

# East Anglian Garden Group

Newsletter 115

50th Anniversary

Spring 2018



# **East Anglian Garden Group**

## **Committee - Spring 2018**

**President**

**Mrs Margaret Thorpe**

**Chairman**

**Mrs Erica Bolam**

**Secretary**

**Mr Matthew Long**

The Flints, 1&2 Brent Eleigh Road,

Monks Eleigh, Suffolk IP7 7JG

flagpartnership@btinternet.com tel: 01449 741551

**Treasurer**

**Mrs Jan Kelsall**

**Website Co-ordinator Mr Bob Hardwick**

rjhat4rhw@hotmail.co.uk

### **Other Committee members**

Mrs Isobel Ashton

Mr John Dyter

Mrs Widget Finn

Mrs Elaine Overnell

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**Subscriptions for 2018/2019 will be due on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018**  
**£12 p.p. by cheque payable to 'The East Anglian Garden Group'**

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## Chairman's Letter

I wish you all a very Happy New Year, and hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas. I am now looking forward to another year of developing my garden, with the addition of a new greenhouse: all very exciting.

I have just returned from our annual Anglesey Abbey walk. We had a lovely wander through the garden, where the winter blossoms were beginning to



show. The snowdrops were coming up, although not so many were blooming through the woodland area, and it was lovely to see a few early flowering

daffodils. It was a sunny day, but the strength of the sun was not quite enough to bring out all the wonderful scents from the Viburnums, Chimonanthus, and Sarcococcas, I will have to return in a couple of weeks.

We are all looking forward to welcoming Cleve West, our celebrity speaker this year, on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and if you haven't bought your ticket yet, please do so quickly, as they are now being sold to other garden groups, and you might miss out on what I think will be a really wonderful afternoon.

**All meetings after that will be at Chamberlin Hall, on Saturdays, 2pm for 2.30pm**, as usual. With the increase in membership, the extra space will be more comfortable, and there is a sound system, as well as lots of easy parking space. We have a fabulous list of speakers for 2018. Extra visits have been arranged, the details of which follow in the newsletter.

The **Summer Garden Party** will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, at Parham Hall, a slightly longer drive than last year, but a wonderful garden to enjoy, and I have my fingers crossed for better weather this year!!

Erica Bolam

# Our New Home - Chamberlin Hall

Chamberlin Hall is situated close to the heart of Bildeston, just off the Wattisham Road, on the right-hand side, in Chamberlin Close. It is easy to find, and well signposted. The post code is IP7 7EZ for those of you using satnav.

The main hall will hold up to 250 people, but seated, slightly less, so we will have more space. There is efficient heating, and a sound loop system. There are extra rooms for additional use if required, and a lovely space for us to sit and enjoy tea and cakes – no more balancing teacup and saucer and a plate! We will have extra space for plants and the book stall.

There is a fully equipped kitchen and a licensed bar, should we need one, and added to that, luxury toilets, including disabled facilities.

Outside there is a patio area and lawns, and a large car park. Amazingly it is slightly cheaper than the hiring fee we are currently paying. It is about 2 miles from Hitcham, so there is not a huge difference in travelling time.

We will be moving there for the Cleve West talk on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, and for all meetings AFTER that. The meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be our last meeting at Hitcham. We are looking forward to our new home, and I do hope you will all enjoy the new facilities there.

Erica Bolam



# Healing Gardens

Cleve West, the Chelsea gold medallist and award-winning garden designer, will be the guest speaker at the East Anglian Garden Group meeting on Saturday 17 February, talking from a personal perspective about 'Healing Gardens'. In particular he'll focus on the much celebrated Horatio's Garden which he designed for the Spinal Treatment unit at Salisbury Hospital. It was opened by the Duke of Cornwall in 2012.

During his school holidays Horatio Chapple, who planned to study medicine, was a volunteer at the unit where his father David worked as a consultant. Together they came up with the idea for a garden and Horatio drew up a questionnaire to find out what the patients wanted.

Tragically, on an expedition at the age of 17 Horatio was killed by a polar bear. There followed an outpouring of love and goodwill from all over the UK, and donations flooded in for his garden to be created. Cleve West, whose best friend had been a patient at the spinal centre and knew it well, designed the first Horatio's Garden.

Following its enormous success, as shown in patients' feedback, the charity was set up to create Horatio's Gardens nationally at the other ten regional spinal injury centres in the UK. The gardens are a beautiful, living symbol of the hopes that Horatio had for a future of making a difference to the lives of others.



Cleve West's talk on Healing Gardens takes place at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston IP7 7EZ on Saturday 17 February at 2.30. This event is open to other groups and non-members. Tickets cost £7.50 (EAGG members) and £12.50 (guests) including tea. A donation of £2.50 per ticket will go to the charity Horatio's Garden. Advance booking only from Matthew Long, [flagpartnership@btinternet.com](mailto:flagpartnership@btinternet.com) phone 01449 741551

### **February 3<sup>rd</sup> venue: Hitcham Village Hall**

Julian Ives MD Dragonfli

#### **'Controlling Garden Pests and Attracting Wildlife – the Natural Way'**

Julian did his horticultural training at RHS Harlow Carr and Writtle College, then joined the pioneering biological control company Koppert Biological Systems before setting up his own business Dragonfli. He advises on natural pest control and how to make gardens a safe environment for wildlife.

### **February 17th Venue: Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston, IP7 7EZ**

**CLEVE WEST** - Garden designer, Chelsea Gold Medallist, Best in Show 2011/2012

#### **'Healing Gardens'**

Cleve West will talk from a personal perspective on Healing Gardens, how they can enhance well-being and even serve as a form of therapy.

Examples range from private sanctuaries to his own allotment and the much celebrated Horatio's Garden, and Cleve will also touch on broader environmental issues that threaten the biggest garden of all.



***Tickets for Cleve West Talk***  
*£7.50 (EAGG members) and*  
*£12.50 (guests) including*  
*tea. Advance booking only,*  
*contact Matthew Long -*  
*[flagpartnership@btinternet.com](mailto:flagpartnership@btinternet.com)*  
*or 01449 741551. A*  
*donation of £2.50 per ticket*  
*will go to the charity*  
*Horatio's Garden.*

## **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February CHIPPENHAM PARK GARDENS**

Members visit by car. Meet at the garden entrance at 11.00am. Chippenham Park, Cambs CB7 5PT

£5 entrance. Please note that entrance and restaurant take cash only.



## **March 3<sup>rd</sup> Venue: Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston, IP7 7EZ**

STEVE EDNEY - Head gardener, The Salutation Garden

### **'The Delights of Dahlias'**

Steve has been a gardener for 23 years, having trained at Hadlow College. He is involved in RHS plant trials and is a member of the RHS Dahlia committee. He has overseen the restoration of the beautiful Lutyens-designed Salutation Gardens not once but twice – in 2007 the property was rescued from years of neglect by new owners, then in 2013 disaster struck when major floods left 5 million litres of water trapped in the gardens.



**April 7<sup>th</sup> Venue: Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston, IP7 7EZ**

HARRIET RYCROFT

**'Summer Splendour – planting exciting container displays'**

Harriet was a volunteer at Hidcote Manor Garden then head gardener at Wychford Pottery for fourteen years where she estimates that altogether she planted and maintained 7000 pots. She now works at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, teaches container gardening at 'My Garden School' and looks after several hundred pots in her own garden.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

**Visit by coach to Stody Gardens, Holt, Norfolk**, in conjunction with The Suffolk Gardens Trust.

Do please join us on this near-private visit to see "a Cornish garden in Norfolk" with acres of stunning Rhododendrons and the famed Azalea Water Gardens with over 2,000 mature specimens. Coach will pick up in Ipswich, Stowmarket and Bury (exact points to be confirmed) arriving Stody by 12.30pm. Please bring packed lunch. Refreshments including super cream teas (£4) available. Depart 5pm.

Cost £35 per head including garden entrance. Refreshments extra. Please make cheques payable to Suffolk Gardens Trust and send to :- John Dyter Manor Farm House, Hasketon, Woodbridge IP13 6JA  
Tel. 01394 383316 e-mail: john@dyter.net

**June 13<sup>th</sup> SOLD OUT. Waiting List only**

**VISIT TO TOM STUART-SMITH'S GARDEN 2018**

A private visit by coach to two famous gardens, Tom Stuart-Smith's and his Mother's garden at Serge Hill in Hertfordshire The price, including tea, will be £45 per person. Please give your name to Erica Bolam if you are interested as there are only 25 places available and will be given on a first come first served basis. Tom Stuart-Smith has designed eight gold-medal winning gardens at Chelsea, three of which were Best in Show.

## **June 26<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GARDEN PARTY**

At Parham Hall IP13 9AE 6pm – 8pm Free to members. Details later.

## **July 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday - ALDEBURGH GARDENS DAY**

***Two visits exclusive to EAGG members and their guests***

**Priors Oak and Heron House**

**Please book** through John Dyter - john@dyter.net - 01394 383316

Refreshments will be available on arrival at Priors Oak and tea may be available at Heron House following the visit. The cost, including a donation to charity and coffee and cake on arrival, will be £8. Please arrive between 10 - 10.30am.

**Priors Oak** Leiston Road Aldeburgh IP15 5QE

The garden is 1 mile north of Aldeburgh on the B1122 on the left opposite the RSPB Reserve. If approaching past the Golf Club, take the 1st exit (B1122) from the roundabout on the outskirts of the town.

Almost within sight of the North Sea and on light, sandy, soil the one acre wildlife and butterfly garden of Priors Oak, owned by Mrs Trudie, is full of amusing nooks and crannies. Our visit should coincide with the flowering of the 100 strong Buddleia collection, 30 different varieties forming a perfumed tunnel. Additionally there is a pond and wild flowers and grassland, all rich in animal and bird life with a specialist Butterfly garden. Not to be overlooked are the ornamental salad and vegetable gardens with companion planting, herbaceous borders, ferns and Mediterranean plants.

*Please bring your own picnic (or make other arrangements).*

After lunch we meet at 2pm at

**Heron House** Aldeburgh IP15 5EP

From Priors Oak proceed towards the town; take 2nd exit from round about going towards the town centre, then after some 600m turn right across the green and follow the road round and into Priors Hill Road.

Heron House is the last house on right at the junction where it rejoins Park Road. The cost will also be £8, including a donation to NGS, tea and cake.

The two acre garden is dominated by a large rock garden with waterfall, stream, ponds and bog garden. There are unusual trees, herbaceous beds and shrubs together with efforts to grow half hardy plants in the coastal micro-climate influenced by the River Alde that runs close by.

**October 6<sup>th</sup> Venue: Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston, IP7 7EZ**

**STEPHEN BARSTOW**

### **‘Around the World in 80 Plants’**

Stephen lives near the Arctic Circle in Norway. Known as ‘the Extreme Salad Man’ he has devoted 30 years to trialling perennial vegetables from around the world, and his garden contains 2,000 edible plants. He holds the world record for the greatest number of plant varieties in a salad – 363 distinct varieties.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> Venue: Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston, IP7 7EZ**

**RAZVAN CHISU - THE TRANSYLVANIAN GARDENER**

### **‘Castles and Plants of Transylvania’**

Razvan studied horticulture in his native Romania, and now lives in Cheshire where he is a committee member of the Hardy Plant Society and



co-ordinator of its stand at the Tatton Flower Show. He also edits The Saxifrage Society Magazine. He’s proud of his Transylvanian heritage, and aims to make the flourishing wildlife, rare plants and fairytale castles in the ‘lands beyond the forests’ better known to UK audiences.

# Website

<http://eastangliangardengroup.onesuffolk.net>

## **Bob Hardwick looks after our website and welcomes pictures and articles**

In the New Year the OneSuffolk websites, including that of the EAGG, will undergo a comprehensive upgrade and there will be considerably more scope for additional information on the website. There will be options for advertising, Open Gardens Posts, Instagram feeds and Youtube videos amongst many other additional features to which members may wish to contribute.

We are not all able to attend every meeting or visit, so pictures and reports are a way to include everyone in the life of EAGG, and encourage new membership.

In particular we would like to see on our website:

- \* contributions for the 'Gallery' page:- around 10 to 12 images, preferably in JPEG format,
- \* recording of visits, social evening, etc.
- \* reports on events and meetings
- \* items about plants, gardens, gardening interests
- \* current news items of interest to members
- \* details of regional events which members may wish to visit

**Please send contributions for the web-site to Bob:**

**[rjhat4rhw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rjhat4rhw@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Aslo** – catch up with EAGG on Facebook

## Other things to do in 2018

Feb 11 Sun	Gable House Redisham Open Gardens – ‘Snowdrops’
Feb 18 Sun	Norfolk Plant Heritage, Peter Blake – ‘Ferns’
Feb 24 Sat	Suffolk Plant Heritage Philip Styner - ‘Kirstenbosch’
Mar 3 Sat	Cambs&Beds Hardy Plant Society - Val Bourne
Mar 6 Tue	Boxford GC Rob Evans Pheasant Acre Plants – ‘Gladiolus’
Mar 10 Sat	Monksilver Nursey ‘Spring Thing’ Plant Fair
Mar 18 Sun	Norfolk PH, Martin Walker – ‘York Gate’
Mar 23 Fri	RHS Wisley Spring till 25th
Mar 24 Sat	Suffolk Plant Heritage - Sam Hope of Ashwoods – ‘Hepaticas’
Apr 3 Tue	Boxford GC Neil Bradfield - ‘Ulting Wick through the Seasons’
Apr 8 Sun	AGS Mid-Anglia - Julian Sutton
Apr 15 Sun	Suffolk Wildlife Trust Plant Fair Lopham Fen
Apr 15 Sun	Norfolk Plant Heritage Gala, Plant Hunting & Conservation
Apr 15 Sun	Essex Hardy Plant Society - Joe Sharman – ‘Variegation’
Apr 21 Sat	Burwash Manor Plant Fair
Apr 21 Sat	Felbrigg Hall Plant Lovers Fair
Apr 21&21 Sat/Sun	Essex Plant Heritage Plant Fair Hyde Hall
Apr 28 Sat	Suffolk Plant Heritage - Robert Brett – ‘RHS Hyde Hall’
Apr 29 Sun	Stanton & Wyken WAG Plant Fair Wyken Hall
May 5 Sat	AGS E Anglia Show, Wymondham
May 6 Sun	Norfolk PH Hethersett Plant Fair
May 6 Sun	Woottens Spring Plant Fair
May 19 Sat	Cambridge Botanic Plant Fair
May 26 Sat	Creake Abbey Plant Lovers Fair
May 27 Sun	Suffolk Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair, Helmingham Hall
Jun 3 Sun	Boxford Open Gardens
Jun 5 Tue	Boxford GC Tricia Holman – ‘Dyes’
Jun 9 Sat	East Ruston Old Vicarage Plant Fair
Jun 9 Sat	Essex Hardy Plant Society Lecture Day (Bob Brown & Crug)
Jun 10 Sun	Lavenham Open Gardens
Jun 17 Sun	Bury St Edmunds Hidden Gardens
Jun 24 Sun	Chelsworth Open Gardens
Jul 3 Tue	Boxford GC Matt Tanton Brown
Jul 15 Sun	Suffolk Nurseries Plant Fair Fullers Mill
Jul 15 Sun	Chenies Manor Plant Fair
Jun 20 Wed	Norfolk PH, Rose Workshop
Jul 22 Sun	AGS Mid-Anglia with Richard Hobbs Lopham Fen & Tim Fuller Plantsmans Preference
Aug 7 Tue	Boxford GC Luci Skinner Woottens
Aug 19 Sun	AGS BULB SALE – Pentlow Mill, Cavendish
Aug 26 Sat	Norfolk PH Plant Fair, Hethersett
Aug 27 Su /28 Mo	Walsham-le-Willows Open Garden