

Cookham and Cookham Dean Horticultural Society

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 27th April 7.30pm
Cookham Dean Village Hall**

**TREE PLANTING AND AFTERCARE
Pamela Holt**

Local horticultural lecturer and arboricultural specialist

Chairman's letter

Once again I have to say what a lovely sight it was to see all the exhibits at the Spring Show last month, well done everyone and congratulations to the winners, especially **Pam Rees** who won the overall Plate (see below) **Pam Campin** who won the Society Daffodil Cup and **Mollie Hurley**, winner of the Flower Arranging Cup. **Claire Phillpot's** fritillaries were also a big hit with the members.(see right) I was so sorry that I had to leave early (an important birthday party beckoned), but I know it was up to our usual standard and thanks to Les Waldren for judging and commenting on the entries.

Easter is quite late this year, and our next meeting is just a few days after, but I hope we shall have a good audience for Pam Holt, who is going to talk about tree planting and aftercare – I'm sure it will be an interesting topic and useful to anyone who has trees in their garden which need to be replaced or given a new lease of life. While we're on the subject of trees, the flowering trees in this area are quite beautiful at the moment and, as always, the cherry orchard on the hill above Dean Lane is a sight to behold. Those of us who have lived in the Dean for many years will remember when there were many more cherry orchards than there are now and we have been very concerned recently about the fate of the one I've just mentioned. All the land belonging to John Copas, who died a few years ago, has been up for sale since last autumn, and this included the cherry orchard, so its future has been of particular interest to those, like me, who live adjacent to it. Although we have had no official confirmation, it seems that it has now been sold as the fields are being cultivated, cows have appeared and there is activity in the orchard. With the cherry trees there in full blossom at the moment, it brings it home what a beautiful asset it is to this area and how much we all hope that the new owner, whoever it is, will keep it like that so that we can continue to enjoy it for the foreseeable future.

Those of you who were able to come to the March meeting were able to buy some sweet-pea plants which Brian Thompson had sent up from Wiltshire for us, and he has promised me some more for April. If you would like some, but are unable to come that evening, just give me a ring (01628-483444) and I will

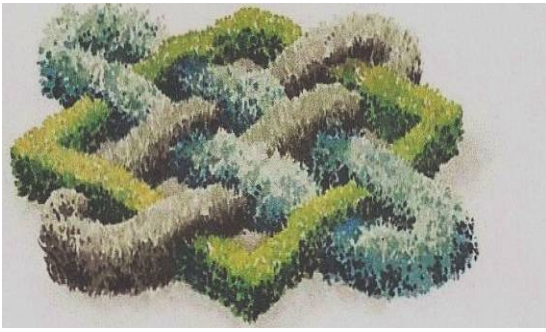
keep some for you. We shall also be selling small fuchsia plants for you to bring on for our September meeting, and as usual there will be a cup for the person producing the best all-round plant that evening – it's always great fun to see what others have managed to achieve with careful feeding and tender loving care!

Have a Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you on the 27th April.

Susie Tremlett.



KNOT GARDENS.



A knot garden is a very formal design with a square frame and regular geometric and symmetrical patterns. There is some debate about their origins. One reference I found said they have their origins in ancient Arabian gardens. Most references agree they are associated with European gardens of the Middle Ages and Elizabethan England. The earliest frames were grown with a variety of aromatic plants and culinary herbs. Nowadays the edges are more often Box. Knot gardens were commonly designed to display coats of arms, animals or plants, or stitches

of embroidery. One reference says they were inspired by English needlework patterns. They are filled with gravel or mulch and the hedges are the feature. Later the interstices of open knots were filled with coloured sand and earth and of closed knots with flowers.

The patterns used have become more complex in modern times and often use celtic designs. The hedges for knot gardens are chosen for contrasting colours and fine texture of foliage and most importantly their similar rates of growth.

A natural extension of the knot garden is the parterre that originated in the late 16th/ early 17th century and was inspired by French embroidery patterns. They tend to be larger than the knot gardens and the hedges create a series of flower beds.

I am thinking of creating a very small knot garden in my own garden and wonder if anyone else has tried this. There are several notable knot gardens in this country. Three of these are in
The museum of Garden History adjacent to Lambeth Palace
St. Fagan's Museum of Country Life, South Wales
Red Lodge Museum, Bristol.

References:

- Filoli Gardener's Reference
- Knot garden – The Free Dictionary
- Boxknot, Court Gate Nursery, Pershore

Janet Shanks

And numbers from the National Trust.....

- ❖ Richard I insisted his tenants limit their hedgerows to 4ft 6ins (1.4m) in the 12th Century, it being the height a deer could comfortably clear!
- ❖ There are 721 varieties of plants in Sissinghurst's White Garden
- ❖ The Tynesfield Estate in Somerset is home to 750 species of fungi
- ❖ There are 7.6 million trees to be found on National Trust land.....2 trees for every member

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING NEW.....

Following on from our list of Dream Plants, here is a list of ten plants which have been nominated by plantsmen as being future stars of the garden in 2011. Some are unpronounceable, others look familiar but if you are feeling adventurous why not source them if you can? Further details in Gardens Illustrated

X Sinocalycanthus raulstonii 'Hartlage Wine' (Spinners Nursery) Deciduous shrub to 3m

Aster x herveyi also known as 'Twilight' (Orchard Dene) Late flowering perennial to 70cm

Agapanthus 'Moonshine' (Pennard Plants) Hardy, with pale blue flowers to 60cm

Ratibida pinnata (Jardin Plume Normandy) Yellow flowering perennial to 1.5m, looks like a droopy rudbeckia.

Paenonia 'Garden Treasure' (Austin Hardy Plants) Primrose yellow flowers, a cross between herbaceous and woody peony.

Iris 'Dogrose' (Woottens of Wenhaston) Classic scented iris flower for a sunny, well drained site

Dahlia coccinea var. Palmeri (Avon Bulbs) Flowers are orange red in late summer. Tall to 2m

Gaura lindheimeri 'Rosyjane' (Hardys Cottage Plants) a bi-coloured *Gaura* to 75cm.

Didn't even try my spellcheck on these!

GT

Osteospermum Flower Power Doubles: New from Suttons



Until now all osteospermums have featured single flowers in the traditional daisy style. Here we see the very first doubles, the Flower Power Doubles To be more precise: these are not doubles

in the usual sense, they're what are often called anemone-centred and feature a sort of ruff of short tubular petals in the centre of each flower instead of the small dark eye.

The result is flowers which are more intriguing, which repay a closer look than other kinds, but which retain the intense colours and the long flowering season. Also, because of that additional petal tissue in the middle of the flower, the blooms close up less tightly in the evening than other osteospermums so they still provide a little colour as dusk falls.

Reaching about 12in/30cm in height, grow them in containers or soil that is not soggy, and give them plenty of sunshine. They'll flower through the summer - especially if dead-headed. (More details on the RHS website)

BEST BUY HAND TROWELS

Recommendations from Gardening Which? are.....

Spear and Jackson Neverbend Stainless Steel trowel 3010 TR at £7.99

And Spear and Jackson Select St. Steel Hand trowel 3058EL at £9.99

Dont buy.....

Draper Carbon Steel trowel at £2.25 or Draper Plastic Hand trowel at £1.19 or Wolf Garten Multi-change Hand Trowel LUSM at £13.99

(If you are looking for a hand fork then the matching hand forks for the Spear and Jackson trowels mentioned above came out as Best Buys too, in addition to Fiskars Power Grip Hand fork at £6.98)

VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS

If you are planning to enter vegetables in the Cookham Dean Horticultural Show in September but don't have a large garden then why not grow your vegetables in containers? Remember to feed and water regularly and plant in the appropriate depth of compost. Many different selections of vegetables will grow well and the list below from the RHS will help you to select your favourites;

Tomatoes

'Hundreds and Thousands,' 'Tumbler', 'Maskotka,' 'Red Robin', 'Tumbling Tom Red', 'Tumbling Tom Yellow' 'Sungold' AGM

Potatoes]

(Earlies) 'Accent,' 'Duke of York', 'Orla', 'Mimi', 'Pentland Javelin' (Salad types); 'Aura, 'Anya', 'Charlotte', 'Harlequin', 'Roseval'.

Lettuce

'Little Gem', 'Pandero' and 'Salad Bowl'AGM

Courgettes

'Buckingham', 'Midnight' 'Patio Star.'

Runner Beans

'Hestia'

Adopt a Seed for Kew's Millennium Seed Bank

Here are a few details about our decision to donate the proceeds of the next raffle to Kew's Adopt-a-Seed project. An adoption costs £25 for each seed.

By adopting a seed we are making a contribution to the ongoing costs of maintaining the Millennium Seed Bank so that it remains an important resource for the conservation of the world's plant species.

Once we have decided which seed to adopt we receive an adoption pack. Here are the current choices:

Chamaejas intrepidus – the intrepid little giant. A member of the snapdragon family, this is an aquatic plant from Namibia, with pale pink flowers.

Gladiolus dzhavakheticus – the sword plant. This is from the Caucasus and has showy pink flowers and sword-like leaves.

Protea cryophila – flowers in the snow. From the Cederberg Wilderness in South Africa, this plant is notorious for its reluctance to flower and set seed. It is threatened by global warming as the snow belt recedes. The flower takes a full year to open.

Gardenia nitida – dangerous to collect. This is a small tree found in Burkina Faso. It has smooth bark and golden yellow flowers.

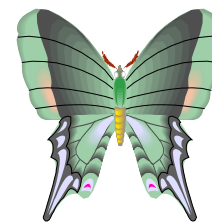
Nematolepis wilsonii – the shining nematolepis. This is from S.E. Australia and has star shaped white flowers and waxy leaves. It became extinct in the wild as a result of devastating bush fires but has recently been re-established. Plants are seriously threatened by sambar deer (an introduction from Asia.) Does this sound familiar?

Thymelaea hirsuta – known in Arabic as "mitnan." This is a perennial, evergreen shrub found among the wadies near Petra, Jordan. Tourists disturb the plant's habitat. Mitnan branches are used by Bedouins to make very strong rope, for securing tents, hauling water, yoking camels. The flowers attract flies and can be used for clearing a tent (!) It also has medicinal uses, both for humans and camels.

You can view the plants at www.kew.org/support-kew/adopt-a-seed .There will be pictures and details of how to vote for your choice at the April meeting. MD

BUTTERFLIES

More than 600 live butterflies are arriving at the Natural History Museum this month for the *Sensational Butterflies* exhibition. The show aims to encourage gardeners to plant butterfly friendly plants such as lavender, buddleia and perennial wallflowers. More than 70% of species are declining, according to Butterfly Conservation.



THAMES HOSPICECARE

Summer Lunch at Lordswood near Marlow ; Thursday 16 June 2011 at 12 noon

Courtesy of David and Millie Messum, come and enjoy their beautiful garden, wandering among the sculptures including water features. There will also be a talk by the head gardener. In addition you will be able to view the current art exhibition in the studio. **There will be a welcoming drink and a 2-course lunch will be served at 13.00. Tickets £20** For more information or to purchase a ticket please contact Anthea Webb on 01628 482569

Features for next month's newsletter to Gill Townend by 6th May please. (gilltownend@aol.com)

