

31 May newsletter

This is the only CHS Centenary any of us are going to be around for so come along and join your friends and co-members at this unique occasion – Sunday is the last trading day to buy your tickets and we still have a few left to sell.

THE CHS GRAND CENTENARY DINNER SATURDAY 13TH JUNE AT LINDEN HOUSE.

Invitations are available for purchase at the Trading Hut. The evening includes a welcoming drink, a 3 course Dinner - accompanied by a harpist. Cost £45.00 for CHS members and Guests.

CHS CENTENARY MUG AND TEA CLOTHS

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. The CHS Centenary tea cloths are on sale at £5.00 at the Trading Hut

HELP NEED FROM STAVELEY ROAD AND BURIAL GROUND MEMBERS

We need some help with watering at the greenhouse as at the moment the three of us seem to spend too much time ensuring that plants do not dry out.

If you are coming down to work on your allotments can you please give us 10 minutes of your time? If you can you please contact either Angela or Fran so we can set up some sort of a Rota - fgoloway@blueyonder.co.uk; Angela Brown <angela@browndesign.co.uk>

YOUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!

One thing that came out strongly from the survey of what members wanted from a website is news and information about other members and their gardens or allotments. We need your contributions to make this happen. Whether it's a new plant you're trying this year, something that went very well (or badly!), a major project you're attempting, a garden you've visited made, why not share it with your fellow society members? It needn't be long (see <http://growchiswick.org/blog/> to get an idea of what's already there). And photos are always great. Please send any contributions to Fran and Jo on editor@growchiswick.org.

CHS VISIT TO MOTTISFONT ABBEY

What a beautiful sunny day to visit this garden – lots of open lawns, fantastic old trees and of course the famous walled gardens. Yes gardens – there are three. One is used for a café/toilets and plant sales area

but this has roses all around, the other two and divided into quarters with roses roses roses everywhere plus some very attractive herbaceous planting.

More roses will be in bloom in about 10 days but by then something will have gone over – apart from Chelsea it is impossible for everything to be out at once. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying this property – picnicking on the lawns and just generally enjoying the space and the peacefulness.

We had a guided tour which explained the history of the house and garden which was a help in orientating yourself as it is vast – 2,000 acres. Mott comes from Moot – a meeting place and font from the spring which still runs through the grounds. It was a place for pilgrims to rest en route to Winchester.

Maud and Gilbert Russell were the last owners and the house really required more time in order to study all the pictures but even a short visit gives you the atmosphere of a different age and attitude to life – including changing clothes two/three times a day (laid out by the ladies maid) and keeping a crocodile in one of the bathrooms.

What a shame that more CHS members did not sign up for this tour. Due to the size of the group we travelled in two cars but it would have been nice to relax in a coach and let someone else do the driving.

Can I just say from a purely personal point of view that the lack of support from members for the Events we have arranged in this our Centenary year has been more than somewhat depressing for those Committee members who have put in time and effort into organising boat trips, dinners, garden visits.

As an organisation we would appreciate your feedback on what type of events - if any - you would like in the future. If you aren't coming to the events then why? Don't they interest you, are they too expensive, organised for the 'wrong' date? We can only improve things with your input. .

UPDATE ON KURT BERGER

On 23rd May Margaret advised 'Kurt seems to be on the mend, though it will take quite a long time yet. She says he's now sitting up – and is feeling well enough to grumble about things – a good sign!'

PLANTS FOR SALE ON SUNDAY

Unlike the Daily telegraph we will not be offering alchemilla mollis at a 'special reduced rate of £4.99' but will be offering a selection of tomatoes at 3 for £1.00

Before the plant sale I offered to keep 3 Heliotrope plants for a member who was away for the Sale. I have kept them until now but unless I hear otherwise they will go on sale on Sunday

We also have, Aubergine, cardoons, Cavolo Nero, rainbow chard, one yellow and one green courgette, French and runner beans, Pak Choi, Cauliflower, Kohl Rabi, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Cabbage Cabbice, Summer Sprouting Broccoli, Prince Albert peas, Mange Tout, Red & White Spring Onions, Turks Turban squash, Leeks, coriander, Thyme, Parsley and Garlic Chives,

There are a few pale pink and white geraniums, Petunia Montage, Salpiglossis Regale, Marigold Melody and La Bamba, Isotoma, nonstop begonias and fibrous begonias, Lime green Nicotiana, Verbena Glory Days,

Lobelia Royal Blue, Geranium Stellar and a selection of plants for containers and hanging baskets as well as perennials plants such as Chrysanthemum White Knight. Geum, Echinacea and Lychnis coronaria

STABLE MANURE

Just to let you know that today at 1245 a load of stable manure was delivered to the Staveley Road/Burial Ground site. As it has been a long time since we got a delivery I suspect it will disappear fast.

GARDEN ORGANIC AND HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY

The CHS are now members of this organisation and we've been asked to take part in the Biochar Experiment being run by Coventry University - please see the attached letter and response coupon.



May 2015

Dear All

Biochar Experiment 2015

The Centre of Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR) at Coventry University, in conjunction with Garden Organic are running the Citizen Science Biochar Experiment again for 2015.

Biochar is charcoal used as a soil amendment. For this research we are trying to establish the effect of biochar on crop yield grown in different soil types across the UK. We are doing this through a citizen science experiment involving as many gardeners as possible. You may have joined us for the 2014 experiment; this year we will be sending out packs to run the experiment again, or we can send just the seeds and record sheets so participants can run the experiment on last years' biochar plot to see what the effect one year old biochar has.

If you wish to join could you please return the postcard, or if you wish to distribute more postcards to your group drop me a line and I will send you a pack.

More information will be sent to the participants who apply, but should you need more details, please contact Donna on Donna.Udall@Coventry.ac.uk.

Thank you very much for your help.

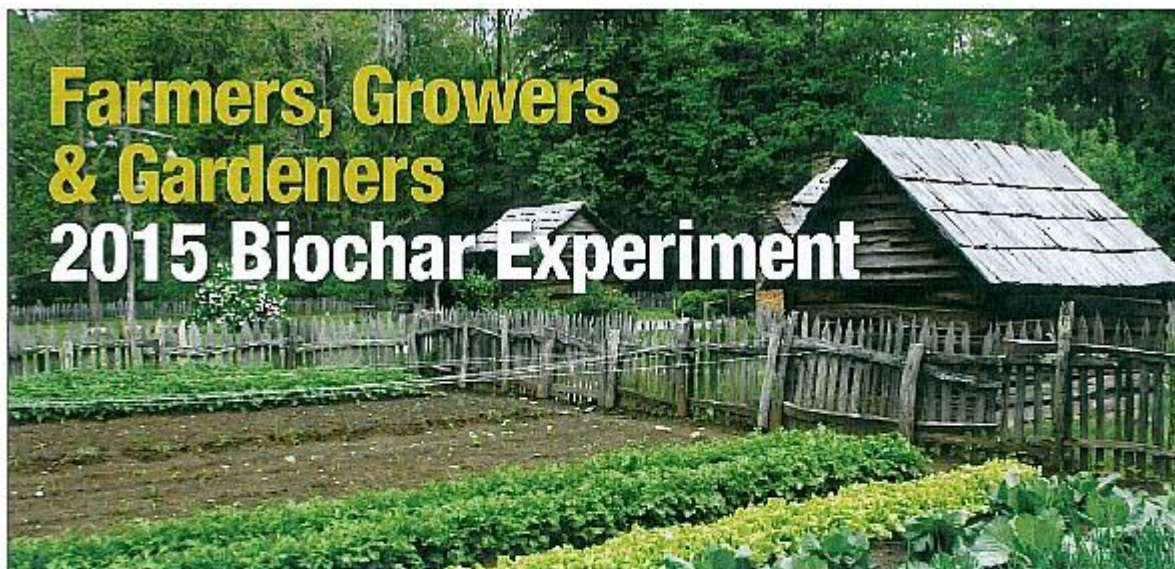
Yours faithfully

Donna Udall (Coventry University) and Francis Rayns (Garden Organic Associate).

**EXCELLENCE
WITH IMPACT**

Coventry
University 

Farmers, Growers & Gardeners 2015 Biochar Experiment



The Farmers, Growers and Gardeners Biochar 2015

Coventry University and Garden Organic are running another Farmers, Growers and Gardeners Biochar Experiment for 2015.

Biochar is charcoal used as a soil amendment. For this research we are trying to establish the effect of biochar on crop yield grown in different soil types across the UK through a citizen science experiment. Many of you will have joined us for the 2014 experiment. This year we will be sending out pecks to run the experiment again, or we can send just the seeds and record sheets so participants can run the experiment on last years' biochar plot to see what effect one year old biochar has.

More details here: www.coventry.ac.uk/CAWR/biochar

Registration:

Name

Address

Email address

Please
affix
stamp
here

Donna Udall
Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR)
Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane,
Coventry,
Warwickshire
CV8 3LG

Please tick to tell us which experiment you would like to join:

- I'd like to run the experiment again on my old biochar plot - just send me seeds please.
- I'd like to run a new experiment - send me seeds and biochar please.
- Both.

NOTHING TO DO WITH HORTICULTURE

Paper Counterpart Driving Licence Obsolete from 8th June

The counterpart was introduced to display driving licence details that could not be included on the photocard such as vehicle categories you can drive and any endorsement/penalty points you have.

But from 8 June, any new penalty points you get will be recorded electronically, and will not be printed or written on either photocard licences or paper driving licences.

What do you need to do?

Drivers with both parts need to keep the photocard and destroy the paper counterpart after 8 June.

Motorists with a paper only licence (issued before the photocard was introduced in 1998) should not destroy them as they will still be valid. The next time you update your personal details or renew your licence, you will be issued with a photocard only. Entitlements, penalty points and the status of your driving licence won't change

Checking your driving record

In 2014 the DVLA launched their free, 24-hour View Driving Licence service which allows you to check what vehicles you can drive and any endorsements (penalty points) you may have

HOUNSLOW- CAN THEY REALLY BE PLANNING TO BUILD ON PARKS/GREEN SPACES?

CHS member Karen Liebreich advises that LBH now wish to enable building on parks and green spaces for "educational purposes", i.e. schools. If you want to support this petition please sign it here as the more support the better chance we have of challenging these proposals

<http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-hounslow-s-green-spaces-and-parks>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 31ST MAY – CHISWICK MALL for once the gardens opening on behalf of the Red Cross AND those under the NGS scheme are opening on the same day. A wonderful chance to explore six very different private gardens.

NGS: combined entry £6, 2-6pm: 16 Eyot Gardens, Field House and Swan House

British Red Cross: combined entry £4, open 2-5pm: Bedford House, Eynham House and Woodroffe House.

Monday 1st – Monday 8th June - EatChiswick, the new local food and drink festival

From Saturday May 30th in George IV pub and Badger & Earl, 14A Sutton Ct Rd, London you can buy wristbands for £10 that will bring you food and drink discounts in Chiswick at lots of venues during the festival. Click on link above for details of the many participants - ranging from Badger & Earl to Zecca Living.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June - Open Garden Squares Weekend – for more information have a look at Open Garden Squares Weekend (tickets £10 in advance, £12 on the day)

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June – RHS Wisley - All About Plants

With more than 20 plant societies and groups displaying their wares and offering advice at this plant lovers' weekend, you can find out about the past, present and future of plants.

The weekend brings together a wide range of plant societies, each showcasing their respective plant groups. See a mixture of competitive shows and fabulous displays, buy interesting specialist plants and ask experts for advice. Free for RHS members, normal entry fees for non-members

Hope to see you on Sunday when the forecast is 16-17C with light rain from 1200. So shop early to avoid the showers

Jill and the Trading Hut and Greenhouse Teams

The only way to guarantee some colour all year round is to buy a garden gnome.