



East Anglian Garden Group

EAGG Committee 2019-2020

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Subscriptions £12 for 2019/2020 due on 2nd November 2019
£12 p.p. by cheque payable to 'EAGG'

Chairman's Letter

Another gardening year has flown past, and I am in the throes of creating a new garden in a new home, all very exciting and time consuming. Starting from scratch, I had forgotten how frustrating it can be whilst having to wait for builders to erect walls, whilst the planting season begins to ebb away from me.

Visits this year included a wonderful day out to Fairhaven Water Gardens and East Ruston Old Vicarage, a very full day out, with an excellent lunch. Having never been to East Ruston before, I felt we could have spent the whole day there, such a varied and extensive garden, with so much to see. Wickets was unfortunately cancelled, and we hope to visit this garden in the future. Those of us who attended the Summer Social, held in the stunning gardens of Fiona and Nicholas Pearson, had a wonderful evening, and the weather was perfect. Our thanks to them for so generously hosting it. Not so lucky with Pensthorpe and Hindringham Hall, as we had to cancel due to lack of support. Our talks have been well supported, and we have had some marvellous speakers once again, Stephen Barstow and Jackie Currie I found particularly informative.

Looking forward to next year, we have arranged some exciting speakers, Jim Paine, on Climate Change and Gardeners, in February should be most interesting, and in April, Andrew Ward from Norwell Nursery, will be looking at Geraniums. We are excited to announce our Celebrity Speaker on March 7th is Nigel Dunnett from Sheffield University. He was the co-designer of the Olympic Park meadows; Trentham Park; the John Lewis garden and a mini garden outside the Queens Gallery. His work focuses on the integration of ecology and horticulture to achieve low-input high impact landscapes. He will be talking about his latest book, 'Pictorial Meadows'.

Visits to look forward to in 2020 - Bridges, Woolpit on June 11th; Dunbeaghan, plus a visit to the Urban Jungle Nursery both Dereham, for July; Brookside, Moulton for 8th September, and possibly Wickets on a date to be arranged. The Dereham visit will be by coach, but the others will be a car share, as they are reasonably local.

Thankyou to all those who took part in the questionnaire. We are taking the points on board for 2021, and will in the future combine with Boxford Garden Society for coach trips, in order to fill spaces.

Thankyou for all your support over the last three years. *Erica Bolam*

Programme of Events 2020

Sun 19th January 2020 – Anglesey Abbey Winter Walk

Meet up at Anglesey Abbey to enjoy a walk through their winter garden. Meet in the lobby at 1100am - National Trust members free, £6.60 adult admission to gardens only.

Sat 1st February 2020 – Jim Paine ‘Climate Change and Gardeners’

Jim Paine of Walnut Tree Nursery, Attleborough, briefly summaries the current science behind climate change forecasts, before examining what impacts are likely to be seen in the UK generally and East Anglia specifically. How as gardeners can we respond; what steps can we take for success in the garden; will we get higher yields in the vegetable patch or will crops be devastated by pests and diseases?

EAGG’s 2020 Celebrity Speaker

Sat 7th March 2020 Nigel Dunnett ‘Pictorial Gardens’

Professor Nigel Dunnett of Sheffield University was co-designer of the acclaimed Olympic Park meadows. A plantsman, designer and pioneer of the new ecological approach to planting gardens and public spaces, his work focuses on the integration of ecology and horticulture to achieve low-input high-impact landscapes. Trentham Park, the John Lewis garden, and a mini-garden outside the Queen’s Gallery are among his recent projects.

Sat 4th April 2020 – Andrew Ward ‘The Joy of Geraniums – form, foliage and flower’

Dr. Andrew Ward of Norwell Nursery, Nottinghamshire, looks at geraniums. From the rare hard-to-grow alpines to self-seeding garden stalwarts there are few garden plants that offer so much. The talk examines the range of possibilities including rare forms and suggests non-geranium planting companions.

Summer Garden Party – Details to follow

Thur 11th June 2020 – Bridges, The Street, Woolpit IP30 9SA

Travel by car. Meet at the garden entrance at 1100am. £8.00 including tour, tea and cake. Plants for sale. Also nearby Woolpit Nursery.

Wed 8th July 2020 – Dunbheagan, Dereham Road, Westfield NR19 1QF and Urban Jungle Nursery, Costessey NR8 5BG

Travel by coach. Meet at Lavenham at 0930am and travel to Dunbheagan. £11.00 to include entrance and lunch. Travel after to Urban Jungle Nursery.

Tue 8th September 2020 – 11 Brookside, Moulton, Newmarket CB8 8SG

Travel by car. Meet at 2.30pm. £7.00 to include tour, tea and cake.

Sat 3rd October 2020 – Ian Bedford ‘Garden bugs – cohabit, control or conserve?’

Dr Ian Bedford, head of entomology at the John Innes Centre, is the resident ‘bugs man’ on BBC Radio Norfolk and Suffolk and has been featured on BBC Gardeners Question Time and Gardeners World. What are the good and bad bugs we often find in our garden and how should we deal with them? What must we do when foreign pests such as the Spanish slug invade our garden? Dr Bedford helps us to recognize friends and foes in the bug world.

Sat 7th November 2020 – Mark Lane ‘The Gardens of Buckingham Palace’ & Annual General Meeting

Mark Lane was for many years head gardener at Buckingham Palace and is now manager of the Royal gardens. He tells us about the history of the gardens and their development, how the gardens are managed and their environmentally friendly policy, and take us behind the scenes in preparing for the Buckingham Palace garden parties.

All talks are held at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston IP7 7EZ 2pm for 2.30pm start. Talks are free for members, £5.00 for visitors. Celebrity Speaker and trips priced separately.

NIGEL DUNNETT
EAGG's 2020 CELEBRITY SPEAKER
'PICTORIAL MEADOWS'
7 March 2020

We're delighted to welcome Nigel Dunnett as our 2020 Celebrity Speaker. As professor of Urban Horticulture at the University of Sheffield he is one of the world's leading voices on innovative approaches to planting design. He is a pioneer of the new ecological approach to planting gardens and public spaces, focussing on achieving low-input, high-impact landscapes that are dynamic, diverse and tuned to nature.



Nigel is best known as co-designer with Professor James Hitchmough of the London Olympic Park, but his work also includes the Buckingham Palace Diamond Garden, planned for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which brightens the pavement outside the Queen's Gallery, the John Lewis Rain Garden and the steppes, shrub and woodland gardens which enliven the Barbican Centre. He is a gold-medal winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Together with James Hitchmough Nigel has established research and practice into the use of 'designed plant communities' which has high public appeal and is rich in biodiversity. The emphasis is on simple maintenance, with a careful consideration of the various layers within a planting and successional flowering of a planting over a long period. Nigel's work includes bold and dramatic naturalistic planting design; 'modern meadows' water-sensitive urban design, and green roofs and roof gardens. No doubt he will dazzle us with his pictorial meadows, the subject of his latest book, and inspire us all.

Widget Finn

CONDUIT HOUSE ON A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER EVENING



How lucky we were to enjoy the hospitality of our members, Fiona and Nicholas Pearson, for our 51st Annual Summer Garden Party. It turned out to be a warm, sunny evening in the most beautiful traditional English garden enjoying a glass of wine, strawberries, meringues and cream. We sat at tables looking out over the formal canal and fountain, adjacent to the

wonderful avenue of standard roses under planted with lavender. Fiona welcomed us all with the details of how her passion for plants had resulted in her forming this paradise and at the



end of the evening, Erica, on our behalf, thanked her with a present of an intersectional paeony.

It was a truly memorable summer evening.

Maggie Thorpe

EAST RUSTON OLD VICARAGE GARDENS:

May and August 2019

Nestled in between the pages of the current novel to laze away the summer afternoons in the shade is a snow gum leaf, already in early August, turned red and fallen. It came from a visit to the amazing gardens at East Ruston Old Vicarage. I just had to go back again this summer. The



EAGG went on one of our coach trips out in mid-May and I was curious to see how it would look three months on. As you entered in May, the first borders were a sea of blue and white camassias, now gone over entirely to perennial geraniums. The hydrangeas, not even in bud on the last visit, are now a great blooming mass of pinks and blues and here and there, doing very well in the shade of the tree canopy, lacy climbing and bush, palest pink and white hydrangeas looking dainty by comparison.

The dry desert garden was only just being transformed in May, bringing the succulents that are not frost hardy back outside. But

now in August it looks as if they were always there, happily thriving amongst the huge stones and looking at home. The brilliant blue petals of the artichokes caught my eye and the sweet peas are picked each day so they still look bright and cheery scrambling through the hedge on the outside edge of the vegetable area. And you can buy posies of the picked flowers at the exit to the car park.

The bit that makes me smile the most is still the hole in the hedges so that you can see the red and white striped lighthouse at Happisburgh six miles away. It is such a clever artifice and I notice there is a sturdy bench for keen photographers



to make the most of the view. The lunch was delicious, as was afternoon tea, and the newly planted walled garden around the outside seating is a joy to see. Another great day out that left me thinking 'I wonder what autumn looks like here?'

Liz Law, EAGG Secretary



Maybe the lighthouse is visible....just as a grey splodge on this photo. You have to go there to see it for yourself!



2019 EAGG holiday in September 2019

This year the holiday took in 4 gardens over 3 days. The first garden was COTON MANOR in Northampton, a ten-acre garden in undulating countryside. A delightful garden established 50 years ago by the present owners who have inherited the garden from a previous generation.



The garden has very many different areas including woodland, water, wild flower meadow, many interesting trees, numerous sumptuous colour-coordinated borders, etc.

Members were struck particularly by the clever colour combinations in the borders bearing in mind the end of September. There were salvias, dahlias, asters, old roses and others all nestling together harmoniously. and there was a delightful surprise of 3 flamingos (fed on a special diet to retain their colour) unfazed by the visitors all around them. A well-stocked

nursery area was in an attractive stable-yard with a café nearby.

After lunch we travelled to our hotel in Telford and on the second day we travelled to HODNET HALL GARDENS in Market Drayton. We were met by the owners and escorted to a half-timbered building on the site which contained a unique collection of Big Game Trophies where we had coffee and cakes.



This garden has awe-inspiring vistas of a string of pools, terracing, many ancient trees, drifts of perennials, stately herbaceous borders and an



impressive one-acre kitchen garden expertly managed. The second garden of the day was WOLLERTON OLD HALL GARDEN. This is a garden in the English style with four-acres of beautifully planted garden rooms created on a grid system. The richly planted garden rooms are full of design ideas, topiary and colour co-ordinated herbaceous borders. Here again we were all impressed by the combination of colour from the planting at the end of September – the wonderful variety of salvias, together with dahlias, old roses, asters. etc.

Our last garden was ASHWOOD NURSERIES owned by John Massey. The recent visit by Carole Klein on television was still in our minds. What a joy of informal borders, island beds, woodland dells and a wildlife garden with so many plants not seen before and statues here and there culminating in Guy the Gorilla lurking behind the bananas!



These three days were such a pleasure and I urge you to consider joining the group if another trip is arranged for next year – you won't be disappointed.

Jackie Smythe

Here we all are . . .



<https://kings-coaches.co.uk>

Our very many thanks to King's Coaches and to our driver and tour guide, Dee! Dee is at the coach door in our picture.

Take a look on the link below at Dee's notes and **pictures of our trip!!**

https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/kingscoaches/posts/?ref=page_internal

Dee not only arrived where she said we would, when she said we would, but also took great pains to look after us, and our plants . . . yes, there were plants to bring home!

We took more photos – too many for the Newsletter. Many thanks to all for sending photos in to me. I hope we can have more to look at on our next meeting in Bildeston. *Isobel*



Christmas Wreath Making

Saturday 7th December 2019
at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston

IP7 7EZ from 10am until 1pm.

Open to members and guests. A lovely activity in preparation for your Christmas celebrations. Please bring foliage, scissors or secateurs and you are welcome to bring any of your own decorations. The wreath base and a bag of goodies to get you started will be supplied. Tea, coffee and cake will be served.

**Book by contacting Secretary Liz or Treasurer Jan
Just £15.00 per person.**

A message from your Treasurer!

For those of you who are comfortable with internet banking, it would certainly help me if you could transfer any cash payable to the East Anglian Garden Group (EAGG) directly into our bank account.

Bank:- Barclays

Sort Code:- 20-44-51

Account Name:- EAGG

Account Number:- 20344745

All I ask is that you put your name into the payee reference so I know who the cash has come from.

Also, if you could drop me an email on simonkelsall66@gmail.com to let me know that you have done this, that would be brilliant.

Don't worry if the thought of transferring cash online is not for you – I still take cheques made payable to EAGG and of course...cash!

Don't forget your subs are due on 2nd November – it is still £12.00

Jan Kelsall

Babylonstoren

The RHS has 23 overseas partner gardens open free to members.

Babylonstoren is a restored Cape Dutch farm near Franschoek, 45 minutes from Cape Town in the Cape wineland, South Africa.

The original farmstead has beautiful Dutch-gabled buildings, whitewashed in the traditional style, dating back to the 17th century, but the garden itself is only ten years old. It was designed by French garden architect, Patrice Taravella. His inspiration came from the Dutch East India Company and their garden in the middle of Cape Town which was created in the 1600's. As Cape Town became a stopping point for ships to and from Europe, the Cape gardens needed to be able to produce fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to support sailors and settlers.



The garden is therefore laid out in a grid design of rectangles and squares with walkways and narrow paths of gravel, grass, low hedging and white washed walls. It is so traditional that it looks as though it has always been there. Streams from the nearby Simonsberg Mountains provide an abundance of water. This is used to fill fishponds and channels for irrigation. On the day I

visited it was hot, hot, hot, and a quick paddle is encouraged and also very welcome!

Oranges, clementines, lemons, kumquats and grapefruit grow in citrus groves; orchards of fruit, salad, herb and vegetable beds are cultivated to meet the demands of the on-site restaurants (the food was excellent!).

Who knew that there are 13 different varieties of fig, all grown here and you are encouraged to pick and try.



Open every day except Christmas Day, if you are in Cape Town it is only an hours drive and definitely worth the trip. There is also a farm shop, winery, hotel, spa and bakery. If you don't get the chance to visit in person, you can always go onto YouTube and watch Monty Don visiting the garden as part of his Paradise Gardens programme.

Jan Kelsall

Patrice Travella was engaged to design The Newt at Hadspen, Penelope Hobhouse's family home. - open May 2019. – Isobel



Do you remember receiving an EAGG questionnaire?

Whether you got around to filling it in or not, you might be interested to know what those who kindly did manage to respond thought.

First we want to say thank you to everyone for your replies and comments. Although we had already planned most of 2020's visits, what you had to say will help with future planning and helpfully, the plans we have made as a committee for 2019-2020 do mostly fit with the way you prefer visits to go.

And I hope you will have noticed that all of the committee were wearing name badges at the October meeting! Several of you did ask.

Quite a few people commented favourably on the speakers we had over the last year, saying how much they enjoyed them. Some people actually join just to come and hear the speakers and are not especially interested in coach trips. But those who like going out for a day like the look of the 2019-2020 programme. So thank you for all of the good comments.

Coach journeys that are more than two hours are the least liked things that EAGG offers so we are glad what we have planned is fairly nearby. In fact one visit that we think you will really enjoy is just a few miles away at Woolpit. We will also try to arrange visits where there will be a choice of picnic with your own food or a cafe to buy which you ask for.

It seems that Lavenham is the best place for the majority to pick up the coach, as there is easy parking. But we will occasionally be able to include a Hadleigh or Stowmarket pick up if they are in the general direction of our journey and if you let us know.

More people opted for one garden with more time to look around if we are going by coach, though this year we are going to a garden and then a garden centre for shopping afterwards!

And as to choices, well the majority just want all or any gardens that are well reputed, NGS, special openings etc. And some said they would be happy to visit again at a different time of year or a few years apart.

We are sorry for those who have to go to work and miss out and for the dog owners who can't leave their pets all day. But for those who no longer drive, we can sort out lifts if cars are going. Just say you need a lift to the garden or the coach when you reply. We are not able to reduce the costs as a rule – they are dictated by the coach companies and gardens. We have made a loss on one or two visits because we have not been able to get enough people to cover the cost, so apologies to those who decide not to come because it is expensive.

At least your £12 membership represents very good value for money, so we hope you will continue to be an EAGG member for at least another year.

EAGG Secretary, Liz Law



