**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDENS SOCIETY**

**Web: eahgs.org.uk**

**FEBRUARY 2019 - NEWSLETTER** -

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Friday March 29th 2019 at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, 59 Southend Crescent, Eltham 7pm for 7.30pm**

It’s that time of the year again. Spring will soon be here (fingers crossed). We would like as many people as possible to come along to this important event on our Calendar. We, the Committee, would like to hear your feedback on our efforts to provide you all with the service you need and to hear any suggestions and improvements you might wish to air. **Please come and support us** – we need to know how we are doing! We also have to re-appoint our Committee members and accept any resignations, or new appointments, that may be made. There will be the usual raffle and tea or coffee.

**Have you tried this tip?** A little baking soda can help you grow sweeter tomatoes. A regular sprinkling of this kitchen staple into your plant’s soil can help reduce acidity, which sweetens up your crop.

**Did you know?** Some of your favourite fruits are actually in the rose family. Apples, pears, peaches, cherries, raspberries, strawberries, and more, are rosaceae, making them cousins to the long-stemmed Valentine’s Day variety.

**Trading: Pat and Dave Middleton**

**TRADING REPORT** The shop opens again on Sunday February 3 2019 10am - 12noon. Seed potatoes are expected to arrive during February. On arrival pre-orders will be bagged up ready for collection so please keep checking the website and/or notice board for the date you can collect from. Early collection is appreciated please. Unfortunately, pre-orders were down again this year and there will only be a small quantity of some varieties for sale on a ﬁrst come basis. The shop is well stocked for the new growing season with multipurpose, farmyard manure, grow bags, all varieties of John Innes etc. We know this is said each time but PLEASE SUPPORT THE SHOP! We need your support to continue trading and wish that more plot holders used and supported the shop.

**A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE SITE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Please do not get gate keys cut and give to non-plot holders**. The key you are issued with by the Council is for the plot holders use only. - If you have visitors to your plot or have help at any time working or clearing your plot, you must be present at all times while your visitors are there or work is being done. - Any rubbish (weeds, rubble, foliage, grass etc) cleared from your plot must not be dumped on a "vacant" or uncleared plot. It is your responsibility to dispose of any rubbish not leaving it for another plot holder to deal with. - Please ensure that all paths around and between plots are maintained. - The wheelbarrows (purchased by Eltham & Avery Hill Gardens Society) must be returned to the storage shed immediately after use and **NOT** kept on your plot! Please be considerate of your fellow plot holders! If you wish to use a wheelbarrow a key to the storage shed can be purchased for £3 from the shop. - The water supply to the site is currently turned off (as it is every winter) so both toilets are not in use. The water will be turned on again when there's no chance of a frost.

**A report from one of our members**

**Broccoli trial Part 2**

The 6 plants that were on seaweed and chicken pellets continued to grow well and the first spears cut before Christmas. Secondary spears are coming along now. There appears to be little or no difference between the 3 on seaweed and the 3 on chicken pellets. The 2 on neither have grown on bit are very much smaller.

There is a FREE solution to protecting your plants from Aphid attack. NETTLE BREW. Chop up Nettles and immerser in water until fermentation takes place. This takes 1 or 2 weeks, depending on the temperature. When you see bubbles forming you know that fermentation is happening. When ready filter and bottle. It can be used as a spray at 10% dilution. (100ml per litre).

I must admit here that I have become totally bonkers on growing vegetables for the Show Bench. Carrots grown hydroponically, that is without soil. Trials going on have got them growing in coir. Known commercially as ‘Coco’ with just liquid nutrients. This is looking promising for show bench carrots, so will trial it with other vegetables.

**Spring Outing -** Wednesday 12th June 2019 to Sheffield Park Garden. Well, it is time to think of warm bright summer days so with this in mind I am pleased to tell you that I have booked an outing to Sheffield Park Garden in East Sussex. The garden is situated on the A275 between Wych Cross and Lewes and is a beautiful garden and park land deep in the superb Sussex countryside. There is plenty of space to stroll around in at your leisure and, of course, there is a café for refreshment and rest, if needed. A plant sale section is on site as usual, all geared to get cash out of your wallets or purses. If you want to take a picnic then please do so as there is a picnic area available. We hope to leave Sheffield ark at 3.15pm so that we are back in Eltham just after 4.30pm – traffic permitting. The cost has again risen, the coach fare alone is £625. Entry to the Garden is £11per person but free if you belong to the National Trust or the RHS. Do indicate on the application for if you have membership to either.

**SPRING OUTING APPLICATION**

Please reserve me/us ……………places on the coach to Sheffield Park on Wednesday 12thn June 2019.

 My/Our names are…………………………………………………………………………………….

Address………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

I/We are members of the NT/RHS [ ]  Please tick if yes.

The pick-up points are as follows:

Eltham High Street (Water Board) …………………………………………..9.30am

Westmount Road (Methodist Church) …………………………….……...9.40am

Avery Hill Road………………………………………………………………………..9.45am

Please tick your pick-up point.

The cost of the trip is £38 per person and for members of the NT or RHSD £28 per person, but do bring your membership cards on the day PLEASE make your cheques payable to R.G. Mattinson and return the application form to me at 19 Messeter Place, SE9 5DP. Tel: 8859 8656. Email marg.rich@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

I should like to join/re-join the Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society. (It is not necessary to be a plot holder to join the Society). Subscription to be sent to Roger Brown, 74 Crown Woods Way, Eltham, SE9 2NN

Herewith my membership fee for the next 12 months: -

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Address………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Post code…………………………………..

e-mail address……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

I enclose a remittance of £4 (£2 for senior citizens), with cheques payable to Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society, together with an s.a.e for reply. I also wish to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the Newsletters and Show Schedule, and so enclose £………

With my subscription. Please send me a membership card and arrange for delivery of Newsletters.

(By completing this application form, I agree to receive digital communications from the Society, such as Newsletters)

*Please note that your personal details will be held on the Society Register, but in conformity with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, we undertake never to pass these on to any third party, nor to use them for any purpose other than for legitimate Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society business.*