

THE EAST ANGLIAN GARDEN GROUP

1 Newsletter 99

December 2009 \

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
Mr Kevin Seager
Mrs Audrey Tyerman

Mrs Elizabeth Seiffer
Mr John Wight

Retirement of President

Tony Venison stood down as President at the AGM. Tony has completed three years as President and has contributed much to the Group with his vast knowledge and guidance.

New President

The Committee is delighted that Maureen Thompson has agreed to be the Group's President.

Maureen who now lives in Lavenham is well known to most of us, as the owner of the lovely garden at Sun House in Long Melford, where she lived until two years ago.

Maureen and her husband lived abroad for many years and, apart from the time she spent in Cuba, was unable to garden as she was living in an apartment. It was not until she returned to England and bought a cottage in Essex that she began to fulfil her longing to garden (her parents had been very keen gardeners). Then she was still working in London, and she created an easily maintained garden.

She moved to 'Sun House' in 1981 and took over, in her own words 'a complete jungle!'. It had not been gardened for ten years and the courtyard was just a dumping ground for old prams and buckets! Ten years later she bought a second piece of garden and so began the secret garden. Sadly her husband became ill in 1994 and she stayed at home, developing the garden we all came to 'admire'. 1994 saw her winning the *East Anglian Daily Times* best garden in East Anglia and the following year she won the *Daily Mail* Garden of the Year.

Maureen says that visiting good gardens and getting to 'know' so many good gardeners has been not only a great joy but also a source of inspiration to 'her'.

She has been tremendously supportive of the EAGG over many years.

Serving on the Committee

Should you feel that you would like to 'serve' on the EAGG Committee and would like to '

discuss the subject, please contact the Chairman, Secretary or any member of the Committee.

Annual Subscription

The subscription for 2009-2010 became due on October 1st 2009 and is now £12. If you have not already paid, 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

Please continue to' bring interesting, good quality, clearly labelled plants for sale. 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.

Contribution for Tea

Daphne is very grateful for all the support she has had. Please continue to bring your excellent refreshments and if you are able to help in the kitchen please fill in your name on the return slip and Daphne will contact you nearer the time.

Apology

Members will remember an article that Maureen Ridge wrote about her father, the late Mr F.G. Barcock, in the summer Newsletter. A mistake was made in naming a particular shrub in the article. The shrub mentioned should have read *Berberis thunbergii* *fatropurpurea* 'Green Ring'. My apologies to Maureen.

Programme for Spring & Summer 2010

Saturday 2nd January 2010

Winter walk Cambridge University, Botanic Garden

We hope that this walk will be as enjoyable as our walks in Anglesey Abbey Gardens have been. It will be an informal meeting with no guided tour and it goes ahead whatever the weather!

The cafe is basic and it will only be possible to purchase items such as jacketed potatoes, soup, sandwiches, etc. If a full lunch is required then there are many places outside the

Garden within walking distance.

Please note that the Trumpington Street Park & Ride site is off the M11 - junction 11 and not the All as mentioned in the previous newsletter (postal code CB2 9FT).

Saturday February 6th - 2.30pm at Hitcham Village Hall

Tony Russell will talk to the Group on the Westonbirt Arboretum.

Tony is a BBC broadcaster, writer and former forester of Westonbirt. He has a new book out: 'The Cotswolds' Finest Gardens'.

Saturday March 6th - 2.30 pm at Hitcham Village Hall

Sylvia Norton. 'Lathyrus-cousins of the Sweet Pea.' Sylvia has the national collection of Lathyrus and is the author of a book on Lathyrus. Her talk in 2007 on 'Turkish Floral Delights' was very popular.

Saturday April 3rd - 2.30 pm at Hitcham Village Hall

Pauline Pears from Garden Organic. Pauline will talk to us about 'Organic Vegetable Gardening'. Pauline is the author of many books on organic vegetable growing, compost making, allotments etc.

Tuesday May 25th Coach Visit to Lexham Hall & Peckover House, Wisbech

Departure time: The Cock Inn car park, Lavenham	9.00am
Bury St Edmunds (Stand 9 at the Bus Station)	9.30am
Bury St Edmunds	6.00pm
Lavenham	6.30pm

Transport cost: £11

Entrance cost: Lexham £6

**Peckover House £ 3.70 (garden only) £5.80 (house & garden)
(to be collected on the coach)**

National Trust members free, of course.

Lexham Hall is near Swaffham and is a formal garden with terraces, yew hedges, roses and mixed borders. There is a traditional kitchen garden with a crinkle crinkle wall. Also a 3-acre woodland garden with azaleas, rhododendrons and rare trees.

We shall have coffee & cakes when we arrive and bring a picnic lunch which we shall have in the grounds of Lexham Hall before driving on to Peckover House in Wisbech where we shall have time to walk round the garden and visit the house too.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR NATIONAL TRUST CARD.

June Visit to Oxfordshire

The garden tour is now fully booked.

Saturday June 26th Car visit to the Gardens of Maureen Thompson in Lavenham and Elizabeth Seiffer in Layham

These two delightful, but quite different gardens, complement each other both in design and character.

We do not wish to overcrowd the gardens, so this joint visit will be on a timed entry to both gardens, with tea and cakes provided at Brian and Heather Massey's home in Chelsworth.

As parking is at a premium at both gardens, we ask that as much as possible you share transport, indicating your arrangements on the *Return Form*.

There should be no problem parking in Chelsworth.

You will receive further details nearer the time with directions to the three locations.

Saturday July 3rd Coach visit to Devil's End, Haddiscoe & Ditchingham Hall

Ditchingham

Departure time:	The Cock Inn car park, Lavenham	9.15am
	Bury St Edmunds (Stand 9 at the Bus Station)	9.45am
Return time:	Bury St Edmunds	5.00pm
(approx.)	Lavenham	5.30pm

Transport cost: £11 (to be paid on booking)

Entrance costs: £11 (to be collected on the coach)

We will visit member Peter Manthorpe's garden in the morning where we will have tea and biscuits. Some members will have visited Peter's delightful garden. This is a romantic 1-acre enthusiast's garden laid out on a south facing slope with some steep steps. The garden contains a parterre, topiary, woodland walks, colour-themed borders, etc. Featured in *The English Garden* and *Country Life*.

Bring a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon we will visit Ditchingham Hall. A garden on a grand scale set around an 18th century mansion and surrounded by a landscaped park. There is a part walled garden and a cedar avenue, many rose beds and large herbaceous borders. The garden was partly redesigned by Mark Rumary who was called in after the gales of 1987 damaged a large part of the cedar avenue. We hope to have refreshments in the garden.

Programme for 2010

Name

Email

Signed

Tel. No

Saturday January 2nd 2010 - visit to Cambridge University, Botanic Garden in Cambridge. Telephone Jackie Smythe if you have not already indicated that you will join the Group. No.Attending Help Teas

Saturday February 6th Hitcham

Saturday March 6th Hitcham

Saturday April 3rd Hitcham

Tuesday May 25th - Coach visit to Lexham Hall & Peckover House, Wisbech

Please book me places for this visit

I enclose £ (cheques to the East Anglian Garden Group) (**for transport and entrance to Lexham Hall**)

June 7 - 10th - Garden tour to Oxfordshire

Saturday June 26th Car visit to Lavenham & Hadleigh

I shall/shall not be attending.

I am a car driver and will bring others.

I am not a car driver and would like to travel with others.

Please make your own arrangements where possible.

I prefer to begin the afternoon in Lavenham

I prefer to begin the afternoon in Layham

Saturday July 3rd Coach visit to Devil's End, Haddiscoe & Ditchingham Hall

Please book me places

I enclose £ (cheques to EAGG) (for transport)

Should you require confirmation of visits, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

PLEASE RETURN THE WHOLE PAGE

To: Jackie Smythe.