

AMERSHAM GARDENING ASSOCIATION AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE SECRETARY

It's been an interesting gardening year so far. First it was too wet and then too dry. However some of my plants seem very happy with this, noticeably my penstemons which have been the best they've ever been. The shrubs of all varieties seem to have grown a great amount this year judging by the amount I have had to cut off them. My climbing rose was devastated by wind and rain shortly before the Town Show, but I was pleased to see that there were some lovely roses in the show.

The annual Quiz will take place on October 27th and a booking form is included with this Newsletter. Last year's event was enjoyed by all who attended and we have the same caterer providing the food which was well received last year.

Jean Bowling

AGA TRIP TO DORSET JUNE 2016

This year 50 members went on this four day trip in a brand new coach with our favourite driver! Most felt there had been a wonderful contrast of garden styles in atmospheric, peaceful settings.

Houghton Lodge in Hampshire was our first call on our way to Dorset. We had a very informative talk by the owner in a beautiful conservatory. The peonies left a lasting impression. It was one member's idea of Paradise with a blend of house, garden, river.



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We lunched at Kingston Lacy, a National Trust property where the house, the sunken garden, fernery and rose garden and in particular the Japanese garden made this an interesting visit.



The second day we went to East Lambrook Manor, the home of the English cottage garden style created by garden legend Margery Fish. There were so many plants growing close together with an amazing collection of geraniums.



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In Abbotsbury subtropical gardens the echiums were one of the highlights. We had fun on the Butma rope bridge. Afterwards we visited Weymouth.



Forde Abbey was at its best at this time of year, especially the beautiful primulas in the bog garden. The fountain was a spectacle not to be missed.

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The rain didn't mar the views of the Italianate garden deep in a combe at Mapperton gardens. We had a very detailed tour of the house.



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We started our last day visiting Shute House gardens where we saw the source of the Nadder diverted through canals, waterfalls, rills and mysterious pools.



Next we travelled to Hinton Ampner with beautiful cut flowers and a magnificent Datura in a pot.



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Finally after negotiating a narrow lane in our large coach we had a rushed visit to Rosebie Morton and her Real Flower company. We had time to admire some wonderful roses, all chosen for their fragrance. Everywhere we went we enjoyed the beautiful roses.

A more detailed factual itinerary is attached separately.

Joan Clark

COULD THIS BE YOUR UNLUCKY DAY?

A friend living at Hyde Heath decided to apply some weedkiller in his garden. He used a ready mixed application of "Roundup" from his pump action pressure container with a lance attached. After a few minutes he felt unwell and soon realised that he was passing into unconsciousness. Fortunately, his wife was nearby and was alerted to his distress. This was a classic case of an anaphylactic shock and his body was shutting down. She phoned the Emergency Services and they arrived within ten minutes, and the para-medics found no discernible pulse and he had stopped breathing. He was soon in the ambulance with an oxygen mask and being injected with adrenaline and on his way to Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Well, he never expected that did he! So, why did it happen and can we all learn from this?

When it happened the weather was warm, sunny, humid and calm with little or no breeze. He was applying the chemical spray in the corner of his garden, with two high hedges either side of him under the canopy of an overhanging tree, where there was very little air movement. The spray lance had a fine nozzle and was under high pressure, so produced a very fine spray mist, which hung in the still air and was inhaled with near calamitous consequences. In this situation there is no point in wearing a mask, it has to be a proper respirator. Never use in a confined space (even in a garden) and ensure that you are upwind of the spray.

Roundup is made by Monsanto and the active ingredient is glyphosate and is the best selling weedkiller in the world. There has been talk of banning it by the World Health Organisation as they state that it was 'probably carcinogenic'. MEPs want the EC to allow farmers to use the chemical while banning it for 'non-professionals', that means you and me. The Soil Association want a total ban, and that could mean a lot of hand weeding, but that can be a subject for another day.

Clive Symes

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EVENING VISITS TO THE GARDENS OF FELICITY VICKERY, DOREEN & GRAHAM MORRIS, ANTOINETTE & MICHAEL FERRARO

OUR AUTUMN VISIT TO SEE THE AUTUMN COLOURS

Thursday 20th October is the date for the tour of Beale Arboretum and a delicious Afternoon Tea. Full details will be available at the next meeting plus the application form. THIS WILL BE THE LAST OPORTUNITY TO BOOK FOR THIS TOUR.

AGA ANNUAL QUIZ

Following the success of last year's Quiz we will be holding another one on October 27th this year. Please support as not only is it good fun but also an important fund raiser.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Last year's cheese and wine Christmas Social was generally considered to be an enjoyable event. We will be having another similar event on December 15th (note it is not the date given in the 2016 programme). This is a free event and we hope many of you will attend.

REFRESHMENTS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

We do need more volunteers to help serve teas & coffees at our meetings. There is a rota so you are not expected to help at every meeting. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Liz Moulton on 01494 784913

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MONTHLY TALKS

22 September Val Bourne comes to talk about 'Dahlias'. She writes for the Daily Telegraph, Saga Magazine, The Hardy Plant Society and many more. She lectures widely in this country and internationally and runs a consultancy designed to help people make their garden more ecologically sustainable. Her particular loves are hardy perennials and snowdrops.

On 24 November Dr Gillian Regan's subject is 'Self Seeders - Love them or Hate Them. Gill is a member of Kent HPS and travels the world with her husband Peter to study plants growing in the wild. Over 30 years she has developed a true plantswoman's garden near Faversham in Kent which she opens through the NGS.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2016

31 Aug – 27 Sep	Coleus display in Wisley Glasshouse
Sep 6-11	RHS Wisley Flower Show
Sep 11	RHS on Tour: Marylebone Farmer's Market
Sep 13	Aston Pottery and Radcot House Trip
Sep 22	Dahlias – Val Bourne talk
Sep 24-25	Malvern Autumn Show
Sep 26-29	Contemporary Craft & Design Fair Hyde Hall
Oct 20	Beale Arboretum Trip
Oct 27	Annual Quiz Night
Nov 24	Self Seeders – Love them or Hate them – Gill Regan talk
Dec 15	Christmas Social

COMMITTEE & CONTACT DETAILS

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AGA Dorset 2016 - Itinerary

Friday 10th June

Houghton Lodge Gardens where fine trees surround an enchanting and unique example of an 18th Century cottage. Chalk Cob walls enclose a traditional kitchen garden with fruit trees, herbs and heated greenhouses and stunning orchid collection in the Orchid House. The gardens are both formal and informal. 14 acres adjoining the garden provide an experience of the natural world with meadow walks through the peaceful and unspoiled surroundings of the River Test.

Kingston Lacy a National Trust property with plenty to see. 43 acres of garden, approached through a lime avenue. It includes a Parterre and Sunk Gardens planted with Edwardian schemes, a Victorian fernery contains 35 varieties, a rose garden and a Japanese garden restored to Henrietta Bankes' creation of 1910.

Saturday 11th June

East Lambrook Manor is one of England's best loved privately owned gardens created by gardening legend Margery Fish. Old fashioned and contemporary plants, in a relaxed and informal manner create an extraordinary garden of great charm. It is Grade 1 listed and renowned as the premier example of the English cottage garden style.

Abbotsbury Gardens. 30 acres started in 1760 and considerably extended in C19. The maritime micro- climate enables Mediterranean and southern hemisphere garden to grow rare and tender plants.

Sunday 12th June

Forde Abbey and Gardens has 30 acres of fine shrubs, magnificent specimen trees, ponds, herbaceous borders, rockery and a bog garden containing a superb collection of Asiatic primulas. Using the legacy of the eighteenth-century landscape and the nineteenth-century trees, three generations of the Roper family have made a garden worthy of the house that it surrounds. The newest addition is the Centenary Fountain. Formally opened in 2005 by Anne Swithinbank, it celebrates 100 years of the Roper Family at Forde Abbey and with a maximum height of 160 feet it is the highest powered fountain in England.

Mapperton Gardens is a romantic Italianate valley garden, deep in a lost Dorsetcombe among tumbling hills and unspoiled countryside. Mapperton House is a glorious sandstone manor in the heart of Hardy country, home to the Earl and Countess of Sandwich.

Monday 13th June

Shute House Gardens was designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, one of our finest landscape architects. It was commissioned in 1969 to create a water garden for Lady Anne and Captain Michael Tree. The result was; Jellicoe's favourite and, some say, finest work. The River Nadder rises at the top of the garden and is diverted into canals, waterfalls, rills and mysterious pools through a series of atmospheric "rooms". There is a parterre of Box hedges containing six gardens, each with a different theme; a Camellia Walk with over a hundred varieties; a canal of Arum Lilies overlooked by Chinese balconies; an amphitheatre in Box behind a double bridge swathed in Wisteria and Ivy and the world-famous Rill, tumbling musically down to the beautiful Kashmiri bubble fountains.

Hinton Ampner is a 12 acre National Trust property. Manicured lawns and topiary combine with unusual shrubs, climbers and herbaceous plants. The rose border incorporates over 45 year old rose and new varieties.

Rosebie Morton's beautiful rose paddock is where flowers are grown for The Real Flower Company. Scented garden roses and other English flowers and foliage picked early each morning are available to buy