



RADLETT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
**WEEDERS
DIGEST**
WINTER 2019



In this issue:

5-day holiday to Devon

The Autumn Flower Show

**Talks – “Skulduggery in the Shrubbery”
and “My Garden in France”**

Annual General Meeting

Some coming events for 2020

**Many of the
Flower Show
exhibits were
sold and all the
proceeds went
to a gardener’s
charity**

Editorial



New Pres Bob Clark leads the sing-along after the Flower Show

As most of you know Beryl Cushion has been editing and writing two or three Weeders Digests per year for as long as I can remember - this is, in fact, her 36th edition! She has done a magnificent job and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication. She has decided to hand over the editorship to me but all is not lost because she is still going to write articles on all the events she is able to attend. We are also assisted by Dave Oswald, our designer, who takes our raw material and swiftly turns it into the finished product.

We have had a busy year, more of which will be reported on in the Yearbook, but the important news is that John Rickards our President since 2010 has decided to retire. Thank you John for all your contributions to the Society over the years. We also welcome another stalwart of the Society in Bob Clark as our new President. Welcome Bob.

Now we have had the first couple of frosts don't forget to bring those tender plants into the greenhouse or indoors. Pelargoniums can take a bit of frost but still need protection in the depths of winter..

The AGM

The Chairman reported another good year for the society, with two great holidays, excellent trips and a highly successful garden walkabout. Sadly, our President, John Rickards, has retired after years of devoted service, and the meeting confirmed Bob Clark's appointment to this position. Another loss to the Committee was Peggy Sjoberg, who was appointed as a Vice-president and awarded Life Membership. All helpers were heartily thanked.

Finances are in good shape, the store has a surplus of greenhouse fly-papers and indoor watering cans and everyone was urged to stock up on bird food. The meeting closed in time for a glass of wine before the talk.

Recent Talks

June 31

Skulduggery in the Shrubbery

Stefan White gives talks on many different subjects, but a particular gardening interest in the Tradescant family inspired this story and attracted a large audience of 60. We learned how, in the 17th century, John Tradescant, collected plants and natural curiosities and created a museum to show them to the public. However, a rascally lawyer, Elias Ashmole, cheated John junior out of his inheritance and displayed the treasures in his own Ashmolean Museum!

November 13

My Garden in France

Dr David Marsh and his partner bought a large unkempt property near Le Mans and set about creating a garden. With the loan of local machinery they cut down trees, shrubs and undergrowth that were over head height uncovering a large number of ruined buildings. During the following summers they rebuilt the house and outbuildings, constructed bridges and dug ditches thus creating a series of different magical garden areas. By 2014 it was considered so good that it was included in the French section of the Open Gardens scheme. It really is a most astonishing achievement.

Day Trip August 8 Beth Chatto's Gardens

A chilly morning became a gloriously sunny day for the 42 visitors and these gardens fully justified their excellent reputation. The famous gravel garden was packed with attractive plants that need no watering, and down the grassy slopes in contrast were flourishing pond marginals, including an unusual tree with roots protruding as “knobby knees”, normally to be found in mangrove swamps. Beyond these were colourful shrub borders, a packed nursery and alluring woodlands. It really was outstanding.



Top: The renowned gravel garden was a highlight, as was the pond and the magnificent planting all around (above)



Just two of the contrasting delights at Green Island

.... and Green Island Gardens

This large triangular estate has been developed by garden designer and owner, Fiona Edmond, since the storm of 1987 destroyed much of the existing woodland. Many areas have been replanted with native trees, but with colourful shrubs and underplanting to give all-season interest. For our visit, the main central island beds were resplendent in summer foliage, with hydrangeas of every hue from red to blue, and very prominent crocosmias “Hellfire” and “Lucifer”.

Judging by the boxes full of plants in the boot of the coach, the sales departments of both gardens were doing very well, too!



Event September 7 The Autumn Flower Show

The erratic weather this summer created an abundance of fruit and flowers for the 242 visitors to admire, and there were 485 exhibits on show. Prizes were awarded by the new President, Bob Clark. The plant supplier made life interesting by providing two Mystery Dahlias instead of one - both miniature decorative but different varieties: "Rycroft Jan" and "Lillian Marston".

The Awards

- The RHS Banksian Medal** - Peter Hordern
- Perpetual Challenge Bowl** - Peter Hordern
- RHS Affiliated Societies' Bronze Medal** - Peter Hordern
- Raymond Sprake Cup** (domestic classes) - Jane Poyser
- Novice Cup** - Susie Branigan
- Best Vegetable Exhibit** (tomatoes) - Peter Hordern
- Best Fruit Exhibit** (melons) - Mike Paterson
- Best Domestic Exhibit** (decorated cup cakes) - Annette Aggett
- Chairman's Pair** - Peter Hordern

ROSES

- Barton Cup** - Trish Clough
- Bill Woods Rose Bowl** - Jane Poyser

DAHLIAS

- William Draper Cup** - Maureen Thorne
- Stanley Dark Cup** (Mystery dahlia) - Peter Hordern
- NDS Silver Medal** (Class 17) - Maureen Thorne

FLOWERS

- Dorothy Mercer Cup** - Barbara Hordern
- Judge's Award** - Elizabeth Wackrow
- Certificate of Floral Art** - Jane Poyser

VEGETABLES

- Radlett Top Tray** - Mike Paterson
- Vic Craft Cup for Tomatoes** - Peter Hordern

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Paul Balen Cup** - Ian Ellis





Children's Section

It was great to see five of last year's young prizewinners competing again, but disappointing that they were the only youthful exhibitors. Results were:

Vegetable model

- 1 - Dorothea Ward
- 2 - Poppy Crown
- 3 - Maya Crown

Grown by Exhibitor

- 1 - Dorothea Ward
- Tied 2 - Maya/Poppy Crown,
Evie Coldham
- 3 - Oliver Coldham

Family Photo

- 1 - Oliver Coldham
- 2 - Evie Coldham

Other Class Winners

ROSES

J Poyser - 3. P Hordern - 4. R Cohen - 5.

DAHLIAS

M Thorne - 10, 11, 12, 13. P Hordern - 9, 14, 15.

R Clark - 6. E Wackrow - 7. P Breward - 16.

OTHER FLOWERS, SHRUBS and HERBS

T Clough - 19, 28, 31. R Clark - 20, 22, 33.

J Poyser - 21, 34. R Cohen - 25, 27.

M Paterson - 23. L Godman - 24. J Phipps - 26.

P Breward - 29. B Hordern - 32.

VEGETABLES & FRUIT

P Hordern - 38, 43, 44, 53, 54, 57, 62, 63.

M Paterson - 45, 47, 51, 55, 64.

J Poyser - 48, 52, 61. H Young - 36.

J Njoroge - 39. M Dootson - 40.

M Thorne - 41. T Clough - 42. A Aggett - 49.

C Wright - 50. M Laxton - 56. D Oswald - 58.
P McIntyre - 59. Rev J Iqbal - 60.

NOVICES

S Branigan - 70, 71, 72, 73.

FLORAL ART

J Poyser - 75.

DOMESTIC

J. Poyser - 83, 84, 94. L Bissett 78, 79, 86.

P Gray 77, 81. B Hordern - 82, 90. A Aggett - 80.

S Laxton - 85. R Pearce - 88. A Burns - 89.

S Dougan - 91. B Hordern - 92. M Laxton - 95.

PHOTOGRAPHY & CRAFT

E Schlaikjer - 96, 97. P Breward - 98. I Ellis - 99.

J Poyser - 100. S Ward - 101. M Dougan - 102.

September 29 – October 3

Holiday to Instow



The striking Montacute House



The restored Victorian garden at Arlington Court



Cotehele House and gardens in Cornwall. (National Trust)



The coach departed Radlett on **Sunday** with 30 passengers, all very much looking forward to our week away. En route we visited Montacute House, a daring Elizabethan mansion flaunting wealth and power. The building shelters important collections of furniture, textiles and a loan of paintings from the National Portrait Gallery. The formal garden offers a profusion of flowers in their vibrant autumnal colours.

Monday gave us a quiet morning before setting off for Arlington Court which enhanced the passions of the Chichester family who lived here. The stable block displays an array of over 50 carriages varying from grand state coaches to humble governess cars. The garden is restored to its colourful Victorian glory and the conservatory reveals plants from the Chichesters' world travels

On **Tuesday** the coach took us through Dartmoor National Park, and stopped at Moretonhampstead en route to Cotehele, Cornwall. The Edgcumbes built their granite and slate-stone home high above the river Tamar which remained in their family for nearly 600 years. The home displays weaponry and tapestry-clad rooms which have changed little since Tudor times. The garden features historic daffodils, terraces, ponds and orchards with a large variety of apples.

Wednesday - Rosemoor. The RHS garden delighted us by its coat of autumnal colours. Having been accustomed to the spring rainbow, the sunset blooms and rusty leaves were



The wonderful RHS Gardens at Rosemoor



Above and top right: Dyrham Park near Bath



Instow is at the confluence of two tidal rivers, the Taw and the Torridge

taking us to a different world.

Thursday. Time to return home via Dyrham Park, near Bath. The house is an intimate encounter with the late 17th century. Artefacts brought back from world travels reflect an age of exploration and empire, revealing the passions of William Blathwayt, Secretary of War to William of Orange. The garden brings tranquility and

inspiration whilst the parkland offers a panorama towards the Welsh hills.

It was a wonderful break, with a bit of rain but not cold, and very comfortable in the Commodore Hotel. Special thanks to Peggy and driver Sam and also to Sam's wife Samantha, who acted as the hostess on the coach.

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Some of our coming events

For full details see the 2020 Yearbook
or go to www.radletthortsoc.co.uk

2 February

The Society Store Opens

25 March

Talk, Vision Hall

23 April

Day trip to Leonardslee

26 April

Friends of Scrubbits Wood event

2 May

Spring Plant Sale in the Scout Hut

3 June

Day trip to Greys Court (NT) and a boat trip

17 June

Talk, Vision Hall

5 July

Garden Walkabout

29 July

Talk, Vision Hall

5 September

Autumn Flower Show

25 November

Annual General Meeting and Talk

29 November

The Store closes for winter



Your Committee for 2020

Chairman and Publications Editor

Peter Hordern

Vice Chairman and Archivist

Elizabeth Wackrow

Secretary

Jane Phipps

Treasurer

Peter Breward

Show Secretary

Amanda Harvell

Assistant Show Secretary

Jane Poyser

Membership Secretary

Rachel Pearce

Talks Organiser

Andy Harvell

Trading Secretary

David Bagon

Day Trips Organiser

Gesine Latimer

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