

East Anglian Garden Group

Newsletter 116

Autumn 2016



<http://eastangliangardengroup.onesuffolk.net>

EAST ANGLIAN GARDEN GROUP

Newsletter 116

Sept. 2016

President	Mrs Margaret Thorpe
Chairman	Mr Oswald Simpson
Secretary	Mr Matthew Long The Flints, 1&2 Brent Eleigh Rd, Monks Eleigh, Suffolk IP7 7JG 01449 741551 flagpartnership@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Miss Josephine Mitson
Committee	Mrs Widget Finn Mr Bob Hardwick Website Co-ordinator Mr John Dyter Mrs Isobel Ashton Mrs Elaine Overnell

Subscriptions for 2016/2017 are due on November 1 2016

£12 p.p. payable by cheque to The East Anglian Garden Group

WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit EAGG on the web

<http://eastangliangardengroup.onesuffolk.net/>

Here we have the latest news and additional information about upcoming events. There are also articles written by members and monthly 'Seasonal Treasures' featuring articles on plants or groups of plants of seasonal interest.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

After three very successful years under the Chairmanship of Elizabeth Wells, I became interim Chairman for this year. We now need a new Chairman to take over at our AGM in November. Is anyone willing?

Looking back we have had a very busy year with excellent speakers, Steve Coghill on the 'Restoration of Glemham Hall Gardens', Anna Pavord with 'Plant Partners' and Colin Ward explaining the culture of 'Hardy Exotics'.

We also enjoyed our annual January visit to Anglesey Abbey and then in February a Snowdrop Workshop at Raveningham Hall. In March we visited Alan Shipp's wonderful Hyacinth Collection at his nursery in Waterbeach (see photographs). In May we visited Gayton Hall Gardens and West Acre Nursery. Otley Hall Gardens and house was our final visit in July before our annual Summer Party. This was held in Troston at Church Cottage by kind invitation of Graeme and Maryssa Norris in their wonderful garden. We all had a lovely evening despite the rain and we are indebted to them for their kind hospitality. Jackie Rucker and Isobel Ashton again supplied a superb strawberry and cream supper much enjoyed by us all.

Next year's programme looks very exciting. Widget Finn, our Programme Secretary, has arranged some excellent speakers.

My thanks go to all Committee members for steering me through this past year and we look forward to continued enjoyment and success.

Oswald Simpson

EAGG SPEAKERS PROGRAMME 2016 & 2017

October 1

ANDREW MIKOLAJSKI

‘PIN ME UP AGAINST THE WALL’ (and do what you will with me) or How to choose and manage wall shrubs

We are delighted to welcome Andrew to speak at the first EAGG meeting of the new season (in place of Andy Vernon who is now unable to give his talk on dahlias). Andrew is the former editor of the RHS Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers, and also the RHS Encyclopedia of Gardening, and has written and contributed to every major gardening magazine and specialist journal.

Come early on October 1 to catch up with your gardening friends and to get a good seat for this informative and inspiring talk.

November 5 (EAGG AGM)

MICHAEL WARREN

‘A GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHER’S YEAR’

Michael, a past president of the Garden Media Guild has been photographing plants and gardens for over 40 years. He will show the horticultural year through a camera lens.

February 4 2017

LUCI SKINNER

‘AURICULAS, THE PERFECTION OF PHYSICAL BEAUTY’

.....according to Sachaverell Sitwell. Woottens of Wenhaston sells over 500 varieties of auriculas, a collection started ten years ago by the nursery’s founder the late Michael Loftus. Head gardener Luci will talk about alpine auriculas, borders and shows, explaining their intriguing names including Selfies, Fancies, Stripes and Edges. She will bring Woottens auriculas for sale

March 4

DAVE WARD

‘BETH CHATTO GARDENS - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE’

Dave has worked alongside the legendary Beth Chatto for 30 years, helping her with her Chelsea exhibits, planning the Gravel and Woodland Garden and running the nursery. He will give an update on recent projects and tell us about future plans as well as recounting a history of the Gardens. Dave will bring plants from the nursery for sale.

April 1

SIMON WHITE - ‘THE ROMANCE OF OLD ROSES’

Peter Beales Nursery is renowned as the foremost grower of old-fashioned, rare and historical roses. Founded in 1968 by Peter Beales, it now stocks over 1,000 roses which are exported all over the world. Sales manager Simon White who has been with the nursery for 33 years takes us on a visual journey of old roses, their history and their place in your garden. There will be roses for sale.

October 7

HOWARD DRURY - 'ANYTHING SILVER'

Howard Drury was a presenter for ten years on Central TV's *Gardening Time* and is a consultant at the well-known Ashwood Nurseries. He will talk about silver-leaved plants, where they will flourish and how to select the best ones for your garden.

November 4 AGM

KEN THOMPSON - 'THE SCEPTICAL GARDENER'

Ken Thompson, author of *No nettles required*, *An ear to the ground* and a regular column as *The Sceptical Gardener* in the *Saturday Telegraph*, casts a quizzical eye on gardening topics including how bees improve strawberries, the difference between Spanish and English bluebells, compost tea, how plants get sunburn and why planting by the moon is (so he says) utter nonsense.

2016/17 WINTER VISITS PROGRAMME

November 25 Friday (Outing by car)

ANGLESEY ABBEY WINTER LIGHTS

20 tickets @ £14 6-9pm

Book by sending cheque (made out to EAGG) to our Secretary, Matthew Long – first come, first served basis. If unsuccessful, book independently on line at www.nationaltrust.org.uk and go to Winter Lights.

January 7 Saturday (Outing by car)

ANGLESEY ABBEY WINTER WALK

Our traditional New Year get-together

Meet there at 10.30am

STOP PRESS

EAGG GARDEN HOLIDAY IN 2017

September Wednesday 13 to Friday 15

We have arranged a coach visit to three gardens, Biddulph Grange and Trentham, and on the way north, Easton Park. We shall be staying at the Leewood Hotel in Buxton for 2 nights, dinner, bed and breakfast.

(see enclosed leaflet for full details and booking form)

Book early as possible as this holiday will be open to other groups.

GROUP VISITS 2016



Gayton Hall: 30 members enjoying a walk round the garden with the owners, the Countess and Earl of Romney who have amassed a fine collection of cercidiphyllum trees and spring flowering bulbs in their 20 acres of water gardens.



Alan Shipp's Hyacinth Collection



Alan Shipp talking to members on the field.

FORWARD PLANS 2017

**full details of all outings will be listed on a news sheet
and on the website in January 2017**

Proposed visits

Ousden House, Newmarket (date tba)

Cobbs Hall, Great Saxham (date tba)

Spencers, Great Yeldham (4 June)

Horkesley Hall, Horkesley (date tba)

Summer Social in June (to be arranged)



Sitting in the shade

August. The joys of sunlight dancing on shiny yellow-green phormium, blue-green festuca, dusky heuchera, and flowers of yellow, orange-yellow, red and white; the blues are gone - the fresh abundance of earlier days is changing.

August's joy is the green shade beneath the trees. Cool early sun shines on the ground; the shade stretches during the day with sunny brightness moving through the border and over the lawn.

Our walnut tree, grown from a nut of a 1986 harvest, is now 40ft wide and nearly as tall and holds its branches low, laden with fruit. It covers most of the lawn and waves over the West wall and narrow West border of our walled town garden.

At the base of its trunk an 8ft square bed, edged round with 4ft wide paving, is covered all year with *Geranium x cantabrigiense* 'Biokova' and is an unbroken mass of white flowers in late May and June.

In the border beneath the old wall we put a 'found' lead spout to pump water into a low tank surrounded with ferns and hostas and overhung by *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki', whose delicate pinky leaves emerge in April, now green and later a fiery red. Scented evergreen winter flowering *Lonicera x purpusii* 'Winter Beauty', flanks noisette rose 'Alister Stella Gray' which, after more than 20 years trained on the wall 'behind' the walnut, still gives an early show of gorgeous flowers with many more where it has stretched beyond the shade.

Small ferns have made a home in the high brick ledge behind and *Clematis macropetala* 'Wesselton' drapes its blue bells and fluffy pompoms in the low branches.

Contrasting greens extend into the shade: *Brunnera* 'Jack Frost' and *B.* 'Looking Glass', *Lamium* 'White Nancy', more *Geranium* 'Biokova' and pulmonaria. Their flowers, blue and white, sparkled in April and May, and now their leaves cover the ground and offer memories of flowers dancing there through February and in May/June *Viburnum plicatum f tomentosum* 'Pink Beauty' with tiers of pink/white flowers. In March, narcissi, *Leucojum vernalis*, near species tulips, *Fritillaria meleagris*, *Erythronium dens-canis* 'Pagoda', *Dicentra spectabilis* 'Alba', dark blue violets, *Cyclamen* 'Repandum' and groups of yellow and blue-and-white crocus.

It's so tempting to enjoy sitting in the shade contemplating and remembering, but . . . it's August - there's work to be done!

Isobel Ashton @ 6 College Lane, Bury St Edmunds
The Hidden Gardens of Bury - Sunday
18th June 2017 Hope to see you there!

Other things to do.

Sept 24	Suffolk Plant Heritage, Stowupland Hall IP14 4BQ Marina Christopher ' <i>Attracting Garden Wildlife</i> '
Sept 24/25	Holkham Hall Plant Fair, Wells Next the Sea, NR23 1AB
Sept 24/25	Malvern Autumn Show
Oct 1	EAGG Hitcham Village Hall Andrew Mikolajski, ' <i>Climbing Shrubs</i> '
Oct 1-2	Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair, Northiam TN31 6PH
Oct 1	AGS Loughborough Show, LE11 4SQ
Oct 2	Kalmthout Arboretum Plant Fair, Belgium
Oct 2	East Midlands PH Plant Fair, Felley Priory, NG16 5FG
Oct 4/5	RHS Harvest Festival, London
Oct 7	Keukenhof Bulb Market
Oct 7-9	Beervelde Plant Fair, Belgium
Oct 8	Thorncroft Clematis Open Nursery NR9 4QG
Oct 8	Cambridge Plant Heritage, Scotsdales CB22 5JT Melcourt – ' <i>Growing Media</i> '
Oct 8	Norfolk & Suffolk HPS, Roydon Village Hall, IP22 5RB Michael Perry T&M
Oct 14-16	Domaine de Courson Plant fair, Chantilly, France
Oct 16	Suffolk Wildlife Trust Apple Day & Plant Fair, Lopham Fen, Diss IP22 2HX
Oct 16	Norfolk Plant Heritage, Bawburgh Village Hall, NR9 3LL Timothy Walker, ' <i>Two for the price of One</i> '
Oct 22	Suffolk Plant Heritage, Stowupland Hall IP14 4BQ Johan Hermans ' <i>Orchids in South Africa</i> '
Oct 28/29	RHS Shades of Autumn Show, London
Nov 5	EAGG, Hitcham Village Hall IP7 7NE Michael Warren ' <i>A Garden Photographers Year</i> ' & AGM
Nov 12	Cambridge Plant Heritage Girton College CB3 0JG Fergus Garrett ' <i>Gt Dixter Past & Future</i> '.
Nov 19	Essex Plant Heritage, Writtle College CM1 3RR Alan Gray, ' <i>East Ruston Old Vicarage</i> '
Dec 3	Cambs & Beds HPS, Biggleswade SG18 8JH Bob & Rannveig Wallis, ' <i>The Garden at Llwyn Ifan</i> '

PLANT and BOOK stall at Hitcham Meetings

Plant and book sales contribute greatly to keeping the membership fees low and enabling the group to book more costly speakers without additional charges to members

So donations are to be welcomed