

Secret Gardens Please can you help?

Each year Secret Gardens needs over 300 volunteers so that the event can be run efficiently and, more importantly, SAFELY! You could think of yourself as 'cabin crew' – there for the visitors' comfort but primarily for their safety. So, if you can be a member of our 'cabin crew' for this year's Secret Gardens, we need 2 or 3 hours of your time. Amongst the jobs we might ask you to do will be helping visitors, stewarding in gardens, selling tickets, or helping on the raffle. To volunteer please contact secretgardens@theoxtonsociety.co.uk.

Grand Charity Raffle

This raffle is special – ticket buyers choose which prize they would like to enter so we need plenty of ideas to tempt them. If you have any new (or good as new) things that don't quite fit in your house let us find someone who can give them a new home and help out our charities into the bargain.

Just a few ideas are:

- Cookery books that don't tempt you but could be loved by someone else
- Kitchen equipment – that crock pot could find a new home
- Toys – children have a habit of growing too big for things, nearly new items might tempt our ticket buyers
- Gardening books or furniture

Our raffle wrapping team will need prizes by 2nd May so that they can box or wrap them. The team are happy to accept donations of money so they can buy things either to add to donated items or to be prizes on their own. Please contact Monica Toosey on pmtoosey@sky.com or 652 1653 to arrange handover of your prizes/donations.

Calling All Cake Makers!

The Oxton Society Café at The Hub is one of the best money raisers for Secret Gardens, raising money for partner charities as well as the Oxton Society. Without generous donations of home baked cakes the 'café' would not be such a success. Please could you bake a cake or two to help to supply the Oxton Society Café. If you can please contact Monica Toosey on pmtoosey@sky.com or 652 1653 so that she can include your contributions in her planning.

Please wrap your cake in tinfoil, labelling it with which type of cake it is. Any plate or tray should have your name and contact number attached to it, so any stray plates can make their way home after the event. Cakes should be delivered to 8 Mount Pleasant on Saturday 12th May. Unfortunately, we cannot accept cakes with fresh cream as we do not have enough fridge space. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Friends of the Arno Plant Stall.

The Plant Stall run by the Friends of the Arno has always been a great success, but it would not be without the many green fingered people who have grown, split, dug up and potted on plants to be sold. We hope you are already taking cuttings, collecting plants, and growing seedlings and potting up ready for us to sell at this year's plant stall. All plants are welcome. Also, any unwanted terracotta pots, gardening tools or gardening books would be most welcome for selling on the stall.

The plants can be delivered (during the few days before Sunday, 8th May) to 1 Ingestre Road (if no-one is at home leave them by the porch). Please label them if you know what they are, particularly if they are rare. If you would like them to be collected or have any queries, please phone Peter on 652 1027. Alternatively, they can be delivered to the stall from 8.30am on the Sunday. The plants stall will be in its usual place in front of the Willows in the village centre. There will also be a free Creche where you can leave your purchased plants. **All sales will be by cash..**