

# GREENFINGERS 2016

## FEBRUARY 2016

At our meeting this month we talked about ideas for early spring planting and new varieties of seeds to try. There was an activity to identify twelve seeds and I am pleased to say that our members know their onions seeds from tomatoes, different beans and peas. Rhubarb crowns, onion sets and some seed packets were on offer on the share table. We are looking forward to our March meeting where Stuart Dixon will tell us that 'Spring is just around the Corner'.

## MARCH 2016

This was an open meeting with a welcome return visit by Stuart Dixon. 63 Members and friends enjoyed his talk "Spring is just around the corner" with topical tips and anecdotes. Packets of seeds and dahlia tubers were available on the sales table.

## APRIL 2016

There were eleven entries for our 'grow plants and bulbs in an unusual container' competition. All entries will be on display on the interest table at the April General meeting. The share table demonstrated our move towards better weather with donations of chrysanthemum and streptocarpus plants and seed packets.

We were challenged to identify cuttings from ten shrubs from a member's garden. Members shared information through our open forum about the changes of access to the Gedling recycling and refuse site at Calverton (you now have to register your car with the council to use the site) and the change in rules for bus pass users on the Park 'n Ride services.

## JUNE 2016

We had a visit to Hebbs Farm for our June meeting. Stuart Dixon's garden was a joy to look round on a beautiful sunny morning. 32 members entered the farm through a pretty courtyard with a magnificent display of hostas. A path led round to the front of the house, to lawns with herbaceous borders and fruit trees. The rose garden was next, waiting to burst into full colour later in June. The woodland garden was restfully cool after the sunshine.

Then there was the paddock with an inviting summer house in the corner. Lastly we arrived at another lawn with tables and chairs set out ready for refreshments. Our cup of tea and a scone with homemade jam was served by Mrs Dixon from the delightful farm kitchen. Stuart was on hand to talk about his garden and give advice to members and had a variety of plants grown on from his own garden for sale.

## JULY 2016

The July meeting was at our usual venue, Gedling Road Church. The 'share' table had tomato, ornamental grass, butternut squash and pepper plants; packets of seeds and gardening magazines. We played a game based on an 'ice-breaker bingo' more often found in the workplace. There were 21 bingo squares with different challenges. Members had to ask each other such questions as who was growing runner beans, had a rose in a tub, and visited the Eden Project or Gardeners World in 2016. Our general discussion included a mutual dislike of slugs and snails and the use of oasis for rooting cuttings.

## **AUGUST 2016**

At the August meeting we talked about herbs and herbal remedies. Members identified herbs from the convener's garden and tested their knowledge by naming herbs through the alphabet.

A request from Gedling Council for help in maintaining the Sensory Garden on Carlton Hill was put to the group. There is no Council funding for the upkeep of the Garden and local groups have been approached for volunteers to help.

## **AUGUST 2016**

Seven of us spent a morning tidying up the Garden for the Blind on Carlton Hill. We had been approached by Jane Richardson from Gedling Council and the idea was put to the group at our August meeting that we could adopt the garden and form a working party to keep it tidy.

We cleared eight sacks of rubbish and shrubbery/weeds by the end of our session. *Piggins Cafe* across the road from the garden kindly brought us tea and coffee.

## **SEPTEMBER 2016**

We welcomed Stuart Dixon who gave a talk entitled ***How did your summer garden grow?*** Members and visitors enjoyed hearing Stuart's advice and anecdotes.

## **OCTOBER 2016**

Michael Proctor from Gedling Borough Council gave a talk on looking after gardens in the Borough. This was followed by a brainteaser of anagrams of items found in the garden. We had a sales table with plants to raise funds for Macmillan and also our usual 'share' table.