



December 2021



NEWSLETTER

Egham Garden & Allotments Association



WINTER

2021

ANOTHER YEAR PASSES 2021

As another year draws to an end it's not only time to reflect on what's happened during the year but also to look forward to 2002 with hope that there will be no further Government restrictions imposed on us and we can return to the freedom we all enjoyed pre-Covid.



The membership fees for 2022 are now due and will remain at £12 per person which I hope you will agree is good value. You will have received the Lecture Programme with the AGM notification and if anyone knows of someone who may wish to join remember their first club meeting is free.



First, and foremost, is a desperate plea for someone to step up and take on the role of Treasurer. Kim, who has carried out the role over the past few years, has relinquished the position and it is vital that she is replaced as soon as possible, failing which it is possible that the Club cannot continue. Kim is happy to give guidance on what to do etc so if anyone feels they can do this please let me know as soon as possible.



COMMITTEE POSTS VACANCIES

There are also some Committee places to be filled so if you would like to join us please don't hesitate to let me know. We meet on various dates throughout the year – usually in the Red Lion, Egham and new blood/ideas are always welcome. I believe it is important to keep the Club fresh and to endeavour to appeal to anyone of any age.

MANOR FARM DAY CENTRE

The Day Centre will not reopen to us in the foreseeable future for our meetings so we are staying at the Easter Centre which is behind St Johns Church. You may be aware that we have been using the Welcome Café area but next year we will move upstairs to a larger room which will be warmer and less prone to interruptions from people accessing the building for other purposes. There is a lift for those who may not wish to use the stairs.



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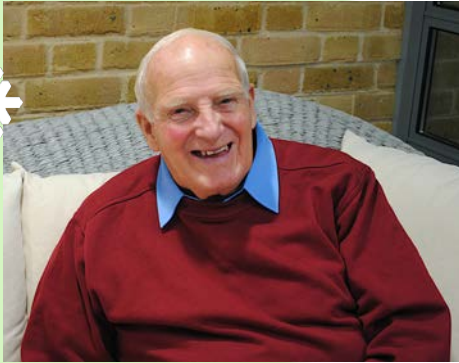


80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENING

The 80th AGM was held on 4th December together with the Social Evening and I thank everyone who came along to make it a most successful and enjoyable evening. I have had some good feedback on how the evening went and hopefully this can be replicated next year. Thank you to Jim for presiding over the AGM.



During the evening we were pleased to acknowledge the contribution that David Abbey and Jean Bristow had made to the Club over the years. David has been associated with EGAA for some 35 years but having recently decided to step down from the Committee we thought it only fitting that we marked the occasion in some small way and presented him with a Garden Centre Gift Voucher which I am sure he will make good use of.



We also made a small presentation to Jean who has been running the raffle each month since 1987 and hopefully will continue to do so for many years to come. She has raised a significant amount of money through the raffle and always manages to have a good variety of prizes on offer each month. Jean is assisted by Janet Sanderson to whom our thanks also go. our thanks also go.

I must also acknowledge here the efforts of Janet Forster and Gwyneth Austin who do a great job in doing the teas and coffees throughout the year and provide some lovely cakes for us to enjoy. Thank you ladies.



DECORATE A HAT COMPETITION

The Decorate a Hat competition had some good entries with the winner being voted for by the members present at the AGM. The theme was "Oak" as this represents an 80th anniversary and the winner was Wendy Flight for her brilliant entry.



A CHRISTMAS TIPPLE: RASPBERRY GIN



You will need : Raspberries (fresh or frozen), Gin, Caster Sugar, a large sterilised jar, sterilised bottles

Put the raspberries into a large preserves jar and add caster sugar to taste. Pour over your chosen gin, stir (or shake) the mixture to dissolve as much sugar as possible and release some of the raspberry juice in the process. Allow the raspberries to steep in a cool, dark place turning or shaking the jar once a day for a week and thereafter every few days for about three weeks. It's ready when it is a nice deep pink colour. Strain the mixture through a sieve and pour it into a sterilised bottle. It will keep for about a year and you can even eat the gin-soaked raspberries. Enjoy !!

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2021

The Photographic Competition had a number of entries in each category and I am pleased to say that Seakens Solicitors of Virginia Water continue to sponsor the prize money.

The winners in each category were :

Class 1 Horticulture – 1st Nikki Green; 2nd Wendy Flight; 3rd Jill Williams

Class 2 Animals, People and Places – 1st Nikki Green; 2nd Katerina Ridge; 3rd Wendy Flight

Class 3 Monochrome – 1st Nikki Green, 2nd Wendy flight; 3rd Jill Williams

The overall winner was Nikki Green who was presented with the Seakens Trophy Vase to hold for the year. Thank you to everyone who entered.



Nikki Green



Wendy Flight



Jill Williams



Katerina Ridge





HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ST JOHN'S 3 OCT 2021



The Monthly Competition will start up again from the January meeting so please remember to bring along an entry to be judged by the Speaker on the night.

Following on from the Eco Fayre in September, St John's Church, Egham, invited EGAA to take part in their Harvest Festival, as they wanted a good showing of real veg as well as the usual tinned food etc. We had some great contributions from members and others, especially those with plots at Boshers Allotments, and the Vicar Esther Prior and congregation were delighted with the display. We also repeated part of our Website Address: <https://www.egaa.org.uk>.

Scan the QR code (QR - Quick Response Code) below:



This can be done using your iPhone or your Android mobile phone. You can also download the QR reader software from the iPhone App store or Googleplay



EcoFayre display upstairs in the Easter Centre during the coffee morning that day.
By Janet Hales

The Monthly Competition will start up again from the January meeting so please

THE RETURN OF THE MONTHLY COMPETITION & THE MONTHLY SALE TABLE

remember to bring along an entry to be judged by the Speaker on the night.

The Committee have decided to reintroduce the Monthly Sale Table as a means of raising funds for the Club. Some of you may remember this was a feature of the monthly meetings in previous years so if you have any items for sale please bring them along. We anticipate most items will only be a couple of pounds or so but if you have larger items then the price can be adjusted accordingly. However, if your item(s) are not sold please take them home with you at the end of the evening. All proceeds will go to Club funds.



Although December and the next couple of months are cold and some people just want to stay indoors it is important to remember the health benefits of getting outdoors during this time. The evidence states that we need at least two hours a week outside for our mental wellbeing and to boost our immune systems. So, when you feel you just want to sit in front of the TV again think of all the things you could be doing in the garden or on the allotment : sort out seed trays and pots making sure they are clean ready for the spring; weed and mulch around raspberry and blackberry plants to keep the weeds down; clear all the old crops from the veg patch putting healthy plant material on the compost heap and bin the rest; sow onion seeds; take cuttings from currant bushes.

On the other hand if you really can't get out then take the time to sort through your seed stash, throwing out any that are past their use-by dates. If you have any surplus why not bring them along to the January meeting to put on the sale table.

I would like to thank you all for your support this past year and look forward to seeing you in 2022 and wish you



*A Very
Merry Christmas!*
Cynthia