

Herefordshire Growing Point

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2009 NEWSLETTER

VISIT TO LONDON TO MEET BARONESS MASHAM, Patron of Growing Point

Rachel Huntley and Laura Hone met Lady Masham in the House of Lords in April. She is disabled as a result of a riding accident and is confined to a wheelchair. She is someone whose glass is half full rather than half empty and has devoted her life to campaigning for and supporting disabled people. Her energy and commitment were publicly recognised when, aged 35, she was made a Life Peer in 1970. Both Rachel and Laura came away from this meeting feeling that they had met a most remarkable person and that as a charity, Growing Point is fortunate to have Lady Masham as Patron.



Themed Beds Competition

There were eight original and creative entries for the Themed Bed Competition, and much thought was put into it by each group. Themes included Hereford-by-the-Sea, Herbal Paradise and Alien Landscape. The Mayor of Hereford judged the beds at the end of June, and presented a winning certificate to the Over 60's group, and this photograph was in the Hereford Times.

Themed Beds Winning Entry



AUTUMN SHOW 2009

Paul Keetch M.P. was the guest and judge at the Autumn Show. Competitions included miniature gardens, dried flower displays, longest carrots, animals from vegetables and pots of chutney. Cups were presented to Babs Tunna from the Over 60's for the Tallest Sunflower, David Davies from the Mixed Disability Group for the Heaviest Tomato and Brian East from The Shires group who was judged to be the **Growing Point Gardener of the Year**. Brian has started an allotment since joining Growing Point. Well done to everyone who entered and to the Tutors for their support.



Summer Barbecue

After some years when we felt the barbecue was held under a hosepipe, this year's event occurred on the hottest day of the year. For the second year running Bryn Margerison and Woody Blagg nobly manned the barbecue, no mean feat in the intense heat. Over 40 Growing Point participants, tutors, families and carers sat in the sun in the Demonstration Garden enjoying food provided by the committee. This event is now a fixture and enjoyed by all.

Achievements from our Groups

Babs Tunna from the Over 60s group illustrated posters for the talk by Steven Desmond. Mary Knight's group grew fruit and vegetables and made puddings and Jacky Gallagher's group made gooseberry chutney for the autumn show. A client from the mixed disability group is working as a volunteer with 'Echo' helping disabled people with gardening.

News from the Garden House

It has been a good year for the soft fruit. Carol Kirby's group made redcurrant and raspberry cordial and blackcurrant syrup. The ABI Unit made chips with their potatoes and ate them with homegrown beetroot.

Garden Visit to Weston Hall

On a sunny day in June several groups visited this charming garden near Ross-on-Wye. Everyone enjoyed a delicious tea and the chance to sit and chat. We are enormously grateful to the owners, Lucinda and Pelham Aldrich-Blake for allowing this private visit,

The Butchers Arms at Woolhope has been re-opened by Stephen Bull, one of our regular sponsors.
www.butchersarmswoolhope.com

Summer Party at Shieldbrook Sculpture Garden, Kings Cople

We had a very successful fundraising evening at the end of June. Guests wandered around the garden admiring the sculptures created by local artists, drinking Bellinis and eating delicious canapés. There was also a champagne raffle and the evening raised over £2500 which is a wonderful total. Thanks are due to our main sponsors, **Knight Frank**, and to **Smith and Williamson** (Bristol branch) who contributed so much towards the champagne raffle; plus **Tanners of Shrewsbury**, **Tesco**, and **Brewin Dolphin**. Finally, a big thank you to the event committee, whose hard work made the evening such a success, and to our hosts, Sue and Oliver Sharp who made it all possible.

History of Kitchen Gardens

Steven Desmond gave an illustrated talk and spoke from his own experience as a gardener in an historic kitchen garden. It was interesting to learn about the evolution of these gardens over the centuries. This was well attended and extremely informative.

Order Christmas Cards NOW !

This year's Growing Point Christmas card involves most of the groups who designed a card for the competition. It can be viewed on the website and costs £4 for a pack of 10. Contact: h_growing_p@hotmail.com or (01544) 262186

Talks to Gardening Clubs

We now offer a talk about the work of Growing Point and are keen to spread the word to as many clubs as possible. Please contact us for more details.

Future Events

Spring Garden Opening

Wednesday, 17th March (10.00 - 12.00). Come and have a cup of coffee and welcome Spring at Bosbury House, near Ledbury.