

THE EAST ANGLIAN GARDEN GROUP

Newsletter 83

July 2001

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Waiting List

There are several names on the waiting list for 2001. Members wishing to propose prospective members should send full names and addresses to the Secretary. Nominations must be received by September 30th.

Visitors

Visitors may be brought to the meetings, at the discretion of the Secretary, depending on the number of people expected. Visitors are asked to pay £2.00 per visit. This may be paid prior to attendance, by sending a cheque to the Secretary. If time does not permit, the money should be paid to the Secretary at the meeting.

Book Stall

The Committee decided not to have a *Used Gardening Book* stall at the A.G.M. It is felt that we have exhausted our supply of unwanted books for the time being.

Plant Stall

The Plant Stall is an excellent source of revenue. Please bring clearly labelled plants, so that members may share unusual and interesting plants and all may benefit from the proceeds

Contributions for Tea

Miss D. Godfrey continues to organise refreshments for us and is always delighted to receive offers of help. Please fill in the return slip if you are able to help. Please also continue to bring contributions for all meetings at Hitcham

Coach visit to Thenford House, Banbury, home of The Rt Hon Michael R.D.Heseltine CH MP

The visit to Thenford House has now been arranged for **Saturday 11th May, 2002**. All those members who booked for May, 2001 and who did not request a refund will automatically have a place reserved. Should you be unable to come, please let Heather Massey know as soon as possible. The present waiting list will still operate.

Programme for Autumn 2001

Sunday, September 16th

Visit to The Vicarage, East Ruston

Coach trip to the Old Vicarage Gardens, East Ruston, Norfolk.

This is a quite exceptional and highly recommended 12-acre exotic coastal garden, including impressive herbaceous borders, tropical border with bananas and palms, sunken garden, walled garden, Mediterranean garden and wild flower meadows and walks.

The cost of this coach trip will be £7.00 each (non-refundable)

The entrance to the garden will be £3.50 per person., payable on the day.

Please bring a picnic lunch. Light refreshments will be available in the afternoon.

Departure times:	The Cock Inn car park, Lavenham	10.30 a.m.
	Depart Bury St. Edmunds (Stand 9 at The Bus Station, opposite the Library)	
Return Arrivals	Bury St. Edmunds	7.30 p.m.
	Lavenham	8.00 p.m.

We hope to arrive at 1 p.m. and will have our picnic in the car park. The garden does not open until 2 p.m.

Saturday October 6th -2.30 p.m. at Hitcham Village Hall

Dr. Timothy Ingram will talk on *Unusual and Rarely Seen Perennials*.

Drs. Timothy and Gillian Ingram have a 1.5 acre plantsman's garden, created in 1978.

A wide range of plants is grown with an emphasis on plants for dry situations.

Dr. Timothy Ingram has developed a specialist nursery and will be bringing plants for sale.

Please bring contributions for the tea and plant stall.

Saturday November 3rd -2.30 p.m. at Hitcham Village Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

.After the meeting Mrs. Margaret Thorpe, a member of our group, will talk on *A Career in Horticulture*.

Margaret took a Diploma in Horticulture at Birchetts Green Agricultural College and followed this with a job as border designer for Bressingham's at Dorney in Buckinghamshire. She now runs a garden travel business and has helped the EAGG with ideas for our garden holidays.

Saturday January 5th, 2002-Join the Group for a Winter Walk !

Following the success of last January's Winter Walk , we have organised a walk in **The University Botanical Gardens, Cambridge.**

We shall meet at 11 a.m. at the Bateman Street entrance. Mr. Peter Kerley, the garden supervisor will give us a short introductory talk and point us in the direction of the interesting aspects of the garden in January.

After the walk, coffee and sandwiches may be purchased in the restaurant.

As parking is difficult in the vicinity of the Gardens, it is suggested that you use the Park and Ride facility. The No. 99 bus leaves from the Babraham Road Car Park and stops very near to the gardens.

Having said you will come, should for any reason this not be possible, please let the Secretary know.

The Gardens of Yorkshire-4 Day Excursion July 7th- 10th , 2002

We are in the process of preparations for our visit to the gardens of Yorkshire. We shall be based in Harrogate, visiting among others Newby Hall and Gardens, Millgate House, Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens, Stillingfleet Lodge and York Gate. Should you require further details will you please send a stamped and addressed envelope to Heather Massey. Information will be sent out to members who have requested it, at the end of August.

Harveys Garden Plants, Bradfield St. George

Special Autumn Days

Friday August 31st and Saturday 1st September 9.30am – 5 pm.

Roger Harvey is also holding a talk in conjunction with the RHS on Monday 3rd September, entitled *Colour in the Autumn Garden*. Tickets are priced at £9.95 for non RHS members and £7.95 for members. The RHS booking line is 020 7821 3408

EAGG Visit to the Gardens of Hampshire and Dorset

We enjoyed another excellent coach trip in 2001. A very pleasant four days was ensured by thorough planning and rehearsal by Heather, aided by Brian, who organized the route with the usual almost split second timing. The coach driver, Paul's calm acceptance of narrow roads with a coach full to capacity with people, luggage and plants, was an added bonus.

Our first visit on Sunday morning was to **West Green House Gardens** at Hartley Wintney, a fine house with superb walled gardens and numerous herbaceous plants and old roses, with vegetables interspersed among the ornamentals very effectively. The potato growing containers appeared to need steps for harvesting, but no doubt there was a very good reason for their aerial position.

Some extra high *Eremurus* and the sculptures of old tools in the Orangery were interesting, as was a memorial statue to the retired gardener by the lake, a fitting tribute to his years of service. Plants noted included *Campanula latiloba* *Hidcote Amethyst*, *Anchusa azurea* and *Achillea* *Flowers of Sulphur*.

After our picnic lunch we enjoyed a fine collection of roses in the walled garden at **Mottesfont Abbey**, put together by Graham Thomas-who better than he to do it. The magnificent display of climbing roses on the walls included the fragrant pink *Duchesse de Cambaceres*, the Countess Cecile de Cambrillant, Indigo, a dark wine coloured Portland and Lavre Pavoust

1843, a rambler. There was a good layout of herbaceous and other plants in the centre and some fine old trees, notably the lime and oak, which have been there for a few years! Next day, after a scenic drive through the delightful Dorset countryside, we came to another splendid old 15th century house, **Athelhampton**. There were water gardens and more gardens in compartments separated by walls, with interesting plants and shrubs. The Magnolias made our East Anglian efforts seem rather poor by comparison. The well kept hedges and mown grass complemented the planting at what is obviously a well visited spot.

We enjoyed lunch in the Coach House Restaurant before returning for a walk around **Salisbury**, making a break from concentrated garden viewing. We visited the **Cathedral**, of course. The spire viewed from inside had a slight list to port, but not of Pisa like proportions, so we hope it remains standing!

After Dinner we enjoyed a talk by Michael Stone, head gardener at **Longstock Park Water Gardens**, an obviously very dedicated and enthusiastic man. He gave an attentive audience (even after a good dinner), a preview of the garden throughout the year, showing slides taken from carefully chosen positions. He gave details of his alterations made to the original layout of over fifty years ago by John Spedan Lewis. He spoke of his ways of keeping the river banks intact from water vole damage.

On Tuesday, the third day, we enjoyed further views of Somerset and Dorset, driving through Wilton and Sherborne to **Penelope Hobhouse's** garden at Bettiscombe. Her garden was a contrast with the other gardens in size, but was crammed with interesting and unusual plants, including *Euphorbias*, a very good *Viburnum farreri* and an architectural *Cynara*, among others. There was a perfectly framed view of the garden looking through the house with doors open.

After lunch at **Forde Abbey** we enjoyed another very well laid out and mature thirty acres, with its long border beside the water and the beautiful Abbey in the background. We walked up through the rock garden, past a large *Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis* in full bloom and *Incarvillea* with white flowers, and on to an extensive arboretum with fine conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs. This led us to the magnificent bog garden, with its enormous *Gunnera*.

On the last day we drove through Stockbridge to **Longstock Park Water Gardens** to meet Michael Stone. Although he said his slides were better than the gardens as seen *in the flesh*, we were all overwhelmed by the layout of the water features, the green foliage of the swamp cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, obviously thriving in the acid soil and abundant moisture for its breathing roots. This was enhanced by the glorious drifts of primula reflected in the water, which included a fine red variety grown from division from the original seedling and named after the previous, now retired, gardener.

We travelled on to **Green Farm Plants and Bury Court Gardens** with more walls enclosing formal layout and more unusual herbaceous plants and grasses. We were provided with a very refreshing lasagne lunch and managed to stock up with plants from the nursery including some of my favourites *Phlox maculata* var. *Reine De Jour*, *Eryngium Oxford Blue* and a *Gillenia trifoliata*.

Our thanks go to the tour committee, Maire Ramsay, Margaret Thorpe and Heather Massey and to Tony Venison for his constant support.

Michael Hawkins, President.