

EARLSDON GARDENING CLUB

NEWSLETTER Summer 2021



Hello Everyone! Welcome to members old and new!

This edition of the Newsletter accompanies your membership forms for 2021/22. and includes the programme for the coming year, a review of what's been happening during 2021 and a contribution from one of our members.

PROGRAMME FOR 2021/22

13th	September	2021	Confessions of a Plantaholic!	Ravan Chisu
11th	October	2021	Growing chrysanthemums for the cut flower trade.	Trevor Lawrence
8th	November	2021	AGM, *Photographic competition and our talk – Kenilworth's Talisman Square Garden	Dr Catherine Dalloway
13th	December	2021	The History of Well Dressing	Robert Barlow
14 th	February	2022	The Hidden Gardens of Herefordshire	Alun and Jill Whitehead
14 th	March	2022	Plants for Autumn Colour in the Garden	Ingrid Millington (Hillview Hardy Plants)
11 th	April	2022	Growing Vegetables Organically	Val Bourne
9th	May	2022	'A bucket of stuff'	Bob Brown
13 th	June	2022	The Cutting Garden	Carol Patilla (Tuckshop Flowers)
11th	July	2022	Evergreen Plants for Small Gardens	Sue and Anthony Norman (Conquest Plants)

The entries for the ***Photographic competition** will be judged in November. A reminder of the topics: these are: – **'Pests'** and **'Hidden Delights'**. Look on our website - earlsdongardening.com for full details.

Myton Hospice Garden. The team of volunteers from EGC were able to resume visits on the 13th of October 2020. Nine members started the mammoth task of getting the garden in order and it is now looking superb again. The hard work of the team helped by plant donations, have really made a difference. Don't forget that additional volunteers are always welcome, contact Liz Campbell for more information.

REVIEW OF THE 2021 PROGRAMME

In March we started our online club meetings via Zoom. Jane Hutton was our very able host who kept us all in line! We began with an excellent talk by Fergus Garrett on 'Great Dixter Past, Present and Future', followed by Neil Kenney on 'Maple Myth Busting', Phil Smith on 'Wollaton Old Hall', Harvey Stevens on 'Windsor Great Park' and finally in July, Jim Almond on 'The Patch'.

While meetings on Zoom take a bit of getting used to, it was a great way of keeping in touch and whetting our appetite for our regular club nights at St. Barbara's Church Hall and for garden visits.

Indeed, the images of the Saville Garden at Windsor Great Park inspired a number of you to express an interest in going on an organised trip to the Saville Garden to witness the fantastic autumn colour.

EGC TRIPS. As soon as restrictions are lifted the Committee hope very much to be able to draw up a list of trips for 2021/22 and update you in September.

Due to our RHS affiliation, each year we are able to take a party to one of the five RHS showpiece gardens free of charge ie. **Wisley** near Woking, **Hyde Hall** in Essex, **Rosemoor** near Torrington, Devon, **Harlow Carr** near Harrogate and the new **Bridgewater Garden** at Salford, Greater Manchester. All of the gardens have undertaken massive works during lockdown and there is so much more to see. Wisley has spent millions on developing their Gardening Science HQ at RHS Hilltop and many of you might have watched the tv programme about the development of RHS Bridgewater. As with many showpiece gardens this was the garden of a former stately home which fell in to disrepair but was saved and brought back to life with the help of local philanthropists, agencies of government and an army of gardeners and volunteers.

Some of you might be interested to know that the land and house at Wisley, the first RHS garden, was given to the Society by Sir Thomas Hanbury in 1903. The 'oldies' amongst you (that includes me!) may remember Allen and Hanbury's Throat Lozenges in small blue and gold tins. This is the same Hanbury; a Quaker businessman and philanthropist, who also built the world famous garden La Mortola which can be found on the Italian Riviera coast very close to Menton.

News from one of our members, Pauline Bond.

"As I sit here typing this short piece for the programme, I am looking out on to our garden, well Ken's garden really, as he does all the work in it, I do a bit of tidying and provide tea and coffee at regular intervals and enjoy the fruits of his labour. Well, the garden is a riot of colour and I do believe the best it has looked for a few years. The Cornus Kousas have been wonderful since the middle of May, the clematis have never been better, and the borders are overflowing. It is such a pity that Earlsdon and Styvechale Open Gardens events were cancelled and couldn't be shared with garden enthusiasts and benefit local charities.

However, the Myton Garden Volunteers have been hard at work and brought the garden back up to their normal standard after nearly a year of neglect. It is with thanks and good wishes that they said goodbye to Linda who is moving to live nearer to her daughter. You cannot say goodbye without cakes, and I was lucky enough to have a couple of the leftovers with my afternoon tea on Tuesday.

A few weeks ago, we visited Tatton Park and it was an absolute delight to take a leisurely walk through the grounds and see the huge variety of rhododendrons and azaleas in full bloom. We highly recommend a visit, perhaps a coach trip could be organised for next year!

On Father's Day, along with our son, we visited Mr D J Bunnage's fascinating garden at 23a Perry Road, Buckden, St Neots, some would say a very natural garden others would say totally overgrown. Areas included a Japanese garden, a fantasy elves garden, not a blade of grass to be seen and nothing wasted that could be used for plants- this is the exciting thing about visiting a garden you never know what is behind the gate.

Well time for a 'cuppa 'now - Pauline." (21.06.21)

Finally, an image of the beautiful walled garden at Packwood House and another of the stunning Manor House at Baddesley Clinton. These are two National Trust properties which many of us enjoy visiting, but two of our members Linda Playle and Pat Evans have a closer association having been long standing NT volunteers.

