

CHAS Newsletter, 12 April 2015

We're happy to announce that the new website (www.growchiswick.org) is now live. If you have the old website saved as a favourite, it should autoforward to the new one from 3pm today - please let me know if it doesn't! Please have a look & tell us what you think at website@growchiswick.org.

As well as the information on the old website, it's got a blog, a members only forum, lots of hints & tips for growing & showing, a Chiswick weather forecast and live streaming of our Twitter feed. Please register for the members only section and start a discussion in the forum, let us know if you'd like to contribute to the blog and pass on any gardening quotations or other resources you'd like to share through the website. There is still a bit more work to do on it, but i hope you'll like it.

Now I can get back to my neglected allotment ...!

Jo Hodges

CHS CENTENARY MUG

These fine white bone china mugs have been designed for the CHS and decorated by **Jane Healey** whose mugs can be found as far afield as the Falklands. This is a limited edition – only 60 have been made – and have an all-round design in sepia brown. They hold a generous ½ pint and are dishwasher proof.

On sale at the Trading Hut from Sunday at £7.50

TUESDAY 5TH MAY - THAMES RIVER TRIP FROM KEW PIER TO TOWER BRIDGE AND RETURN.

The boat will depart **Kew Bridge** at 1045

If you haven't signed up/bought your ticket do come along on Sunday and make sure you get a place
Cost £40 for CHS members and guests including a welcome drink and finger buffet

HELP! IF YOU BOUGHT PANSIES AND POLYANTHUS FROM US - COULD WE PLEASE HAVE THE POTS BACK?

We have 280 plugs plants to pot on and running out of small 3 ½ " pots. Definitely **don't** need big pots at the moment

CHS HANDBOOK

If you need to contact a Committee member or your allotment Rep their contact details are shown in the Handbook

MORE SEEDS

Angela has ordered the following Seeds of Italy which– fingers crossed – will arrive in time to be on sale on Sunday

Rainbow chard; Brussels sprouts Evesham Special; Carouby de Maussane mangetout peas; Pac choy; Courgette Nero di Milano; EASY19 lettuce cut-and-come-again; Cavolo nero di Toscana

TOMATO TIP

If you wait until the sideshoots that you are supposed to remove reach about 8" you can snap them off and place in a glass of water on your window sill. In about a week it will create roots – voila a free plant!

This works best with early ripening varieties where the plant has time to grow and fruit before we run out of summer weather

PLANTS FOR SALE

We have one each of the following pinks – Diane; Cranmere Pool; Doris; Cosmic Swirl Red; Gran's Favourite; Letitia Wyatt. We also have two each of the following mid to tall perennials so first come first served - Verbascum Violetta; Russell Lupins; Geum Mrs Bradshaw; Erigeron Pink Pearl; Aquilegia Mixed; Coreopsis Sunburst.

We may have one or two Poppy Pizzicato plants as well as Coreopsis, Aquilegias, Verbena Bonariensis, Geum Blazing Sunset, Passion Flower and some Schizostylis, one or two Scabious Blue Jeans, a few hellebores including Argutifoliosus and some pacific Giant Delphiniums, Also assorted grasses including 'black' grass Ophiopogon and Luzula Nivea.

We also have following vegetable seedlings/plants for sale - sweet and hot pepper plants; sprouted garlic; green broccoli; cabbage; cauliflower; beetroot; leek; baby leaf spinach Mangetout; Brussels Sprouts, Parsley as well as broad beans and - courtesy of a mystery benefactor - strawberry plants. Some of our tomato plants are also ready to sell. I have attached a list of what we have sown as well as the colour codes

NEW

We are selling Cobra Climbing French Beans and Polestar Runner Beans by the scoop available from Sunday

POST FLOWERING CARE OF BULBS

The leaves need to be left on the plants for at least 6 weeks after flowering to feed the bulbs for next year. I am sure I don't need to remind you no to **tie up or knot the foliage** as this will cut off food supply

DO YOU FANCY BEING IN A FILM?

A major new film about the extraordinary life of 1940s New York operatic singer Florence Foster Jenkins, due to be filmed this summer, requires extras of all ages and is inviting local people to an open casting at Hammersmith's St Paul's Church next Saturday, April 11.

YET MORE TRAFFIC CHAOS?

The **HAMMERSMITH FLYOVER** will be closed westbound from 22:30 on Friday until 05:00 on Monday morning, each of the next three weekends:

Friday 10th – Monday 13th April

Friday 17th – Monday 20th April

Friday 24th – Monday 27th April

ARE YOU DUE A REFUND?

Have you been ticketed for parking in the pay and display car park at Chiswick House since May 2013?

Although 700 penalty tickets were issued Hounslow Council has said only nine people have claimed and been reimbursed for Penalty Charge Notices issued.

The decision to reimburse was made earlier this month after the council discovered, due to "an administrative error", enforcement powers were not passed to Chiswick House Trust when they were granted a lease for the car park.

The Council said then it regretted the error and **invited anyone who had been fined** to contact them to arrange for them to receive a full refund.

There is no deadline for applying for a refund if you received a Penalty Charge Notice at Chiswick House Car Park between May 2013 and March 2015.

Affected motorists are requested to provide their Penalty Charge Notice number and evidence of payment by email to customerservice@hounslow.gov.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE

The start from Putney Bridge is at 1650 for the Women's Race and 1750 for the Men's Race so why not walk down and join the crowds along the River?

RNLI BOAT RACE – FRIDAY 10TH APRIL

Now in its second year aims to raise awareness of the RNLI's 24/7 rescue role on the Thames and all funds will go to the RNLI's lifesaving work.

The race starts at Barnes Bridge at 5.30pm and entertainment will be laid on at The Ship, Thames Bank, Mortlake, from 3pm.

Sadly by the time you read this newsletter the race will be over but maybe make a note for 2016? For more information, visit boatrace.rnli.org.

SPRING IS HERE, THE WINDOWS ARE OPEN, AND THE BURGLARS ARE OUT AND ABOUT

Advice from the Metropolitan Police

- 1. Don't leave your keys or ID documents within easy reach of doors, letterboxes or windows.**
- 2. Close and lock all doors and windows. If you have multi-locking door handles, lift the handle, lock it with the key and remove it. Remember - LIFT- LOCK - REMOVE. Put the key in a safe place out of sight in case of fire.**
- 3. Lock garages and sheds so garden tools and ladders can't be used to break into your home.**
- 4. Keep side gates locked and wheelie bins stored behind them.**
- 5. Use timer switches linked to lights and a radio so it appears that someone is at home.**
- 6. Invest in a safe for valuables and sentimental items and securely fix it to a solid surface.**
- 7. Install a visible intruder alarm system- burglars don't want to be seen or heard.**
- 8. Install low level "dusk to dawn" lighting to increase visibility and deter burglars.**
- 9. Keep side and rear boundaries high to restrict access and front boundaries low to remove hiding places. (to which I would add plant something nasty along your rear boundary such as pyracantha)**
- 10. Photograph and mark valuables and sentimental items with your postcode and house number / name. Register items with serial numbers at: www.immobilise.com**

Although the weather is due to change by the weekend - including I hope some rain - do come along to the Trading Hut on Sunday

Jill and the Greenhouse and Trading Hut Teams