so plenty to keep you occupied for 3 -4 hours. Do fill in the application below if you want to come and send it back to me, Richard Mattinson, 19 Messeter Place, Eltham, SE9 SDP (8859 8656)

Please reserve me/us....places on the coach to Nymans on Tuesday 13th June 2017. My/our names is/are

 Address

Tel No National Trust members please tick here and bring card.

I/we enclose my/our remittance of (£34 per person). Cheques payable to

R.G.Mattinson. Pick up points and times in Eltham will be confirmed.

**Trading:** Pat and Dave Middleton:

Potato seed has been delivered and orders duly packaged so these are now ready for collection. There are some seed potatoes left over and these can be bought on a first come first served basis. There is no onion seed as the call on that is not sufficient to warrant a delivery, but other than that the Shop is very well stocked so do make us the place to go to for all garden necessities. We do need to keep the Shop products turning over as the income derived is a great part of our Society's revenue. Don't forget that the quality we obtain is always excellent and price wise we are not at all expensive when compared with other gardening outlets. Because we are well stocked at the moment we have no deliveries pending so do give us a call now that Spring is nearly here and get ready for "garden lift off' . By the way do check the Notice Board for important information that is displayed there and also check out the website too as there are items that may be relevant to your needs.

SUPPORT THE SHOP — we can't say it too often!!

**Jobs to do now:**

Prune wisteria and campsis by cutting back the sideshoots around 1 - 2in to two or three buds. Prune autumn-fruiting raspberries, cutting all stems down to ground level. If summer-fruiting raspberry canes have grown above their supports, cut these back to one or two buds above the uppermost wire. Sow broad beans 2- 3in deep directly in the garden or in pots of multi-purpose compost. Lily bulbs can still be planted now. Do keep your bird feeders well topped up — there is still some harsh weather to come and feeders are a good source of entertainment if you're keen on bird watching.

Growing potatoes in bags: You can grow top-quality tubers in 8 litre polythene sacks. Put 15cm (6in) multipurpose or peat free compost in each bag, placing a single tuber in the centre of each and cover with compost to 5 cm(2 in)from the rim. Keep compost moist: increase watering once leaves grow above bags, Feed weekly with high potassium fertiliser. Put bags in a greenhouse or outdoors on a sunny patio once risk of frost has passed. Keep well moist in very dry weather and bags will bulge with tubers when ready so harvest as you desire. First earlies and second earlies are the seed to use such as Casablanca, Arran Pilot, Red Duke of York, Charlotte, Gemson, Nadine, Nicola, Belle De Fontenay. Maincrop varieties do not fare so well so keep to the 'earlies'.

**Membership;** To Roger Brown, 74 Crown Woods Way, Eltham, SE9 2NN

Herewith my/our Membership fee for the year 2017:-

Mr.Mrs.Ms.Miss

Address …….Post Code…………..

e mail address

I/we enclose a remittance of £4 (£2 for Senior Citizens) payable to Eltham and Avery Hill Garden Society, together with a s.a.e. for reply. Alternatively call into the shop any Sunday morning to renew your membership.