

Hill Rise Allotment Association

St. Ives [Cambridgeshire] Gardening Club

Newsletter

February 2024

Hi Everyone,

Firstly, best wishes for the New Year and trust those of you who attended the Fun quiz have recovered – I think I have, just about!

Still not gardening weather, storms yet to abate before I can even think about getting on pruning my apple tree.

The following e mail arrived from Trevor and Dawn at Cranbrook yesterday. Please take note.

'Hello Robin, I hope you are well.

Sorry it's a bit late but we have now finalised our pricing for 2024.

Please see below our offer to St Ives Gardening Club and Hill Rise Allotment Association.

Cranbrook Plants policy is to offer our customers the very best garden products. Indeed, our company strap line is: • Best Quality • Best Range • Best Service • Best Value As a local supplier we highly value our local customers and as such we are offering St Ives Gardening Club a discount, however this discount is subject to the following criteria; FOR SEASON 2024 • A 10% discount on home grown plants only purchase. • A discount is not offered on compost or "dry" products such as liquid feeds etc.

*•**Please Note Discounts** can only be offered on cash payments – no debit / credit cards are applicable. • Discounts can only be applied with sight of a Gardening Club Membership Card. Thank you. Dawn and Trevor, Cranbrook Plants'.*

Whilst posting this onto to you all I thought I should just also add that John at Park Hall is still able to offer 10% discount on all trees, shrubs and plants and like Cranbrook not on Pots, Composts, Sundries or Seeds. Greg at Cuckoo Bridge confirms still 5% discount similarly just on live plant material. Please always produce your membership card before commencement of the payment transaction. These latter two **will** accept card payment whilst giving you a discount. I believe Oakington's arrangement are the same. If you are a visitor to Scotsdales, Cambridge, Fordham or Haverhill

I strongly urge you to join their loyalty scheme as you will receive discounts on **ALL** sales including the spend at the restaurant.

Our Christmas craft evening and soiree was again a success with 30 members participating. Below is a selection of the completed bowls.

A few examples of the created Christmas table decorations by SIGC Members 13.12.2023



Not everyone's have been included as the photos did not do justice.



Now the results of the Fun Quiz Night, with a big thank you to Greg at Cuckoo Bridge for supplying the splendid 6 Polyanthus prizes for just £6.00 rather than £13.80 retail price. 30 members made up the 5 teams. After what turned out to be a truly fun packed evening, with a few minor headaches on the way, here are the results confirmed.

Team Name	Rounds 1-3	Pics Round	Rounds 5-6	TOTAL
The young Ones	28	18.50	16	62.50
Snowdrops	24	7	15	46.00
Snowdrops 2	32	29	20	81.00
Harebells	28	20.50	21	69.50
Tumbleweeds	22	12.50	18	52.50

Congratulations to Snowdrops 2, and I believe this maybe their 3rd successive win.

Annual Garden visit 2024, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – Saturday 6th July 2024

Whilst I am still awaiting confirmation from Kew as to their entry charges from the 1st April 2024, I need to start the register of those interested in order to also offer places to non-club members and confirm coach hire with Cambridge Coaches. I am anticipating a charge not exceeding £36.00pp to cover Coach hire, Driver Tip and Kew Entry. As we will be going at a week-end in the peak summer period it is likely the individual entry charge will be at least £24.00pp. However, for our group hire I am hoping entry costs will be in the order of **£21.50**. If you would like to go on this trip please respond to me by February 4th, when I will be adding non-club members to the register of interested folk. When responding please confirm the following:

1. If you wish **more** than one place, please provide the name(s) of each person, partner or friend – they do not have to be a club member and will be given priority before other non-members.
2. Please confirm if any named person is **under the age of 65**.
3. Should you require or one of your named friends require access to an electric mobility vehicle please let me know. There is no charge for this facility, but they do need to be reserved in advance, to be sure to have one.
4. There is a road train operated at Kew – hop on and hop off throughout the day, but this cannot be booked in advance. I will advise the cost when Kew confirm with me.
5. **Please Note:** No payment is required at present. I will send out payment requests in early May and confirm all the travel time arrangements. I anticipate departing Coop Car Park, Burleigh Centre, Marley Road 08.00 and returning 18.30 latest.

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