

Amersham Gardening Association

www.amersham-gardening.org.uk

August 2017 Newsletter

From the Secretary

While we may have been enjoying the hot summer, the gardens have not. The lawns will recover but some of the plants are struggling, though the plants in the town are looking good. By the time you read this the judging will have taken place for Amersham in Bloom so let's hope it went well.

Recently you were sent a questionnaire regarding the Christmas Social. Very few of you responded but based on the few replies we received we will continue to hold the Christmas Social as at present, even if it is close to Christmas. Also for this year's Social on Thursday 21st December we will go back to the previous format; pot luck, when members bring along dishes

(savoury or sweet, depending on which half of the alphabet your name falls in) – again the wine and soft drinks will come from the Association's funds.

We can now afford to provide coffee and tea at the speaker meetings **free of charge**. The format of these meetings will change slightly with the speaker carrying on after the break. Please do not go before the speaker has finished as this is impolite to the speaker, who may have travelled some distance to come and speak to us.

With this Newsletter there is an application form for the Quiz night. These are always very enjoyable evenings and we hope you will support this event.

Jean Bowling

Over-watered or under-watered?

The May issue of *The Garden* has an article about watering container-grown plants and vegetable plots. We are told that regular daily watering with small amounts of water is best for container-grown plants, while less frequent watering in ground-grown plants results in deeper root growth. However, in container-grown plants over-watering is the main problem. Confusingly, the signs of over-watering are the same as those of under-watering – wilting and slow growth. This, of course gives us a problem – if we water a wilting container-growing plant we may drown it, while if we withhold water it may die of drought.

The late Professor John Yudkin had a rubber plant, *Ficus elastica*, in his office at Queen Elizabeth College of London University. He watered it religiously every day; so, unbeknown to him, did the cleaner. When it died he asked the Professor of Botany for advice, and was told that he had drowned the plant. He bought another, and strictly forbade the cleaner to water it, or even touch it. Unfortunately, the Prof forgot to water it, and it too died.

While you are taking cuttings in the autumn, take a few more ready for our plant sale on May 19th next year.

Quiz night raffle.

For the raffle at our monthly meetings, members of the committee buy the prizes out of AGA funds. For the quiz night raffle we are soliciting donations of prizes from members – perhaps a bottle of wine, a

box of chocolates or an exciting plant. Please let Carol Barratt (carol.barratt@btopenworld.com, 01494 725127) know if you can donate a prize.

Evening visit to Southlands Manor, June 7th

Nearly 50 members of the Association enjoyed a very pleasant evening at Southlands Manor, Denham, on Wednesday 7th June. The weather could have been better - some sunshine would have been appreciated - but at least it didn't rain!

Our hosts, John and Catherine Martin, spent a lot of time telling us about the house (the old part was built in 1473) and the development of the garden. Catherine generously provided us with delicious hot sausages, some wrapped in bacon, and also a huge bowl of strawberries picked that afternoon from the kitchen garden. There is nothing like fresh, home-grown strawberries!

A wild flower meadow greeted us as we came up the drive and we had plenty of time to wander around the garden and grounds.



We were invited to see their magnificent 15th century barn which has been immaculately restored but leaving a small section of wattle and daub so that we could see how the original building was constructed. The picture on the left is the statue in the barn of Sir James Martin, who founded Martin-Baker, the famous ejection seat company.

It really was a most enjoyable couple of hours with prosecco, wine, juices, nibbles and, of course, those delicious strawberries.



Thank you to all who came.

We made £374.50 for The Cure Parkinson's Trust.

Irene Glyn-Jones

Photos by Frances Billington

Rockcliffe House and Hidcote visit, June 14th

On the fourteenth of June, on a text book British summer day with a gentle breeze and sunny skies, the coach left Amersham in search of the finest gardens that the Gloucestershire Cotswolds can offer. It was a long way but the landscape was beautiful, and the scenic route preferred by our bus driver meant that there was a lot of scenery to admire. The coach sat nav seemed to be designed for a thin bicycle. Consequently there was a great deal of diving into narrow lanes, and the subsequent reversing blind into main roads.

Rockcliffe House was a magical Cotswold stone dower house built in 1860 (with two tiny new wings), snuggled in a hidden fold of the hills near the charmingly named village of Lower Slaughter. The entrance was artfully concealed, and the sharp turn was a fifteen point turn for the bus driver.



In front of the house was a terrace with the expected alchemilla and arigeron. What was different though was the star shaped bed filled with hyssop. This was trimmed dense and aromatic, and the trimmings make a nice purgative tea I believe. Equally fine was the rose *Souvenir du Docteur Jamain*, the exquisite maroon flowers exuding a perfect fragrance. This rose needs a north wall so it doesn't fry, and is not a repeat bloomer. Beyond was a sweep of lawns and pyramid topiary beeches. A modern statue which closely resembled an Audi car badge crowned the hill.



Other old fashioned roses on the terrace included Alberic Garbier and Madame Alfred Carrier. These single shot roses exquisite in June only are really only good value in large gardens.

To the side of the house was perhaps the most spectacular feature; a sunken garden with a black reflecting pool. This was surrounded by about eight *Cornus controversa variegata*. Beneath the trees foxgloves and iris silver edge completed the picture. The surrounding area had wild orchid and martagon lilies in the natural grass mix.



The swimming pool garden was delightful, surrounded by hedges and roses, particularly the thornless Zepharine Drouhin. Next time you are having a pool fitted it is worth checking out the colour of this one. It is sort of a teal colour mixed with grey, very sympathetic with the greens of the hedges and sets off the flowers of the geranium Anne Thompson and astrantias. Hedged colour themed gardens followed; the pink one with geraniums especially *palmatum*, and, most successfully and unusually *Phuopsis styolsa*, a Cotswold country house favourite which was also in the herbaceous border. The blue and white garden featured lovely campanulas, *Amsonia tabernaemontana* and cosmos purity and, naturally, delphiniums.

In the valley at the other side of the house was a vegetable garden with delightful fretwork scaffolding to hold up the nets over the strawberries and soft fruit. Away up the hill an avenue of topiary lead to a very fine dovecote with a feature weathervane modelled on Eton College. This is the iconic picture of the garden. Wildflower meadows full of yellow rattle and ox eye daises carpeted the surrounding orchards.



The best thing about the garden is the painterly planting. Emma Keswick's eye for colour and discipline means there are no Great Dixter type raucous show downs between pinks, oranges and yellows, all is like a Monet painting. The garden is unified by box, beech and yew topiary and Yorkstone paths. Thomas Unterdorfer the head gardener is an enormous asset and so are the other two full time ones ...not to mention the two trainees.

This garden is rarely open but it is a little gem certainly worth seeing.



Then on to Hidcote Manor, the flagship National Trust garden in the Cotswolds. This Arts and Crafts Manor house is surrounded by a world class garden built on an environmental disaster. Yes, the soil of the garden was made by adding a complete goods train worth of peat from Somerset on to the unpromising Cotswold brash. Of course Lawrence Johnson didn't need to worry about that. Composed of a series if garden rooms, it can be

confusing to start with, but we had time to study the garden map on the coach, as the driver ploughed on towards Birmingham giving us a spectacular view over the Vale of Evesham and the Malvern hills; some time later after looking for low bridge deviations we arrived.

A second confusion at Hidcote is they don't do plant names. Sometimes there is a number, but the NT, used to botanical beginners say, "photo the flower and we will identify it for you". So my species analysis may be a bit off key.

The initial courtyard is full of fuchsias, Mrs Popple (or a close relative) are formally planted with guess what? Lavender 'Hidcote'. Through this area we are into the old garden under the spreading cedar tree. This is a herbaceous garden riot. Dahlias merge with deutzias; heliotrope Lord Roberts sets off *Geranium psilostemon*, which surprisingly is close to Hebe Hidcote and *Lavendula spica* Hidcote purple .(That's enough name checking) There are lovely martagon lilies, fuchsia and little pinks like Mrs Sinkin's edge the beds. A rich perfume wafts over from the mock orange Belle Etoile, oh yes, surely that is peony 'Hidcote Purple' over there. Old roses abound 'Octavia Hill', 'Natalie Nypels' and 'Souvenir de St Anne' perhaps. Verbena 'Hidcote' goes nicely with the salvias which are starting to look their best. After such a kaleidoscope the white garden is a relief with *Crambe cordifolia* and *Convolvulus cneorum*, *Rosa Gruss auf Aachen*, and the white lilies just beginning to flower. In the nearby bathing pool garden (a dip not advised, just a rest home for old change and water boatmen) a wonderful blue meconopsis was spied along with iceberg roses. Alongside these is the stream garden where, enjoying the moisture, candelabra primulas flourish along with hydrangea, polygoniums and ranunculus.





Further to the North is Mrs Winthrop's garden. I fear she may have been colour-blind or obsessed by the Mediterranean. The yellows like *Argyranthemum maderens* (Madeira marguerite) are pitted against pure blues like *Anchusa* Loddon Royalist. One longed for the yellow free gardens of Rockcliffe house. Disappointingly the red border was closed whilst NT people lime mortared the gazebos. To close a main artery at peak visiting time seemed typically NT, never mind the paying punters, we've got our mortar to fix! This meant that we missed the cannas, dahlias, lobelias and salvias which can look stunning along this alley.

The pillar garden was a mass of alliums and peonies, just being replaced by hybrid tea roses and agapanthus. Lastly, the rose walk was at its best, though we intrepid Amershamites had to break through a fence to escape from it (another path closure). Old roses like the rugosas and *Rosa mundi* were underplanted with lamium, day lies, catmint, salvias, hemerocallis and some rather jarring foxgloves, which clashed with the pink roses.

There are other gardens in Hidcote with acres of flowers in them, it is a wonderful place to visit, though in high summer arrive early before the coaches and their wandering bus drivers rock up. Garden lovers could spend a couple of days there.

On the whole a good day out and we were blessed by the weather which meant it was a privilege to see such gardens under optimum conditions.

Jane Jenkins



Eight gardens in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire in four days

Jeanne Harrison organised a very interesting four days for us, based on the outskirts of Doncaster and visiting gardens in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire (and one just over the border in Nottinghamshire). All in all, this was a most successful holiday. **Thank you Jeanne for organizing it – where will you take us next year?**

Day 1: Easton Walled Garden

The walled garden is on the opposite side of a valley from a series of sloped banks that form a wild flower meadow. Unfortunately the wild flowers had finished their spring show and the summer blooms were not yet apparent. Equally unfortunately, the rain had done serious damage to the roses in the walled garden, and the sweet peas for which Easton is famous were only just beginning to flower. The yew tunnel through the walled garden did provide some shelter from the persistent rain.



Day 1: Doddington Hall -

The formal Elizabethan gardens did not look their best in the very heavy rain, and many of us took advantage of the shelter offered by the very impressive Hall at a modest additional cost, although, of course, we all walked through the gardens with umbrellas or anoraks.



Day 2: Burton Agnes Garden

The rain eased off overnight, and while some plants showed evidence of having been storm-battered, the small quirky garden rooms (including a giant chess set) in and around the walled garden (created in 1990 on the site of the original built 400 years ago) were full of interest – more than 3000 different plants, including rose beds, vegetable gardens, herbaceous borders, fruit beds, a jungle garden and a magnificent collection of campanulas. Most of us avoided the maze, mainly because there was a large party of school children running around it.



Day 2: Scampston Hall and garden

The main feature here is the award winning walled garden designed by Piet Oudolf, which is divided into nine separate areas, including a perennial meadow, contemporary waves of grass and an entirely green “silent garden”. The recently restored Victorian conservatory dominates one side of the garden, and a short walk through woodland leads to the Hall (not open) and a large lake with a Palladian bridge.



Day 3: Walker’s Nurseries

Graham Walker has an RHS gold medal for his sculptor’s garden at Tatton Park in 2008, and the nursery has a show garden. Mainly, however, this stop allowed us to fill the luggage area of the coach with even more plants, which Brian arranged most artistically, with tall plants at the back and excellent colour coordination!

We have given Brian honorary life membership of AGA.



Day 3: Clumber Park

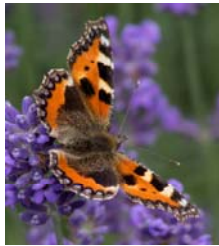


This was somewhat disappointing, although there is a very impressive 3 mile drive up to the visitor centre, lined with two rows of lime trees on each side, and there are 120 different types of tree in the 3800 acre estate. The main features are the longest glass house in any National Trust property – unfortunately, half is being restored and the other half contains only trials of different types of tomato, some of which did not look at all healthy. The walled garden hosts the national collection of rhubarb (130 different types, but to the uninitiated they all look the same). Although rhubarb wine and rhubarb and ginger jam were on sale, there was no rhubarb on the restaurant menu.



Day 4: Brightwater gardens

This was undoubtedly the highlight of the trip, and not only because the sun was shining. Constructed this century, there is a series of garden rooms around the house, all full of interest and colour, then a border and lawns leading down to a pond. On the other side of the house is a series of wildflower meadows, all in vibrant bloom, and buzzing with bees and butterflies. Stunning views over the rolling landscape around the garden. Certainly a garden to revisit at different times of the year, although we were told that it is very hectic for the snowdrops in February, and they close for a month afterwards to recover.



Day 4: Belton House

This was what we expect to see in a National Trust property. Not only a fine (if somewhat gloomy) 17th century mansion, and a Victorian church, but also splendid formal gardens and a well-stocked orangery boasting some of the tallest abutilon most of us have ever seen.



Visit to Peterley Corner Cottage, July 6th

What a lovely evening we had at Peterley Corner Cottage. The weather was perfect and 35 of us enjoyed the garden and the refreshments.

It was about seven years ago when I first took a group from the Gardening Association so, for some of us, it was a return visit. Dawn very kindly led a tour of her garden which was really appreciated.

The vegetable garden, helped by the sprinklers, looked very productive and is well fenced against the rabbits and deer.

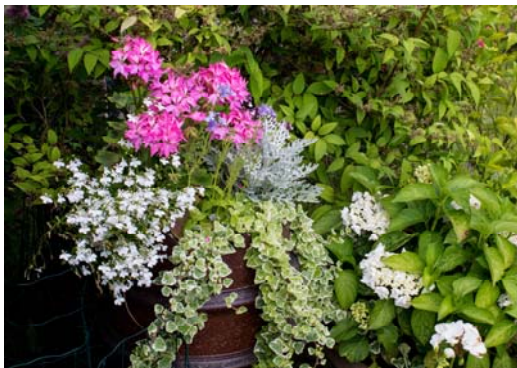


The wild flower meadow looked very colourful and Dawn has planted yellow rattle this year.

The arboretum is Dawn's great interest and she has many unusual trees. But, because of the very warm and humid evening, it was the swimming pool that provoked the most comments but, sadly, no one had brought their swimming attire!

It was a most enjoyable evening and I am pleased to tell you that, with donations, £322 was raised for McMillan Nurses. Dawn very kindly provided the wine for which we are most grateful.

Irene Glyn-Jones



Visit to the Stuart-Smiths, July 13th

We were blessed with a fine day when 37 garden lovers visited the two gardens at Serge Hill. The first one was 'The Barn', owned by garden designer, Tom Stuart-Smith, and his wife Sue, who gave us a guided tour of the garden and then left us to explore the various garden rooms on our own. We started in the courtyard garden, which was the first garden they built when moving into the barn and had very little money. The garden was gradually extended into the surrounding acres.



The main garden was made up of several 'rooms', divided by hedges and also two long borders. The stunning Prairie Garden was packed with plants, some of which we did not recognise, but Sue was able to identify them for us, and later she kindly photocopied a garden plant list for us.



We were able to picnic in this garden before moving across the road to the walled garden of Kate Stuart-Smith, Tom's sister. She gave us a guided tour of her garden, which was stuffed full of flowers and vegetables. It was delightful!

We ended the day with a delicious afternoon tea on the front lawn with beautiful views over the Hertfordshire countryside. The group thoroughly enjoyed their day out and Kate Stuart-Smith enjoyed having us. She emailed me after the event saying 'what a lovely group you are – it was great having you!'



Liz Moulton



Forthcoming meetings

September 28th Good companions by Glenis Dyer

Glenis Dyer is a retired college lecturer in Business Studies. She is a former committee member of British Clematis Society, and a member of International Clematis Society, and Alpine Garden Society. Her presentation will cover a number of her favourite plants. She and her husband have opened their garden in Welford near Stratford for the National Gardens Scheme for the past 30

years, and virtually all her talks feature plants in their own garden. In the 20 years that Eric and Glenis have lived at Elm Close they have created a garden of great interest with numerous different flower beds, borders, pathways and walkways. And their forward-thinking planting has ensured that there is always lots to see and enjoy, with plenty of colour to brighten the garden even in the winter months.

October 26th Quiz night

See the booking form with this newsletter.

November 23rd The challenge of building the Chelsea dream by Dan Riddlestone

Dan joined [Bowles & Wyer Contracts Ltd](#), the landscape construction arm of the business, in 2006. With a background in hard and soft landscape construction, Dan has been involved in numerous medal-winning Chelsea gardens and

award-winning commercial landscapes.

Dan's client portfolio covers private clients, government bodies and commercial organisations and his expertise covers a number of areas including landscape restoration, town & country gardens and commercial projects.

December 21st Christmas Social

Details in the November newsletter, but start sorting out your donations for the tombola now, and bring them to give to Irene Glyn-Jones at meetings.

September 8th at Waddesdon

On the 8th September Waddesdon is holding a talk with carpet bedding RHS experts Jim Buttress, Mark Wasilewski, and Stuart Lowen, who will discuss the history of bedding schemes at Waddesdon and how it is used nowadays to brighten our parks and other public places.

The event will run from 10:00-14:30pm and is £25 or £15 for RHS/National Trust/Art Fund Members. This includes a tour of the garden, grounds admission, a 2 course meal with glass of wine and coffee on arrive.

Go to this link to for more details and to book: <https://waddesdon.org.uk/whats-on/rhs-partner-event/>

Aylett's autumn festival, September 9th – 17th

The Festival runs from 9th-17th September inclusive, and on 9th 10th 16th and 17th (the weekends), they will be running tours for all customers to join, without booking, from 11:00-12:00. The tour will include the dahlia field, celebration garden, marquee with cut dahlias, and butterfly corner. The festival tea tent, adjacent to the dahlia field, will be open from 10:00-16:00 at the weekends.

Weekday tours are available to book from 5th – 15th September, and the festival tea tent will be open during the week from 14:00-16:00, where it is possible to purchase tea/coffee, cakes and cream teas (picnics are available to book in advance). For easy access to the festival tea tent, mobility impaired customers are welcome to park in the field.

Best-selling biography of two botanists

William Hooker (1785-65) and his son Joseph (1817-1911) were distinguished botanists. William was Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from 1841-55, and was succeeded by Joseph from

1855-75. A biography of the two by Mea Allan, published in 1967, with the title *The Hookers of Kew* was an unexpected best-seller in the USA – for quite the wrong reason.

Finishing the series about things in and around the garden shed: finally, the shed itself.

In old English the name was recorded in 1481 as shadde but it was also spelt as shad and shredde - a simple structure for storage. The main material used has been wood but they are now also made from metal or plastic.

Geoff Hamilton once remarked on *Gardeners' World*, when he was presenter and visiting an allotment, how impressed he was with the various materials used and the ingenuity of allotment holders to construct a shed of sorts. The writer George Bernard Shaw had a revolving shed in his garden so he could get the best light while writing.

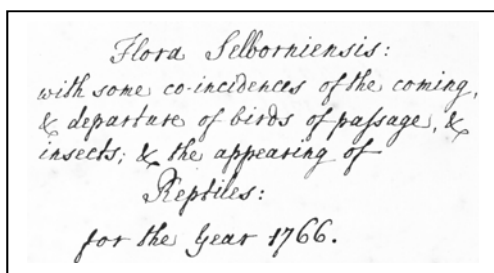
There are shed enthusiasts in several countries and they have a magazine appropriately call *The Shed*, and you can buy a book called *a Man and his Shed*.

In Wimbledon, the owner of a large garden has converted his shed into a comfortable pub; and we have potting sheds, wood sheds, bike sheds, railway sheds and boat sheds.



Kenneth Bodman

Calendar of Flora, or Flora Selborniensis, 1766



Gilbert White's *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* is well known, having gone through more than 300 editions since it was first published in 1789. Less well known is his *Calendar of Flora, or Flora Selborniensis*, of 1766. This was the precursor of his *Naturalist's Journal*, which he kept from 1767 until his death in 1793. An edited version of the Journal for 1784 (edited by Edward Dadswell) was published in 1986 under the title *Gilbert White: A Selborne Year*.

I first came across the *Calendar of Flora* some years ago, when I was Chairman of the Selborne Society, which owns and manages Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve. We had collected a tin trunk of documents belonging to the Society that had been under a desk in the Natural History Museum for some years – the occupant of the desk was a member who had died some time before. As we delved through the trunk, two rather scruffy pieces of cardboard holding a sheaf of papers came to light. Imagine my delight when I discovered that I was holding the manuscript of *Flora Selborniensis*. Since then it has been held in the Linnean Society Library, accessible to only a few people. The Society has now had it scanned, and the whole document is available from <http://perivalewood.k-hosting.co.uk/publications/Calendar%20of%20Flora%20-%20Gilbert%20White>.

White's notes cover not only his own garden, but the area around the parish of Selborne. Many of the observations of the dates on which different

plants began to shoot, leafed or flowered, are of little interest without similar data from other years. Initially, I was confused by his repeated statements that such and such a plant "was blown" or "blowing" until I checked the dictionary – it is an old term, meaning full blown, or in full flower.

Perhaps a year spent in Selborne village, leisurely riding around the surrounding district, and repeating the observations of 1766 would show how much the seasons have changed as a result of climate change (oh to have the leisurely time of an 18th century country curate). Other notes will resonate with gardeners today. Just a couple of his observations here, with more to come in future newsletters:

January 1: The year begins with a remarkable dry frost. January 13: Severe still frost yet; the roads are very dusty. January 25: A gentle thaw, the bat appears. Hepaticas in bloom all the frost, wallflower in bloom.

David Bender

Garden Rubbish – a much delayed book review

Some 60 years ago I was staying with friends and, as is my wont, raided their bookshelves for reading matter. I found a book published in 1936 called *Garden Rubbish and Other Country Bumps*, by Sellar and Yeatman (authors of *1066 and All That*, from which I learnt most of such history as I know).

More recently, while reading about plants needing “well drained moisture-retentive soil” (whatever that may be), I was reminded of Sellar and Yeatman’s notes on the desirability of “**rich unctuous loam**”, which one obtains via a gift from a “rich unctuous uncle”. This, of course, led me to the Oxford English Dictionary, which gives several definitions of unctuous: (1) “of the nature or quality of an unguent or ointment; oily, greasy” [presumably the uncle?] and (2) “of ground or soil: soft and adhesive, rich”.

Trying to find a copy of the book I Googled “rich unctuous loam”, and found a great many companies selling it, but no mention of the book. Amazon came up with a second hand copy when I searched “Sellar and Yeatman”. I regret to say that my sense of humour must have changed over the years, and I found much of the book rather pretentious and self-consciously trying to be funny – perhaps like much of modern so-called “alternative comedy” – but mercifully without the frequent recourse to four letter words (apart, of course, from “soil” and “loam”).

Nevertheless, there was much in the book to amuse me. For example, we are told: “If you don’t get shivers of delight up and down the spinal cord whenever you are gardening; if you don’t burn with gardenacious affection, till your vest begins to smell scorched, at the season’s first *Michausia tchikatcheffi* ... what the weevil do you mean by attempting to be a gardener at all?”. (Google gives no results for *Michausia tchikatcheffi*).

They then go on to describe that part of the garden that no-one shows you – the **unpleasaunce**. This is an area full of things “some-one forgot he had plenty of and ordered more; virgin pea sticks and barren seeding-boxes... futilities – disembowelled fruit tins, senile dish-clouts, condemned mouse traps, bald scrubbing brushes ... all doubtless aspiring to eventual manuredom ... Things grow in the unpleasaunce, of course: young grass out of an old doormat, voluntary vegetable marrows, parvenue pumpkins, and a riot of rogue rhubarb.”

Also, of course, a heap of manure – we are told that the longer manure is kept, the shorter it becomes – so that short manure is that which has been kept longer. Of course, they are referring to the height of the manure heap, which falls on storage, but they don’t tell us that.



In the list of soil types which ends with “rich unctuous loam” there is one that resonates with those of us who garden in the Chilterns. “**Flint**. The chief objections to a flinty soil are the flints. Collect these and thrown them over the wall into your neighbour’s garden. But the more you throw away, the more will appear. Two explanations of this: (1) the flints breed underground (all peasants believe this); (2) your neighbour is unsporting and throws them back again every night.”

Garden pests. “Onion fly. A species of fly which, being devoid of original ideas, attacks onions. Withhold the onions and the fly dies. No need to be cruel; don’t let the fly see the onion. Take it right away and hide it. ... Woolly aphis. Send it to the laundry. When it comes back send it to the wash again. After two or three goes it will shrink so tight on itself that it will suffocate.”

Rock gardening. “On the face of it, a rockery appears to be an attempt to pile up rocks and then hide them with invisible plants, or to pile up invisible plants and then hide them with rocks ... the main idea of the rock gardener is to produce a wonderful show of high-alpine plants in a sunken garden, preferably at sea level.”

On lawns. “The noblest way of acquiring a rich velvety greensward is to inherit one from a rich velvety ancestor.” This reminds me of the story of the American tourist at an Oxford college who asked how to get a lawn like the Fellows’ Lawn. “Easy” said the gardener “Dig down 6 feet, put in 2 feet of rubble, 2 feet of gravel, 1 foot of soil and 1 foot of fine loam, sow the seed and cut it by hand every day for 600 years.”

Finally we are told “There is never the right amount of garden. You have to be either increasing it by sowing, mulching and grafting, or decreasing it by thinning out, cutting back, and, of course, pruning.”

David Bender

Some requests for help

We always need people to meet and greet members and visitors at our meetings.

If you can help, please contact Felicity Vickery Tel: 01494 726284, email felicityvickery@yahoo.co.uk

We need people to help with the tea and coffee at our meetings. There is a rota so you are not expected to help at every meeting. If you can help, please contact Liz Moulton Tel: 014494 784913, email libbym6740@gmail.com

Please remember the raffle at each meeting. The profit on the raffles makes a very useful contribution to our expenses; subscriptions alone do not cover the cost of meetings and speakers.

Publicity. If you know where you could put a publicity poster please contact david.bender@btinternet.com

At present we have posters in the following places:

White Hill Centre, Chesham
Robertson's butcher, Chenies parade
Van Hage garden centre
Little Chalfont Library
Amersham Library

Amersham Community Centre
Amersham Council Offices
Amersham Station
Coleshill Village Hall
South Heath Garden Centre

Committee and Contact Details

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Discounts for members

[East Building & Timber Supplies](#), 43 - 47 Chiltern Ave, offer a 10% discount on compost, gravel and pebbles, etc to AGA members.

[South Heath Garden Centre](#), Meadow Lane, South Heath, Great Missenden, HP16 9SH, offer a 10% discount on some items.

Past newsletters

There is an archive of past newsletters from May 2014 to the current issue on our website at <http://www.amersham-gardening.org.uk/newsletter.html>

Photos from outings

You can see lots of photos from our outings at <http://www.amersham-gardening.org.uk/outings.html>

An embarrassing moment at Hidcote

When I was a student and travelled with a little Ilford Sportsman camera, people would thrust expensive single lens reflex cameras into my hand to take their photo. Now I travel with an expensive SLR, and was embarrassed at Hidcote to have a phone thrust into my hand to take a photo of two

strangers. I had to ask what you press to take a photo, then failed several times to get any picture at all. In my defence, I was trying to see what was there on a finger-print smeared screen with the sun behind me shining on the screen.

David Bender