

# East Anglian Garden Group

Newsletter 113

Spring 2017



<http://eastangliangardengroup.onesuffolk.net>

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Spring 2017

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

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***Subscriptions for 2016/2017 were due on November 1 2016***

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

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## 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**

To begin with, may I wish everyone a very Happy New Year, and with lots of exciting garden trips in the offing I think we have a lot to look forward to.

I think perhaps I should introduce myself.. I became a member of the EAGG two years ago, after spending many years in Garden Retail. I offered to come to a couple of committee meetings.

Now we have the most amazing committee members, all expert at running the group, most of whom have been there for some years, and whose collective knowledge seems boundless, so I was struggling a little to see what I could bring to the table!

After a lot of thought, I suggested that if it didn't look too pushy, as a newcomer, the job of chairman was actually something I could probably manage, and so, here I am!

Here I must now give huge thanks to our retiring chairman, Oswald, for holding everything together so magnificently over the last year or so, and I am sure he will enjoy the rest, whilst hopefully giving me lots of helpful advice. I only hope I can live up to the example and high standards he has set, and if any members feel I need any extra advice, do please help me. As you will see, we have some wonderful speakers lined up, and that's before we even start on the visits. I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come on these trips, and if anyone needs help, or needs a lift, do please let the committee know, as all this can be arranged for you.

As with all societies, there comes a time when the membership starts to wane a little, and we need to introduce more people into the group for it to develop. With that in mind, (and I may get my knuckles rapped for this, as I have just thought of it, and not put it to the committee at all), if every member could introduce one new interested gardener to the group, and bring them along to a meeting, we might manage to swell the membership a little, something to think about maybe?

A huge thank you to everyone who helps out, and to our wonderful committee, and I will endeavour to live up to these high standards, as chairman. I look forward to seeing you all, maybe on the Winter Walk at Anglesey Abbey.

Good weather and good gardening in 2017,  
Erica Bolam

## **EAGG SPEAKERS PROGRAMME 2017**

**February 4 2017**

**‘Auriculas, The Perfection Of Physical Beauty’**

**. Luci Skinner owner at Woottens**

.....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

**February 18 2017**

**‘STAR PLANTS FOR SMALL GARDENS’**



**Matthew Wilson**

Matthew will talk about his star plants and how to use them to fill your garden with drama. Well-chosen plants can give lots of seasonal interest and your garden can look striking at every time of the year. Small spaces needn’t be dull spaces.

Matthew is a popular garden designer, writer, and broadcaster, a regular panellist on Gardeners ‘Question Time’ and presenter of the award-winning Channel 4 series ‘Landscape Man’.

Matthew spent 10 years at the Royal Horticultural Society as curator at Harlow Carr then Hyde Hall. He has designed gardens at Chelsea Flower Show, winning the prestigious 2016 ‘People’s Choice Award’ for his ‘Garden for Yorkshire’ inspired by the East Window at York Minster.

**Ticketed Event:**

**£5 (EAGG members) and £10 (Guests) including tea**



## **March 4**

### **'Beth Chatto Gardens - Past, Present And Future'**

#### **Dave Ward - 'Director of Horticulture'**

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. Plants from the nursery for sale.

## **April 1**

### **'The Romance Of Old Roses'**

#### **Simon White - 'Sales Manager'**

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**

### **‘Anything Silver’**

#### **Howard Drury - Ashwood Nurseries**

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 and**

### **‘The Sceptical Gardener’**

#### **Ken Thompson – Author and columnist**

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.

## **2017 VISITS PROGRAMME**

### **Saturday 7 January**

#### **By Car**

#### **ANGLESEY ABBEY WINTER WALK**

Our traditional New Year get-together

Meet there at 10.30am in the lobby

### **Thursday 27 April – Ousden Gardens**

#### **By Car**

#### **Morning 11.00 Dip on the Hill, CB8 8TW**

Approx one acre in a dip on a South-facing hill based on a wide range of architectural/sculptural evergreen trees, shrubs and groundcover: pines; grove of Phillyrea latifolia; 'cloud pruned' hedges; palms; large bamboo; ferns; range of kniphofia and croscosmia.

#### **Afternoon 2.00-4.00 Ousden House, CB8 8TN**

#### **Tour with owners/head gardener**

A large spectacular garden with fine views over the surrounding country. Herbaceous borders, rose garden, summerhouse lawn and borders, ornamental woodland, and lake. Additional special features include a long double crinkle-crankle yew hedge leading from the clock tower and a moat garden densely planted with flowering shrubs and moisture loving plants.

### **May outing – To be advised**

## **Sunday 4 June By Car**

### **Spencers, Great Yeldham, CO9 4JG**

Romantic C18 walled garden laid out by Lady Anne Spencer, overflowing with blooms following Tom Stuart-Smith's renovation. Huge wisteria, armies of Lord Butler delphiniums ('Rab' lived at Spencers). Spectacular rose and herbaceous borders. Victorian woodland walk along River Colne and parkland with many specimen trees, including Armada Oaks.

## **June Summer Social – To be advised**

## **Saturday 15 July By Car**

### **Cobbs Hall, Great Saxham IP29 5JN**

2 acres of lawns and colourful herbaceous borders, ornamental trees, large fish and lily ponds. Parterre, folly, walled kitchen garden, fernery & stumpery, grass tennis court and pretty courtyard. Cascade water features.

### **Paugers Nursery Depden. IP29 4BU**

Paul and Geraldine Arnold welcome you to, a 1st grade Nursery now offering over 1500 different varieties of plants including firm favourites as well as "hard to find" and unusual varieties, many not found in garden centres

## **EAGG GARDEN HOLIDAY**

### **Wednesday 13 September 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. Book early as possible as this holiday will be open to other groups.

## Christmas Lights at Anglesey Abbey.

This year, thanks to the foresight of Maggie Thorpe we were lucky to get tickets for the Winter Lights Event at Anglesey Abbey. This event always gets sold out very early on in the year. This year they sold 18,000 tickets. Several National Trust properties are holding these events now and it adds a whole new, rather magical element to the garden. The whole garden was beautifully lit and there was live music to entertain us whilst we ate pulled pork baps and roasted chestnuts, and drank mulled wine. We have quite a tradition of visiting the Winter Garden in January but it was a treat to visit it in the dark when it is skilfully illuminated. The colours in the winter garden were cleverly enhanced. The *Cornus alba* 'Baton Rouge' looked very red indeed.

The twisted hazel *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' looked like Medusa's head.



The berries of *Callicarpa boudineri* sparkled like purple amethysts.

The gorgeous shiny brown bark of *Prunus serrula* looked shinier than ever.

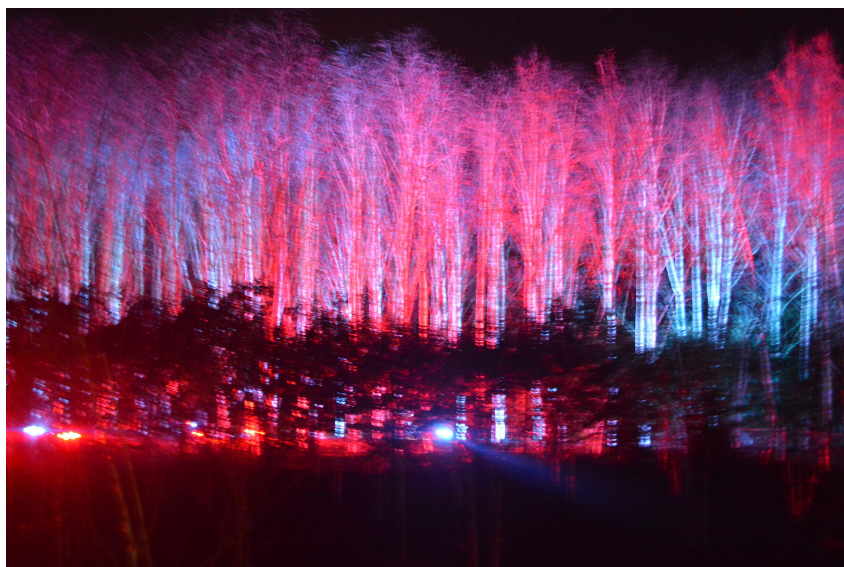


You would think that the famous birch grove couldn't be improved upon and changing the colours of the gleaming white stems would be like dyeing flowers.





But everyone stood transfixed watching the ever-changing kaleidoscope of colours. The majestic poplars along the canal kept changing colour too.



I am looking forward to our visit to the winter garden in January and seeing all the winter flowers in daylight and even better smelling them as so many winter blooms are fragrant. But on a dreary evening at the end of November it was fun to see it looking magically different. And a bit surreal.

## Other things to do

Jan 21 Sa	a.m. Harveys Snowdrop Event
Jan 21 Sa	p.m. AGS Mid-Anglia, Sth African Winter Growing bulbs
Jan 22 Su	Norfolk PH John Grimshaw, 'A Plantsman's Garden' Bawburgh
Jan 28 Sa	Suffolk PH. Mike Grant editor of The Plantsman, Stowupland
Jan 29 Su	Blacksmiths Cottage Snowdrop Day
Feb 12 Su	Gable House Redisham Snowdrop Day
Feb 14/15	RHS Early Spring, London
Feb 25 Sa	Suffolk PH. Chris Grey-Wilson, Meconopsis, Stowupland
Mar 4 Sa	a.m. AGS Harlow Show
Mar 5 Su	Norfolk PH Gala. 'Rebuilding the Dream'. East Tuddenham
Mar 5 Su	AGS Mid-Anglia. 'The Flowers of the Pontics'
Mar 11 Sa	HPS Essex. Graham Spencer 'New Varieties'
Mar 19 Su	Norfolk PH. Jan Michalak 'Sticks'
Mar 25 Sa	Suffolk PH. 'Growing for Gold', Stowupland
Apr 8 Sa	Blacksmiths Cottage Spring Plant Fair
Apr 8 Sa	AGS Mid-Anglia Ian Christie & Plant Sale
Apr 9 Su	Suffolk Wildlife Trust Spring Plant Fair - Lopham Fen
Apr 22/23	Essex PH Plant Fair, RHS Hyde Hall
Apr 22 Sa	Suffolk PH. Bob Brown, Stowupland
Apr 23 Su	SWWAG Plant Fair, Wyken Hall
Apr 30 Su	Norfolk PH Plant Fair, Hetherset
May 1 Mo	Sudbury Quay Bank Holiday Plant Fair
May 6 Sa	AGS East-Anglia Wymondham Show
May 7 Su	Woottens Spring Event, Wenhaston
May 13 Sa	AGS Mid-Anglia GreenMile Nursery Podophyllums & Paris
May 14 Su	Bungay Garden Street Market
May 18 Th	Norfolk PH, Marina Christopher at Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery
May 20 Sa	Cambridge Botanic Gardens Festival of Plants
May 27 Sa	Creake Abbey Plant Lovers Fair, North Creake
May 28 Su	Suffolk PH Plant Fair, Helmingham.
May 31/ Jun 1	Suffolk Show
Jun 4 Su	Boxford Open Gardens
Jun 10 Sa	East Ruston Old Vicarage Plant Fair
Jun 11 Su	Lavenham Open Gardens
Jun 18 Su	Bury Hidden Gardens
Jun 25 Su	Chelsworth 50 <sup>th</sup> Open Gardens
Jul 16 Sa	Suffolk Nurseries Plant Fair, Fullers Mill

### **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**