

Cookham and Cookham Dean Horticultural Society

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 24th November 7.30pm
Cookham Dean Village Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Followed by “Our Dream Garden”

*The results of the survey presented by Carolyn Foster and Gill Townend
plus Wine and Mince Pies, Hamper raffle and a
Table Decoration competition!*

Chairman's Letter

November has kicked in with some pretty awful weather, but no matter – there's always the Horticultural Society's AGM to look forward to! For the last few years we have arranged something other than just the business of the AGM and a glass of wine to look forward to, and I hope you'll agree that this year the programme will be really interesting. We shall try and get the business part of the meeting completed fairly speedily, and then Gill Townend and Carolyn Foster will present their findings from the survey which was carried out at the end of last year to discover which plants flourish in our local conditions and which do not. Many of us participated in this, and the results should be really interesting.



The competition for this year will be for a Christmas table centre decoration with a candle, measuring not more than 30 cm. in any direction and using natural materials. Ribbon and/or spray-paint etc. can be used, but no shop-bought flowers. Judging will be by the members present.

There will be the usual **Christmas raffle**, with several 'hamper bags' as prizes, so small 'Christmassy' items will be welcomed for these. The remainder of the 'competition bulbs' will be for sale at £1 for a bag of 10, and there will be glasses of wine or soft drinks and mince-pies to complete the Christmas spirit.

I am very sorry to advise you that Penny Meredith, who has been a stalwart member of the committee for the last three years and a most willing helper, has decided she must now resign as she will be spending more time away from this area in future. This means that we shall be looking for someone to replace her on the committee, and we are hoping very much that someone amongst our members will be prepared to be nominated. If any more information is required about this, please contact me or any other member of the committee. It's not a very onerous job, but we would welcome anyone who is prepared to participate fully in the various tasks that have to be undertaken. Meanwhile, our very grateful thanks to Penny for all her support during her time with us.

May I remind you all that our meetings are scheduled to start at 7.30 p.m., when most of our speakers have already arrived, so we want to avoid having to wait till 8 p.m. to accommodate latecomers.

Our Treasurer, Janet Shanks, has some proposals to put to members regarding our finances, but I'll leave her to make the case.

I hope you will all try and come to our November meeting on 24th, and enter the competition, and I'm sure we will have a most enjoyable evening.

Susie Tremlett

Daffodil Bulbs

I hope everyone has planted their Society daffodil bulbs for the competition at the Spring show. They should be in a 5 or 6 inch pot with some free draining compost eg a mixture of multipurpose and John Innes composts. They should be plunged into the ground somewhere in your garden, (marked with a label

so you don't lose them), so that they develop a good root system. If you have a problem with deer or birds pecking at them, it is a good idea to protect them with wire netting. Further details of growing tips will follow in the New Year.

Hubble, bubble, toil and trouble

Mealy Bugs, Vine Weevils and Tortrix Moths sound suspiciously like ingredients for a witches' cauldron. And hearing the damage they cause to our plants that is undoubtedly where they belong.

With just a few days to go until Halloween marauding maggots, slimy slugs and greedy grubs slithered their way into the Cookham Dean Village Hall after dark with a little help from Andrew Halstead, Principal Entomologist with the RHS. An expert in plant pest recognition and control at Wisley for the past 38 years, Andrew left us spellbound with his encyclopaedic knowledge. And where better to begin than with Garden Enemy Number 1 – **the slug**.

For those wishing to exact deadly revenge, nematodes are the exocet missiles to go for. They work by entering the unwanted pest's body and releasing special bacteria. These multiply, filling the slug's body and eventually killing it. The photograph Andrew showed us of nematodes on the attack was worthy of the most ghoulish horror film. And here are some of Andrew's other recommendations for pest control:

Squeeze Winter Moth caterpillars between fruit tree leaves - once juice begins oozing out you know you have had a lucky strike.

Stalk the Vapour Moth caterpillar with a torch light on a mild evening before removing from the rose bush and destroying it.

Throw unwanted snails a good long distance over the garden fence, too close and they could find their way back home again.

Stamp on siesta loving Rosemary Beetles while they snooze in the afternoon sunshine, after shaking the rosemary bush and forcing them cascade to the ground.

Lay carpet or underlay around the base of transplanted brassicas to discourage the female Cabbage Root Fly Maggot from laying her eggs near the root surface.

Wrap horticultural fleece around young seedling to help keep unwanted pests away.

Build a square wall of polythene sheeting to thwart the low flying carrot fly.

Be patient because some like the Chaffer Grub, responsible for turning immaculate lawns into scrappy scrubland, will probably move on of their own accord after a year anyway.

Tolerate those like the Raspberry Leaf and Bud Mite, the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner, the Blackcurrant Big Bud Mite and the Holly Leaf Miner. They may make your plant look less than perfect but they do not do a great deal of damage. If just a few branches are unsightly prune them out.

When faced with a serial killer like the Vine Weevil though, immediate action is essential to save your plant. Rhododendrons are one of their favourite battle grounds with each female laying up to one thousand eggs. Alarm bells should ring if a plant is wilting, despite being well watered. **Spray immediately** with a systemic insecticide or send biological nematodes into battle. **Three proprietary sprays that Andrew came back to time and time again were Deltamethrin, Spray Day Greenfly Killer and Westland Plant Rescue Control.** But remember not all garden pests warrant the opprobrium heaped on them. The Harlequin Ladybird, believed to be a dire threat to our native species when it first arrived on these shores, has been far too busy munching on the abundant Greenfly and Blackfly to pay them much attention.

Where once my reaction to garden pests was panic then exterminate, my tactics in future will be more subtle – calmly observe then take appropriate action.

Claire Phillpot

Visiting Gardens

I have had a really interesting summer visiting a wealth of gardens both locally and further afield and for most of these I have the WEA to thank. Many of the local gardens have been during the WEA Summer Garden Visits course which I have been fortunate enough to have run for the past few years. We have seen some gems this year and all with delightful garden owners who are very happy to share their gardens with us and who also make delicious cakes!!

Most of these gardens are in the yellow book and so should be open again next year. Particularly notable ones are Boxwood House in Sunninghill for its quality and perfection of planting, Hillcrest, in Frieth Road, Marlow for its wealth of colour, Red Kites in Bledlow Ridge, a hillside garden with amazing views and continual surprises as you walk down the steep hill and lastly Chalkhouse Green Farm, a superbly elegant farmhouse garden with an all white menagerie to match.

Later on this summer I have visited many other gardens with my camera and very patient husband. This is to prepare for another WEA class to be held in January entitled 'Gardens of the UK.'

For this I have been focussing on gardens from various periods of history and have learnt a great deal as many of the gardens now have superb educational sign boards. History has never been my strong point, but these visits have really helped to get things in context.

Our first day out was to Chiswick House and Ham House. Chiswick House has had a 12 million pound restoration project, now almost complete and the park is well worth a visit. Another day we went to Painshill Park and Claremont, two beautiful landscape gardens. Painshill Park is particularly interesting and we were fortunate enough to be able to go inside the grotto which is quite breathtaking with the walls and ceiling covered in calcite crystals.

A visit to Hampton Court took us back in time to a Tudor knot garden and the King's Privy Garden a garden laid out in a complex pattern to be viewed from the house as a sign of power and wealth.

The equally magnificent and opulent landscape gardens of Chatsworth House occupied us for a whole day while on holiday in the Peak district in October. Here we enjoyed looking at the amazing water features and marvelling at their engineering as well as enjoying the vistas and trees and productive vegetable garden.

For a Victorian vegetable garden at its best with an array of hot houses and cold frames, West Dean near Chichester is well worth a visit. It also has a 100 metre long pergola designed by Harold Peto, which is quite awesome.

We then explored some Arts and Crafts gardens and this took us to Kelmscott Manor, home of William Morris, and also Rodmarton Manor, near Cirencester. Another day took us to Hidcote Manor and Snowhill Manor (an extraordinary place!!) in the Cotswolds. In contrast to the openness of the landscape gardens, these gardens were divided up by hedges into smaller areas or rooms, and the opulent stone buildings and statues of the landscape gardens were replaced by rustic buildings and features made of local materials by local craftsmen.

I have really enjoyed all these visits and appreciate even more the work of the National Trust in preserving so many of these places for us to enjoy. We also are very fortunate to have in Britain so many different garden styles to look at and glean ideas from to maybe reproduce in some way in our own gardens.

If you want to get more insight into these gardens, their creators and their features why not come along to the 'WEA Gardens of the UK' class in the village hall in January 2011 and we can look at them together and then hopefully you will be inspired to get out and do some visiting next summer! There are 5 meetings starting Thursday 13th January 7.30 to 9.30pm. For enrolment contact Liz Crathorne on 01628 632208.

Carolyn Foster

RHS news and events

Guided Walks For passionate gardeners RHS Garden Wisley has some treats in store this November. RHS members and non members will be able to join two garden tours: *The Folklore of Wisley's favourite trees* (18 Nov) and *Wisley's Giant Christmas Trees: A Walk through the Pinetum* (2 Dec) which will be guided by Wisley's expert staff. Advanced booking is required - Call 0845 612 1253. Normal Garden Entry applies - check the website for details.

Weeds Lecture A weeds lecture will be run on 14 November at 2.30pm by nature writer Richard Mabey who will be discussing his new book *Weeds*. This journey through the cultural history of weeds urges us to rethink the attitudes we have to such an enormous section of the plant world. The 45 minute talk will be followed by a Q&A session and book signing. Tickets are £25 (admits 2 people) and includes one copy of the book *Weeds* (RRP £15.99). Call 01483 479 753 to book

Tree Weekend The Wisley Plant Centre, as part of National Tree Week, will be devoting a weekend (27-28 November) to trees and their uses and is open to all. Those attending the event will be able to get advice from RHS experts on any tree or planting query. Autumn is the ideal time for planting anything from our huge range of ornamental & fruit trees. In addition, RHS Garden Wisley will be giving away 2000 tree saplings.

Christmas Horticulture There is also a special Christmas Horticulture event for RHS members only. This will be run on 10 December 2010 at 2pm and will allow you to take a behind the scenes tour of the Glasshouse, including the poinsettia display and learn about horticultural connections to Christmas. Members only event. Call 0845 612 1253 before 8 December to book. Limited spaces available.

Gardening 2011 Preview A 2011 Gardening Preview is being held on 17 November 2010, which is a must for all Gardeners. RHS members can join us for this exclusive and free preview of horticulture in 2011. Find out what's being planted at Wisley in time for next year, what the latest garden design trends are, which plants have recently won the RHS Award of Garden Merit and hear what the plans are for the 2011 RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Spaces are limited, call 0845 612 1253 before 15 November to book.

Christmas Preview Christmas Preview Evening at The Wisley Shop and Plant Centre; 18 November 2010 is a special event for those who want to know how to decorate and create inspiring Christmas trees and plant up winter containers. Enjoy mulled wine & canapés at this relaxed evening in the Wisley Shop and Plant Centre. This event is free and by invitation only, call 01483 211 113 option 3 or 4 or email wisleyplantcentre@rhs.org.uk to receive your invitation.

For more information on any of these events please visit www.rhs.org.uk/wisley or phone

Samantha Bevington | Marketing & PR Executive | RHS Garden Wisley Tel: 01483 479798



Braywick Heath Nurseries exists to provide

horticultural therapy, training and employment to people who find it difficult or impossible to find employment in the open market. We currently have 25 supported volunteers and 9 employed staff. We have another 25 volunteers from the community who work alongside the supported volunteers.

Braywick Heath Nurseries is a not-for profit Social Enterprise, (limited by guarantee). We do not receive any grants or other funding from local or national government and have to earn every penny needed for running this social enterprise. The winter period is a difficult time for us. Our income from Nursery sales and income from the maintenance teams takes a substantial dip. We are looking for work to augment our regular income and to provide gainful activity for our staff and supported volunteers. Unlike many plant nurseries we do not lay-off staff during the winter months. We could offer help in various ways. Examples would be;

- *Delivering goods (We have two vehicles available).*
- *Putting together flat-packs.*
- *Cleaning.*
- *Packaging and mail shots.*
- *Light assembly work*

If you have any work that you can out source to us to give gainful employment for those that we support along with income for the Nurseries, then please contact Robin Pemberton at the address below.

Braywick Heath Nurseries 41 Braywick Road Maidenhead SL6 1DX Phone 01628 622510

(Please bring this agenda and minutes with you to the meeting)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
24TH NOVEMBER 2010**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Chairman's report
2. Apologies
3. Minutes
4. Matters Arising
5. Treasurers report
6. Election of officers
7. Election of new committee
8. A.O.B.

Date of AGM 2011 : Wednesday 30th November 2011

Nominations for new committee members to Di Benson (472163) or any present committee member in advance or at the meeting.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2011

Membership subscriptions for the year 2011 become due at the AG.M. on Wednesday November 24th 2010. Your committee will recommend that the subscription shall increase to £8 for this year. It helps me if you fill in your details on the form below and bring it with you to the A.G.M. together with your £8 subscription. If you are unable to attend the November meeting the January meeting is fine or send your completed form and subscription to me at the address below together with a stamped addressed envelope and I will send your membership card to you as soon as I am able.

The committee is asking everyone who has an Email address to receive the newsletter by Email as it saves on the cost of postage for the society.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

The address to send your subscription is:

**Mrs Janet Shanks, 144, Whyteladyes Lane, Cookham Rise, Maidenhead,
Berks SL6 9LA**

Thank you

Contributions to January's newsletter to Gill Townend 01628 483092 and gilltownend@aol.com. Next meeting is on Wednesday January 26th when Richard Poad will be speaking on The Gardens of Guelderland.

COOKHAM AND COOKHAM DEAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF AGM, 25TH NOVEMBER 2009

1. WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Susie Tremlett welcomed over 50 members, and the committee and explained the programme for the evening. Susie gave a report on last year's events which had started with the resignation of our Chairman Brian Thompson. Brian and Gill moved away from the area but still keep in touch and visit Cookham regularly. They are very happy and very busy in their new home. Susie then recalled the 2009 programme of meetings and visits, all of which had been interesting and informative.

Mary Downes and Pam Campin have almost completed the programme for 2010 and this begins in January with Tim Walker talking about Gardening in the 21st Century. We are looking forward to this well known and excellent speaker.

Mabel Vevers, our President, died in October and Susie paid tribute to her enthusiasm and loyalty to the Horticultural Society and her knowledge of the history both of the society and Cookham Dean.

2. APOLOGIES. Tom Denniford

3. MINUTES. Minutes were circulated, agreed unanimously and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING. None.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Balance sheets were circulated and the following report was given.

We arrive at the end of another year with a small profit of almost £200 We have attracted 100 members - 10 less than last year. We need to keep our membership numbers at around 100 so that we can keep up the quality of our speakers, although quality does not always equate to with their cost. You will notice a substantial drop in the interest on our National Savings Bond but it is only to be expected in the current financial climate. I guess we should be grateful to receive any interest at all.

The expenditure on the hire of the hall shows higher than usual because we had to use the W.I. hall for one of our meetings. We did receive a refund on the extra cost from the Festival Committee as reflected in the income statement. There was also an increase in the hourly rate of the hire of the hall for the year.

Our insurance costs have increased because we now have to insure the equipment that we bought last year. The increase looks worse than it is because the renewal fell within the same year as the initial insurance. This will not happen next year and thus our expenditure will be less in this area. Our expenditure on general expenses is much less this year than last as the high rate last year was due to the expenditure on our computer equipment.

For the first time since I have been treasurer we have managed to cover the cost of our shows - just. Our printing and copying expenses are reduced this year due to more members receiving their Newsletter by e-mail. So thank you. The rest of our income and expenditure is much the same as last year and so I have recommended that we keep the membership subscription at £7.00 for this year

Janet Shanks

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman then resigned from her position.

Officers were then appointed as follows.

Chairman - Susie Tremlett, proposed by Joan Burgin, seconded by Charles Elly. Accepted unan.

Treasurer - Janet Shanks, proposed by Gill Townend, seconded by Marion Elly. Accepted unan.

Secretary - Diana Benson, proposed by Kitty Hitchener, seconded by Barbara Dent. Accepted unan.

The Chair then proposed that make a resolution to limit the committee to 12 members including officers.

The meeting agreed.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Chris Sibbald wishes to resign from the committee.

Becky Pinniger, Mary Downes, Arthur Burgin, Pam Campin, Penny Meredith, Claire Phillpot and Carolyn Foster all agreed to stand again. David Wiggins agreed to stand for nomination and was accepted.

A.O.B. Charles Elly thanked the committee for all their work and Pam Campin thanked Gill Townend for the excellent newsletter she produces which is highly praised and thought of by other Horticultural societies.

Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Date of AGM 2010
Wednesday 24th November.