

THE EAST ANGLIAN GARDEN GROUP

Newsletter 100

July 2010

Chairman: Mrs. Heather Massey

President Mrs. Maureen Thompson

Vice Chairman: Mr. Jim Marshall

Catering Officer: Miss Daphne Godfrey

Secretary: Mrs. Jackie Smythe

Treasurer: Miss Josephine Mitson

Committee:

Mr. Michael Hawkins

Mrs. Elizabeth Seiffer

Mr. Kevin Seager

Mr. John Wight

Mrs. Audrey Tyerman

Committee

Mrs. Audrey Tyerman will have served her three years on the committee this November and so a vacancy will occur. Nominations are being taken to fill this post. Please send nominations to Jackie Smythe by September 30th.

Annual Subscription

The £12 subscription for 2010/2011 becomes due on October 1st 2010.

Please pay your subscription at the AGM in October. Otherwise please send your cheque, made payable to the *East Anglian Garden Group* to the Treasurer, Miss Josephine Mitson (address above).

Outings Money

When outings are full it is usually necessary to return money. When all money has come in on one cheque this obviously complicates matters, so would you please send a separate cheque for every outing. Please note that the deposit for outings is non-returnable unless another EAGG member can take your place.

Plant Stall

A special plea for members to bring interesting, good quality, clearly labelled plants for sale. The plants don't necessarily need to be unusual or rare. It is requested that members who bring plants take home any that are unsold after the meeting. The plant stall is a most valuable part of EAGG meetings and we are extremely grateful to all who contribute to it.

Waiting List

Members wishing to propose prospective members should send full names and addresses to the Secretary. Prospective members are welcome as guests, their application not now being considered until October 2010.

Guests

Guests may be brought to the meetings, at the discretion of the Secretary, depending on the number of people expected. Visitors will now be asked to pay £5 per visit. This may be paid prior to attendance, by sending a cheque to Jackie Smythe (made payable to the *East Anglian Garden Group*) or by paying at the meeting.

Contributions for Tea

Daphne has been very grateful for all the support she has had and is seeking help for the remaining two meetings of this year. Please continue to bring your excellent refreshments and if you are able to contribute by helping in the kitchen, please fill in your name on the return slip and Daphne will contact you nearer the time.

Members' gardens

The following members have kindly agreed to open their gardens to fellow members, by appointment only:

1. Mrs. I Clark Pentlow
'What can be done with a small garden'
2. Mrs. A Maconochie Bradfield St Clare
An established garden of several acres with many unusual trees and shrubs
3. Mr. & Mrs. B Massey Jackdaw's Ford
A landscaped garden of approximately one acre with mixed herbaceous borders

If any other members would be willing to show their gardens to fellow members, please contact Heather or Jackie.

100th Edition!

The sharp-eyed amongst you will have spotted that we have now reached 100! This seems particularly appropriate when you read page 3.

Tree Planting In Memory of EAGG Member

Mrs Judith Pope

It was a memorable occasion when a Medlar, *Mespilus germanica* "Nottingham" planted in memory of Mrs. Judith Pope, joined the *Prunus* "Pink Champagne" on the green at Red



Jim and Judith Pope's daughter Jackie
planting the Medlar

House Walk. The *Prunus* had been planted in 1999 in memory of Mr. Jim Pope. Jim and Judith were great supporters and long time members of the EAGG and over many years Jim had built up a collection of interesting and rare plants. The EAGG was delighted when Jackie and Alex, Jim and Judith's daughter and son, offered us the opportunity to collect some of these treasures from the garden at Red House Walk. All members who knew them remember Jim and Judith with deep affection. A donation was made to the Suffolk Wild Life Trust in their memory.

Bob Hardwick provided support and help to both the Family and also in the overseeing of the *plant collection weekend*. We offer Bob our grateful thanks for all he did.

Found at Red House Walk

We now have in our possession the very first EAGG Newsletter, dated March 1968! The first meeting was held in Lavenham Primary School and members were told *tea might be obtained at The Swan Hotel*. Members were asked to bring not more than five slides or specimen plants and be prepared to say a few words about them. What a good idea! We also have lists of members. The oldest dated list is 1976. There is also an undated list, which possibly dates from an earlier time.

Should any members like copies of this information please send a stamped and addressed envelope to Heather.

Gardens of Oxfordshire 2010.

Sunday morning dawned fractionally early for me as we set off on our journey. First stop was for our discreetly named 'comfort break' at South Mimms. Having mastered the art of Starbuckspeke and run the gamut of large men sporting large shorts over heavily tattooed legs we wended our way to Scotlands, where our delightful hosts showed us around their beautiful garden created from natural slopes and undulating terrain with water as a strong feature in its make-up – rivulets, pools and a waterfall interwoven with a small lake complete with MP's expenses look-a-like duck house. Having taken our lunch as far out of sight as possible because they were having a luncheon party, we journeyed on to Appleton Manor where we were shown round by the head gardener, Thomas Unterdorfer. Firstly, there was the walled potager which was amazing but I did wonder whether any of the colour co-ordinated crops were ever consumed – it all looked too beautiful to eat! Then out to the front of the house where I think we were all astonished by the three 25 year old tulip trees planted to replace a tree they had lost. Arne Maynard had designed a delightful gravelled area of pleached crab apple trees underplanted with lavender and marguerites. The rest of the garden seemed to be work in progress – a vast grassed area with some hedges planted and some yet to be created. The tennis court had already been moved to its new site and the swimming pool had yet to be moved nearer the house. One wondered what other developments were to happen in the future.

Day 2 and off to Blewbury Manor where our guide was the very confident head gardener, Richard Roslyn. The areas immediately around the 17th century house were fairly formal in design featuring a box-edged parterre filled with lavender, Russian sage and alliums – a yew-walled flower garden with long narrow beds spilling over with herbaceous planting – a rope pergola festooned with roses and clematis screening the tennis court and an organic kitchen garden with 'step-over' apple trees lining the beds and a greenhouse stuffed with nectarines and peaches. The further one strayed from the house, the planting became more wild and romantic with bridges over clear streams and a zig-zag bridge leading to the far side of the lake. Springs and waterways flow in and around the village – perhaps this inspired one-time local resident, Kenneth Graham to write 'The Wind in the Willows'. I could just see Ratty and Mole enjoying the surroundings! In the afternoon we made our way to Haseley Court, one-time home to Nancy Lancaster and now owned by the Heywards who were great friends with her. There we were shown round by their Errol Flynn look-alike gardener who had been head gardener at Waterperry for ten years and with them for the last eighteen months – so was still finding his feet. The avenue to the south of the house was impressive, lined on either side with a double row of limes and stretching as far as the eye could see. In a sunken garden to the east lay the famous topiary chess set. The rest of the garden contained many different areas with a nut walk leading down to the canal garden created from the remains of a moat, the laburnum tunnel and walled areas with vegetables and flowers. Nancy Lancaster's spirit lives on overseen by the present owners.

Day 3 saw us visiting the Old Rectory at Farnborough. The prettiest of houses (once lived in by John Betjeman and, in memory of whom, John Piper created a window in the local church) with amazing views over the surrounding countryside. The garden was equally lovely and scrupulously tended. Again, there were yew-backed herbaceous borders, an old tennis court had been turned into a boules area and the

well-stocked vegetable garden was presided over by a Tony Blair scarecrow! The swimming pool was surrounded by potted lilies with mixed roses and clematis planted outside the walls. The arboretum had been created over the last 30 years and impressed even the most discerning amongst us. One of the garden rooms contained a most elegant arbour with a painted interior. All in all it was a treat. Later in the day we travelled to Eveleigh's, home of Dr. and Mrs. Ogg. Here in the narrow garden which stretched down to the River Thames where their boat is moored, the green velvet lawn was mown to within an inch of its life and edged with beds containing luscious plantings of irises, peonies, delphiniums and roses. There followed tea at the local Village Hall courtesy of the W.I. where they forced us to eat their delicious cakes! Back at the hotel the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Osborne had invited us all for drinks and canapés before dinner which was very generous.

Day 4 Woolstone Mill. I think this was my favourite garden and no, it had absolutely nothing to do with the scrumptious parmesan biscuits and coffee offered on our arrival! It was probably the personality and humour of our hostess, Penny Spink which shone through its entirety. The two acre garden surrounds the 18th century mill house. There were large herbaceous borders beautifully planted and backed by yew hedges (yet again) surrounding the lawn which led down to the ha-ha, on the edge of which, grazed two sheep made of clipped box with stone heads. The garden has the benefit of the mill stream running through it with relaxed planting on either side. Underneath the Monet bridge which gave access to the delightful kitchen garden lurked two crocodiles! One suspects that aspects of the garden are there to amuse the grandchildren as is the magnificent tree-house with its views of the Uffington White Horse. I nearly forgot to mention that they had moved the road and the drive off it to the other side of the house to give the garden a better shape! Our last visit was to Buscot Park with extensive pleasure gardens in the Italianate style and the magnificent water gardens created by Harold Peto leading down to the lake. There was a chance to visit the house still lived in by the Farringdon family who look after the property on behalf of the National Trust and which houses a magnificent collection of pre-Raphaelite paintings. Perhaps, and because of their involvement, this wasn't a stereotypical National Trust experience!

Thence to Lavenham and, whilst enduring the agonies of the M25, time to reflect on how lucky I'd been to have had the company of such interesting, kind and thoughtful friends with such a great sense of humour and the quotation from Edmund de Rothschild relayed to us by Penny Spink "Every garden no matter how small should have at least two acres of woodland." Back home and to reality!

Mary Clayton

We've Been Persuaded!

We all enjoy the annual Garden Tour so much (including the organisers!) there *will* be another one! Preparations have begun for a tour next year. Please send a stamped and addressed envelope to **Heather Massey** should you require further details. Information will be sent out to interested members in August.

If you have never been on an EAGG tour, do join us. Talk to members who have been or ring Heather.

Programme for Autumn/Winter 2010/2011

Saturday September 4th – Coach visit to 2 gardens in Norwich - the Plantation Garden and the Exotic Garden.

Departure time:	The Cock Inn car park, Lavenham	9.30 am
	Bury St Edmunds (Stand 9 at the Bus Station)	10 00am
Return time:	Bury St Edmunds	4.00pm
(approx.)	Lavenham	4.30pm

Transport & entrance costs: £20.50

The two gardens are small and very close to each other in the heart of Norwich. *The Plantation Garden* is in a tranquil location and is a fascinating garden created in 1856 by a wealthy business man, Henry Trevor. For 40 years after Trevor's death in 1897, the garden was carefully tended, but after the 1938/45 war it was virtually abandoned. The garden was 'found' and is gradually being restored by the PG Restoration Trust. We shall have a guide to take us round and tell us the history of the garden. Be aware that there are some inclines in the garden which may be slippery if wet. The upper paths are not recommended for anyone with walking difficulties. There are lots of seats around the garden.

Unfortunately there is no provision for coffee or lunch here so bring your own coffee and a picnic which we shall have in the garden

The Exotic Garden is just 15 minutes away from the Plantation Garden and is described as '*an exotic oasis in Norfolk's fine City*'. This garden is out of the ordinary and 'absurdly unusual plants are grown to perfection'. The owner has been an artist and photographer by profession and he has created a very personal Eden of his own making. The garden is small and there will be intriguing plants available for sale. Tea and cakes will be served.

Saturday October 2nd – 2.30 pm at Hitcham Village Hall

Troy Scott-Smith, the Head Gardener of Bodnant will give a digital presentation and will bring plants.

Thursday October 14th – 2.30 pm - Car visit to Place for Plants, East Bergholt

Rupert Ely will give us a guided tour around the arboretum. Wear stout shoes as the grass paths can be slippery if wet. There will, of course, be time to browse the nursery. Tea and cakes will be served to us.

Directions: Take the B1070 road from Hadleigh and continue on this road for about 4 miles until you see Place for Plants signed off this road to the left. The postal code is C07 6UP.

Cost: £7 for the tour and refreshments.

Saturday October 23rd –Coach visit to Westonbirt Arboretum

Departure time:	The Cock Inn car park, Lavenham	7.30 am
	Bury St Edmunds (Stand 9 at the Bus Station)	8.00 am
Return time:	Bury St Edmunds	7.30 pm
(approx.)	Lavenham	8.00 am

Transport & entrance costs: £28

After Tony Russell's very enjoyable talk about the arboretum, many members requested a visit. We shall not have a guided tour. There is a restaurant.

Saturday November 6th – 2.30 pm at Hitcham Village Hall ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After the AGM business, Mrs Audrey Tyerman will give a talk entitled *Seeking Paradise*.

Saturday January 8th 2011 – a winter walk in Anglesey Abbey gardens

By popular demand we shall go back to our usual winter walk. For those of you who haven't been on the walk before, do come along. It is an informal meeting of members with no guide. There is lunch afterwards in the restaurant if you wish.

We shall meet in the entrance foyer at 11 am. It is requested that we enter the garden as a group.

Please indicate if you wish to have lunch.

DON'T FORGET YOUR NATIONAL TRUST CARD

Wednesday March 2nd – Car visit to Byndes Cottage, Pebmarsh – 11am

Margaret and David MacLennan have kindly invited a group of twenty members to visit their garden at snowdrop time. Not only will the group see Margaret's collection of *Galanthus*, but also her methods of propagation.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Should there be enough people, a second date will be requested.

If the garden is under snow, members will be notified and a subsequent date arranged.

Directions: Pebmarsh is about 15 minutes from Sudbury off the A131 towards Halstead. Ignore the first signposted turning on the left to Pebmarsh (at Catley Cross) and carry on to the second turning which is signposted 'Pebmarsh, Bures'. There is a large black barn at the junction. Follow the Pebmarsh road for half a mile or so. Byndes Cottage is the third house on the left along this road, around a very tight bend. There will be a yellow NGS sign at the gate.

Programme for 2010/2011

Please fill in the section below

Name
Email
Signed **Tel No.**

Saturday September 4th – Visit to The Plantation Garden & The Exotic Garden

*Please book me place(s) for this visit.

I enclose £20.50 (cheque to the East Anglian Garden Group)

I/We shall join the coach in Lavenham

I/We shall join the coach in Bury St Edmunds

		No. Attending	Help
Teas			
Saturday October 2nd	Hitcham		

Thursday October 14th Car visit to Place for Plants, East Bergholt

Please book me place(s) for this visit

I enclose £7 (cheque to the East Anglian Garden Group)

Saturday October 23rd Coach visit to Westonbirt Arboretum

*Please book me place(s) for this visit.

I enclose £28 (cheque to the East Anglian Garden Group)

I/We shall join the coach in Lavenham

I/We shall join the coach in Bury St Edmunds

		No. Attending	Help Teas
Saturday November 6th	Hitcham		

Saturday January 8th 2011

Anglesey Abbey Winter Walk Lunch required

Wednesday March 2nd Car visit to Byndes Cottage, Pebmarsh

Please book me place(s) for this visit.

I enclose £5 (cheque to East Anglian Garden Group)

* Should you require confirmation, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

PLEASE RETURN THE WHOLE PAGE

To: Jackie Smythe, The Yellow House, Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9LQ