

EVENLEY GARDENING SOCIETY

Good evening – and for those who don't know me my name is Joyce Stevens and I am the Chairman and Treasurer of the society.

The society (which is affiliated to the RHS), was formed over thirty years ago and it is the second longest serving society of Evenley.

The majority of members are Evenley residents, however our full membership extends to encompass local villages, Mixbury, Charlton, Croughton, Turweston, Weedon Lois, Weston, Whitfield and further.

We offer monthly meetings, with professional speakers talking to us on a myriad of topics. Our society obviously has a gardening bias and with like minded pleasant members, provides for very enjoyable meetings.

Our annual membership cost is extremely small - £5 per household and £2.5 for a single occupancy.

We have held a plant sale each year for many years with free entry – aiming to provide quality plants, herbs, shrubs at keen prices from local independent nurseries. This is also open to non members.

We offer at least one outing each year with our coach picking up both in Brackley and Evenley. Over the years we have visited a variety of places of interest, including the Malvern Spring show, Kew gardens, Wrest Park, Denbies Winery and Vineyard, Savill garden, various arboretums at Batsford, Westonbirt and Harcourt; both the Oxford and Cambridge botanical gardens and last year, Bowood House. Occasionally we have been able to include either a boat or steam railway trip along with the horticultural side – and this makes for a very enjoyable but busy day out.

Over the years we have (when funds permitted), contributed to local causes; giving Katherine House Hospice a suite of garden furniture for the grounds – a donation to a small but a public 'quiet' area in Brackley - the pull down screen for this village hall - and for many years, maintained the verges and green by, not only donating, but planting spring bulbs in Evenley.

Last year our society suffered several blows when we lost key members; our contact with Radio Northampton, our president, Janet Cropley and our chairman for the last 30 years, Keith Cousins. However our committee and members have pulled together and we go forward.

Our monthly meetings are held in Evenley village hall at 8.00pm, usually on the third Tuesday of the month (except for June/July/August when we have a break), and the year ends with a Christmas party (free to members) – Traditionally the choir of St George, joins our party for refreshments, (after touring the village), and sings Christmas carols for us. It certainly makes for a most enjoyable evening.

If anyone is interested in joining the society, please let me know. Contact details are on the EGS page of the parish website.

Thank you