

RADLETT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

YEARBOOK 2019

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Porters Park is a classic parkland course constructed in 1899. Its early design was influenced heavily by J.H. Taylor, one of the pioneers of the modern game. It was built in the grounds of Porters mansion but the only remains left are an ice house alongside the third fairway.

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The club has hosted qualifying events for The Open on six occasions and is home to a number of prestigious amateur events. It is recognised by England Golf as one of the finest courses in the county and in 2018 received an award for Hertfordshire Club of the Year.

We have welcomed both societies and corporate golf events for over 100 years. Visitors are welcome and the clubhouse facilities are available to non-members for conferences, weddings and other special events. The catering team can offer imaginative cuisine as well as all the traditional favourites.



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Porters Park has several categories of membership available.

- Full Membership
- Restricted Full Membership
- 5 Day Membership
- Junior Membership
- Student Membership
- Social Membership

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Porters Park Golf Club, Shenley Hill, Radlett, WD7 7AZ

Tel: 01923 854127 Email: enquiries@portersparkgolfclub.co.uk www.portersparkgolfclub.co.uk

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Radlett Horticultural Society

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society, National Chrysanthemum Society,
National Dahlia Society and National Sweet Pea Society

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2019 Diary

Sunday February 3

The Store opens at 10am for the 2019 season

Wednesday March 27

Talk 'What Do I Do With This Space?'

by *Darren Lerigo*, 8pm at Vision Hall

Thursday April 25

Day trip to Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Mill

(booking from 17 March)

Saturday May 4

Spring Plant Sale, 2-3pm at the Scout Headquarters, Scrubbitts Park Road

May 19-23

5 day holiday to Warwickshire

based at the Stratford Manor Hotel

Thursday June 6

Day trip to South Park House & Gardens plus

Cathy Brown's Garden

(booking from 28 April)

Wednesday June 12

Talk 'All about Roses'

by *Jacqueline Aviolet*, 8pm at Vision Hall

Sunday July 7

Members Garden Walkabout 2-5pm

Wednesday July 31

Talk 'Skulduggery in the Shrubbery – the sad, true and fascinating story of the Tradescants'

by *Stefan White*, 8pm at Vision Hall

Thursday August 8

Day trip Beth Chatto Gardens

plus Green Island Gardens

(booking from 30 June)

Saturday September 7

The Autumn Show

3-5.30pm at Vision Hall (entries by 5 September)

September 22-26

Proposed 5 day holiday to Devon, Instow

based at the Commodore Hotel

Wednesday November 13

Annual General Meeting

7.30pm at Vision Hall

Followed by talk - subject & speaker to be announced

Sunday November 24

The Store closes at 12noon for the winter break.

Last chance to stock up with bird food

2020

Sunday February 2

The Store re-opens for 2020

Committee Meetings take place at about six weekly intervals in the Public Library

Advertisers' Directory

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From the Chairman

I am pleased to report that The Radlett Horticultural Society continues to thrive despite yet another year of unpredictable weather and welcome you to this 21st edition of the Yearbook.

I was looking back at the first edition the other day and noticed a few things. It was all in black and white with a green cover and no photographs. There were no articles as such, just the odd report on events. We printed all of our rules which made for heavy reading and some of the advertisers are still the same viz: Stuart Thorne, Universal Lawnmowers, Turner and Debenhams (now Debenhams Ottaway), The Harpenden Building Society, and last but not least Ayletts Nurseries. I would like to thank them and all our other advertisers without whom we could not afford to print the Yearbook and encourage members to use them. They are all good local businesses which deserve your support.

I also noticed that in that year the Chairman was none other than Reg Hardy and the Editor of the Yearbook was Paul Balen, both sadly no longer with us.



As many of you will know Reg died last year and many of us attended his funeral. He was a great supporter of the Society and Chairman for seven years from 1994 to 2001. Thank you Reg.

I am also sad to have to report that Cyril Walters died just before Christmas and Peter Cushion just after. Cyril was Publicity Officer for many years; an obituary for Peter can be found on page 14.

At the 2017 AGM I made a plea for some new committee members and nobody was more surprised than me when we got a volunteer. Karen Kendrick has joined us and has been appointed Publicity Officer, one of our less visible jobs but so necessary in this day and age. Suffice to say she has made a good start.

Of course I must not forget all the rest of our hard working committee who put a tremendous amount of time into the society, thank you one and all. With our combined efforts we run the plant sale, the talks, the day trips, the walkabout, the holidays and the Autumn show. We also produce the Yearbook and last (but not least) we run the Store in Scrubbitts Park Road.

However we are still on the lookout for new committee members so please give me a call. Maybe you have just retired and have a bit of time on your hands. You don't need to be an expert gardener, just someone keen to keep one of Radlett's biggest societies jogging along.

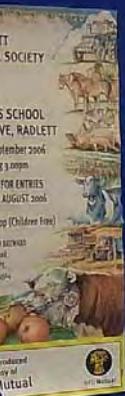
And lastly I should just mention that we had another brilliant Autumn Show and despite the aforementioned unpredictable weather our new(ish) Show Secretary managed to accommodate a massive 491 entries. There was a full report in the winter edition of the Weeders Digest but for me the best was the Flapjack class where I got a third prize and my wife Barbara was unplaced! Cherry and marzipan if you are interested.

Peter Hordern



The Society's Yearbook – 1998 and 2018 versions

Radlett Horticultural Society



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A gem in The Lakes



There was a delightful riot of colour last August. The new Walled Garden Display House can be seen to the right

The Lake District in Cumbria is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places in Britain and it has no shortage of wonderful gardens you can visit. If you are holidaying amidst the awe-inspiring scenery, Holehird Gardens is one such garden, but, with a unique tale to tell. It is run entirely by volunteers.

Situated high above Windermere, Holehird has been home to the Lakeland Horticultural Society since 1969. Written records, however, go back to the 17th century when a large part of the area was owned by Thomas Hird and his family.

In 1885 the Manchester industrialist John Macmillan Dunlop laid out formal gardens and had the present Walled Garden built with a range of heated greenhouses against the north wall, where

Visitor Reception and LHS Members' Rooms now stand. The Groves family moved to Holehird in 1897 and continued the development of the grounds and garden, designing a rock garden and introducing many water features, including damming streams to form the tarn below the Mansion.

In 1945 Henry Leigh Groves gave the estate to the County Council, to be held in trust 'for the purpose of the better development of the health, education and welfare services of the county of Westmorland'. The estate is now managed by the Holehird Trust who lease the various parts to organisations and individuals. The Mansion has been leased to the Leonard Cheshire Foundation since 1961 and is still run as a home for the disabled.

The Lakeland Horticultural Society was founded



The stunning view across to the Langdale pikes

work on bringing the garden back to life. And what a wonderful job they have done.

In 1969 the LHS took over the lease for two acres of the overgrown Rock Garden and grassy slopes of the Orchard. The first volunteers cleared the rank vegetation and self-sown saplings, being careful to preserve the mature specimen shrubs and trees which had managed to rise above the willowherb and brambles. Old paths were exposed and new ones created and a garden worthy of being opened to visitors emerged by the end of the 1970s.

Russell Hope-Simpson, a founder member, wrote at the time: *"The whole daffodil slope was dotted with apple trees which all had to be grubbed out. Near the larch at the foot of the bank was an immense spruce and a wide-spreading cherry, virtually cutting the*



A volunteer gets stuck in with a hoe

in 1969 with the aim of promoting the science, practice and art of horticulture, particularly with regard to the conditions prevailing in the Lake District. After a search for a suitable garden they took on the lease for Holehird and proceeded to

Students from Newton Rigg College in Penrith seen digging out the rose bed in 1972. Founder member Henry Noblett, was a senior lecturer at the college, whilst current President Shelagh Todd is now the Senior Horticulturalist



The home for the disabled seen from the garden

garden in two. The spruce was felled and its stump hidden by spreading juniper. The two largest roots were sawn through and a lucky gale did the rest.

Self-sown oaks, sycamores, hollies and rowans, many twenty years old grew up through the rhododendrons and maples and had to be removed by mattock.

The brambles were chicken feed compared with the gaultheria shallon and dwarf bamboo: when their very tough roots were wrenched out, up would come the rocks to the surface, to be wheeled away later."

In 1980 the LHS took over the Walled Garden which at that time was being used as a tree nursery. The derelict glasshouses were cleared and the walls repaired. Internal walls, steps and paths were built and the design of the Walled Garden was agreed.

A Members' Room and Library were built. In the 1990s this was extended to create a new reception area and outbuildings were renovated for use as potting sheds and propagating areas. The Paddock was acquired to house growing frames and trial beds and the Hydrangea Walk was established.

The last part of Holehird Gardens as we find it today was added in 2001 when they took on a further five acres around the Mansion, thus uniting the original Victorian gardens. The Woodland Walk

The Radlett connection

Many of our members will remember Peter Kingsbury, a long-time committee member before he and his wife Shirley left Radlett for Penrith to be closer to their Edinburgh based daughter.

In 1995 he took a major part in the design, planning and fitting out of the extension to the Store including all the electrical wiring. He carried out the Store maintenance from then on till he left.

Peter also edited the *Weeders Digest* for some years and started the Plant Sale along with Elizabeth Wackrow. He always helped with the shows and entered many classes, being a very successful competitor

winning many prizes over the years.

The Kingsburys had an allotment in Radlett and later enjoyed having one in Penrith.

Peter started to volunteer at Holehird in 2002, with Shirley often joining him. He always enjoyed working there, mainly in the walled garden, particularly looking after the rambling roses.

Our Society visited Holehird during the 2008 Lake District holiday jointly organised by Peter and Peggy Sjoberg.

Peter carried on with his horticultural passion until 2010, the year he sadly died from Motor Neurone Disease.



Peter and Shirley Kingsbury at Holehird in 2008

was constructed, many invasive and potentially disease-ridden *Rhododendron ponticum* were removed and a new planting programme began. The Cascade and other water features were extensively restored.

Expanding the range

Holehird continues to evolve. 2017 saw the opening of a new Walled Garden Display House which will allow them to expand the range of plants. Other changes are not so immediately obvious but are the result of the effects of climate, the life-cycle of the plants grown and lots of everyday decisions.

The garden can also boast four National Collections: *Astilbe*, *Daboecia*, *Meconopsis*, and *Polystichum*. Unfortunately they had to relinquish that status for their *Hydrangeas* after a devastating flood a few years ago.

From the original 200 members, numbers have grown to about 1500, of whom 250 or so are actively involved in one way or another. Although the majority of members and volunteers are from the Cumbria and North Lancashire area, some come from other areas of the UK, with a few from even further afield.

The library at Holehird is one of the best-stocked horticultural libraries in the north of England, with approximately 2000 books and 20 journals available for members to read and borrow. Additional resources include a range of digital microscopes, as well as computers and a printer for the members.

Members are also invited to join a number of garden tours each year. These range from day trips to longer tours in the UK and abroad. In 2017 members visited West Wales and Yunnan, China.

LHS hosts a series of monthly lectures on a variety of gardening-related topics at the Marchesi Centre in Windermere from October to March each year. These lectures are open to the public but a second series of mini-lectures at Holehird from April to September is offered to LHS members only.

Finally, Holehird runs a range of practical gardening courses for members. Non-members are welcome if places are available.

If you are in The Lake District do find time for a visit. You will not be disappointed.

Dave Oswald

The Gardens are open every day, from dawn to dusk. Visitor Information is manned from 10am to 4pm daily, from April to October.

The Spring Plant Sale – Saturday May 4th 2–3pm

At the Scout Hut, Scrubbits Park Road - Entry fee 20p



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We need you, our members, to provide our stock. We can sell more each year, so bring along your **Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, Vegetables, Fruit, Herbs, Seedlings, Cuttings and Divisions**. They should be potted and labelled (we will price them). Bring them to the Scout Headquarters between 9am - 12 noon so that we can sort and display in time. No bare-rooted plants please.

Large selection of bedding plants for sale

Again we can provide a delivery service for those within the Parish unable to carry their purchases home for which there will be a £2 charge.

Teas will be for sale by senior members of Girlguiding, in aid of overseas visits and community projects.

COME EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Any enquiries regarding the sale should be directed to

Peter Hordern (857194)



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Our long standing Secretary Peter Cushion died unexpectedly from a heart attack on 29th December 2018 aged 84. He did an enormous amount for the Horticultural Society and will be very much missed, not only by us, but by his wife Beryl and their two daughters Susie and Mary. He and Beryl had just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Peter was born in Bournemouth in 1934 and despite the fact that his father was a classics teacher, showed early promise as an engineer. Such was his ability that the Royal Navy sent him to Selwyn College, Cambridge from which he graduated as an Electrical Engineer. He stayed in the Fleet Air Arm until 1975 and retired as a Lieutenant Commander.

It was whilst in the Fleet Air Arm that he met and married Beryl who was a Wren Radio Officer. They married in 1968 and soon after they sailed a trimaran, that Peter had built from scratch, from Lee on Solent to the Isle of Wight. On the return journey they were being swept towards the Needles but fortunately a passing launch towed them back to port.

Peter retired from the Navy in 1975, got a job with Marconi in Stanmore, and moved to Links Drive in Radlett. There he set about converting a very unpromising piece of ground into a very productive garden and for the next 34 years they were almost self sufficient in fruit and veg. Beryl recently worked out that they have harvested no less than 5.26 tons of vegetables in that time. Add the fruit and the total becomes 11.36 tons or an average of one and a half pounds per day. Extraordinary!

In 1975 he was



Peter helming his trimaran in 1968



Peter with one of his prize parsnips

told by several local gardeners that carrots could not be grown in Radlett so he set about proving them wrong. He made large holes in the ground with a huge metal spike and a seven pound sledgehammer. These he filled with the contents of last year's growbags and then half a dozen carrot seeds. These were gradually thinned to one and the last one had no choice but to grow straight and true. He was so successful that he won no less than twenty first prizes in the Autumn Show.

He became Secretary of the Society in 2001 and was superb at the job. Aside from organising all our meetings and dealing with most of the correspondence he did a host of other jobs. He collated all the publications and sent them out to the distributors, put up posters all over Radlett, started and maintained our website, kept all the archives, printed tickets for the walkabout and I suspect a lot of other things we didn't even know about. It is no exaggeration to say that the smooth running of the Society over the last twenty years was largely down to him. More recently he was grappling (successfully) with the complexities of GDPR*. I think we will all especially remember his regular reports of his battles with mice in the store – he was an ace mouse catcher. Thank you for everything Peter – we will miss you.

Peter Hordern

* General Data Protection Regulation

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Coping with drought

With our increasingly hot summers here are some tips on gardening in long hot spells

Pots

Pots are often the first things to dry out in hot weather. Small pots heat up faster in the sunshine and dry out more quickly so try to use the largest pots you have or invest in some new ones.

- Water-retaining granules are excellent for pots. When soaked, they swell up and then slowly release water. Mix them into the compost before planting;
- Group pots together. They can create a little humid microclimate between them which means that their leaves lose less moisture and they need less water;
- Mulch the surface of pots with something decorative, such as slate or bark. It looks good, keeps the compost cool and cuts down

evaporation from the surface and also stops the weed seeds germinating;

- If there is just one plant in the pot, cut weed suppressant material to fit round the stem and then cover it with gravel or anything that takes your fancy. Not only does this stop the water evaporating, but when you need to add more soil, the gravel is easily removed;
- A moisture meter is a handy, inexpensive tool particularly when you have mulched the pots. These are readily available online.

Mature borders, shrubs and trees

Established plants should need no watering at all. These are large-rooted plants that will be able to draw on reserves of moisture deep down in the soil.

- If they should really start to look like they need watering and the leaves are drooping, then a really good soaking is what they require.

Conservatories and greenhouses

- Set up a large water butt inside the greenhouse, filling from gutters on the outside if possible;
- As well as giving you a great source of captured water, a large tank of water helps to regulate the temperature of the air in the greenhouse, keeping it cooler in summer and warmer in winter;
- Greenhouses overheat on hot days so it helps to use shading in summer. Paint greenhouse shading paint on to the roof and walls or drape shade netting over the roof;
- For the first time, some water companies are allowing the use of drip irrigation, even during a hosepipe ban. Others are still considering their policy on this, so do check with your own water company. It's a very simple and efficient way of keeping plants watered.



For single plant pots try mulching with a weed suppressant layer covered by gravel

Vegetable gardens

Most vegetables are annuals that start off very small



This drought ravaged Radlett lawn shown on its way to recovery last October

and need to be nurtured through the early months, so vegetable gardening can be water-intensive.

- Water seedlings for a week or two after they go into the ground, after that they should be able to fend for themselves, except in severely hot and dry spells;
- Plant thirsty plants, such as courgettes, into a hollow so that water runs down towards the roots and collects. It means they get the most benefit out of showers;
- Water in the evening or the morning. In the middle of the day, water evaporates before it has had a chance to seep into the ground;
- Water deeply and infrequently, rather than little and often. A lack of water sends young roots searching deep down into the soil, where they will find reserves of moisture and be more self-sufficient. Those watered often but not deeply will only ever send out shallow, surface roots that suffer in drought times;
- And mulch, mulch, mulch. Water deeply and then cover with leaves or compost, to help seal it in and prevent transpiration.

Lawns

Lawns are vast consumers of water but only if you insist on having the perfect green sward all year

round. Take a more laid-back approach to your lawn and it will look after itself

- Relax and let established lawns go brown. Lawn grasses stop growing during drought, but they don't die. Come the next rains, growth kicks in and they green up again;
- Let the grass grow. Shaggier turf creates its own shading and retains moisture more efficiently;
- Spring and autumn are the traditional times to sow lawn grasses and to lay turf but if you can wait until autumn, do. A lawn needs plenty of water while establishing and is one of the few places where a regular soaking with a hosepipe is really needed. If a hosepipe ban kicks in during this phase, you'll end up with a dead lawn.

Ponds

Water will inevitably evaporate from the surface of ponds over summer, and they will need topping up.

- Use water from a butt if you can. Rain water is gentler on wildlife and fish than tap water;
- Invest in some aquatic plants. It is generally advised that between 50 and 75 per cent of the surface of a pond should be covered in plant growth, such as water lily leaves. This is because it helps to prevent a build-up of algae in the pond, but it also prevents rapid evaporation.

Autumn Show 2018



The show was once again held at Vision Hall and we were blessed with a bright and sunny day, with an excellent turnout again both in terms of entries and afternoon visitors.

A big thank you to all our loyal members who turned out bright and early; a few lugging the odd giant pumpkin, buckets, baskets and trugs of fruit, vegetables, flowers and foliage. It wasn't long before Vision Hall was transformed with a colourful array of horticultural items, as well as the photography, craft, jams, chutneys and home-baked entries proudly exhibited ready for judging.

Summer 2018 was a very challenging season for all gardeners, with it having been one of the hottest and driest ever recorded, but this didn't deter the hardy Radlett Horticultural Society members from entering what they had managed to grow in their gardens and on their allotments.

The tomato classes proved to be the most popular

– tomatoes obviously loved the hot and sunny conditions. We received 18 entries for one class alone. Popular also this year were squash and beetroot. Our mystery dahlia class was extremely well supported, with 11 entries, and the change to the flower arrangement classes for an Autumn wreath generated some new entrants into this section and they provided a beautiful display. The craft classes were broken up this year into more specific sections and we received an excellent number of entries - it is delightful to see such high-quality exhibits displaying members' many talents.

The photography classes have generated excellent support for many years and 2018 did not disappoint, offering an interesting display for afternoon visitors. Thank you to all our snappy happy members – Jane Poyser and I will endeavour to give you interesting topics for 2019.

We need to put some more work into encouraging the children in our area to take part in

Autumn Show 2019



**Top: The Top Tray won by Mike Paterson.
Above: The Best Trug from Nigel Brand**

the show. Their entries are very colourful and it is lovely to see their enthusiasm.

Jane managed an efficient team of young and not so young assistants who helped make and serve afternoon teas and delicious cakes to nearly 200 visitors.

The afternoon was rounded off with the presentation of prizes and cups by Peggy Sjoberg, who has been an active committee member for many years and has been organising our holidays for many of those years.

The show itself would not happen without the fantastic support of all the Society's Committee members and highly valued helpers. Thank you one and all.

Jane and I are always seeking feedback for future shows and if you have any ideas for a new class please let us know.

Amanda Harvell - Show Secretary

We have decided that we are not going to run the Mini Show in 2019 due to lack of support. We will however incorporate the Rose Bowl award in the rose classes at the Autumn Show.

The Show will be on Saturday 7th September and will have a number of new classes including 'most fragrant flower' and a challenging tomato class of -'a cluster of ripened tomatoes'. For all those enthusiastic photographers, classes include titles such as 'Festivals', 'The Harvest' and 'Birds of a Feather'.

For all our 'Domestic Gods' we are challenging you to bake a cherry cake and for all those 'Goddesses' a delicious coffee and walnut cake; recipes will be in the show schedule.

We would like to encourage all family members to take part in this show and invite their children to grow their own tomatoes. Plants will be available for collection from the Store from the end of May. There will also be classes for other produce grown by the younger members of our society.

Amanda Harvell



**There was a fantastic turn out
for the Domestic classes**

Notes from a small allotment

Yet another challenging year on the plot with persistent rain early in the season and a drought from the beginning of July to mid August. But at least the early rain saved us from a hosepipe ban and fewer weeds germinated! And it was very pleasant sitting under the apple tree drinking tea and eating custard creams. It's not all hard work on the plot!

In the polytunnel I discovered another excellent tomato variety to add to Sun Gold and last year's find which was Orange Santa. This year's success was an almost black variety called Rosella which produces dozens of delicious sweet toms from early in the season until well into October. Try it, and the others, in a grow bag on a south facing wall but remember to keep it well watered. I hope to have some Rosella plants for sale at the Spring Plant Sale.

Early French beans were also good in the polytunnel but the mangetout were very pale and stringy – not sure what I did wrong.



The leek bed with its enviromesh cover

Outside I grew lots of new pumpkin varieties from the Real Seed Company. I lost a few plants early on and one or two others refused to grow. I think I planted them out before the soil was warm enough – a basic error. Best variety is Queensland Blue which the cooks assure me makes delicious eating either roasted or in soup.

My summer fruiting raspberries were OK but the dry weather meant my autumn fruiting bushes produced almost no fruit worth picking.

The runner beans were also affected by the heat. They grew well enough and even flowered but the beans would not set despite my repeatedly spraying them with water. It was only when the rain came in mid August and the weather cooled a bit that they began to set and we then got a decent crop.

Last year I reported on the arrival of allium leaf miner in this country from Hungary, which burrows into leeks and destroys them. The only known cure for us mortals is enviromesh so I decided to put it to the test (see photo). So far it seems to have worked but maybe it was down to the hot spell. The leeks look a bit 'manky' but once you have dug them up and removed the rusty leaves they are delicious.

Of course, dahlias love the heat – as long as you keep them well watered they will thrive. My favourite variety is a waterlily named Kilburn Glow which is excellent for arrangements. In most years it produces an almost non-existent tuber but this year they look much better - must be due to the weather.

And last but not least there is no doubt that the star attraction this year on the allotments was not what we grew but the bonfire we had on November 5th. Several of us have compost heaps made from four pallets tied together. These last about five years before they rot and they all seemed to collapse and need replacing at the same time which provided a large heap of burnable material. Add thirty or so happy allotment holders, a few beers, lots of barbecued sausages and some spectacular fireworks and we had a memorable evening.

Peter Hordern



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Next generation gardeners

Some of my fondest memories of my grandparents were of us in the garden together working on the vegetable patch and at the end of the day sitting with a cup of tea admiring the fruits of our labours. So, when my young grandson expressed an interest in gardening and asked to have a little vegetable patch of his own, I was delighted. As a result my Christmas gift to him last year was a one metre square wooden raised bed, compost, a hand tool set and some seeds.

Over the year he has told me what he has been growing and picking from his raised bed and pots, and at the end of his first season I asked him how it had gone - here in his own words are:

Aaron's gardening tips

I enjoy digging the soil and weeding, and the raised bed is good because my brothers and sister know it's mine and don't mess it up. I don't mind watering but you have to do it everyday which can be really hard work and the watering can is heavy. It would be easier if we had a hosepipe.

I like growing vegetables because you can eat



them. Some vegetables such as potatoes grow underground so you can't see them growing and it was quite tricky to know when they were ready.

The ones that grow above ground like tomatoes and strawberries are more fun as I can watch them growing. Next year I'll try growing courgettes as well. Plants like blueberries and raspberries are also great fun and are what I have most enjoyed about gardening as I can eat the fruit - and I'd like to try one of them next year.

I tried growing sunflowers from seeds but it didn't work very well, next year I think I will ask to start from little plants! I have been really pleased with what I have grown and am looking forward to doing even more next year!

Karen Kendrick

Young gardeners' quiz

1. Is a tomato a
A. Fruit B. Nut C. Vegetable D. Legume
2. What is the national flower of the Netherlands?
A. Tulip B. Rose C. Daffodil D. Hyacinth
3. The spice saffron comes from which flower?
A. Poppy B. Crocus C. Lily D. Iris
4. Which of these is a root vegetable?
A. Cauliflower B. Cabbage C. Corn D. Carrot
5. What is kale?
A. Legume B. Fruit C. Vegetable D. Grass
6. Which cereal must be grown in water?
A. Rice B. Wheat C. Barley D. Maize
7. What is the most eaten vegetable in the world?
A. Potato B. Carrot C. Corn D. Onion
8. What is the plural for Cactus?
A. Cactortus B. Cacti C. Cacacs D. Cactuses
9. Three of these are essential for plant growth – which is not?
A. Nitrogen B. Carbon C. Phosphate
D. Potassium
10. What part of a tree is used to make cork?
A. Branches B. Leaves C. Bark D. Sap

Answers on page 32

News and information

From the Secretary

Joining the Radlett Horticultural Society. The Society welcomes new members who can join by visiting the Store in Scrubbitts Park Road on any Sunday morning between 10am and 12 noon. They can also join at any of our events. Information and an application form are also available on the website www.radlethortsoc.co.uk or by contacting the Membership Secretary. Details on page 4

Subscription. £2 per year for a family membership for those living in Aldenham parish. (£3.50 for postal members elsewhere). This is normally paid for a three year period - currently £2 to end of September 2019. New subscriptions (£6) will be collected with the Summer *Weeders Digest* distribution. Payment is due by 30 September 2019 and anyone unpaid at the end of the year will cease to be a member.

Keeping up to date with news and nearby events by email. Add yourself to our information emails by contacting the Membership Secretary or update your entry in the Membership List held in the Store.

Spare copies of Yearbook, Digests or Show Schedule are available in the Store or from the Secretary.

Society Rules. A new clause was added at the 2018 AGM to confirm our compliance with the GDPR legislation. An amended copy of new Issue 5 is displayed in the Store.

Do you need any help?

The Society has decided to create a small fund for any of our members who might be in need of some help. This fund is to assist people who may be struggling with their gardening because of a disability or because of a lack of tools or plants or both. If you think you might be eligible for this, please contact a committee member, in confidence, with your circumstances and what you need.



We are now on Facebook!

If you use Facebook and are signed up to the Radlett Village group you may have seen we are now publicising those of our events which are open to non-members. This is a great way to increase awareness of Society events and to welcome potential new members. We will of course continue to publicise all events through our Yearbook, Weeders Digests, posters, the website and direct emails.

We also have our very own Facebook group - Radlett Horticultural Society. The group is for gardeners and plant lovers. As well as using it to publicise all of our Society's events and activities, members are also using the group to share gardening successes and sometimes failures, and photo memories of society trips and events. It could also be a good way to share your gardening ideas, tips and questions. We also plan to run some fun competitions throughout 2019 for your best gardening photos. So why not sign up and join in!

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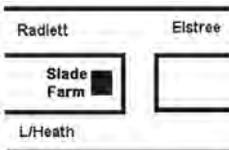
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The 2019 Garden Walkabout – Sunday July 7th 2–5pm

The Society is very pleased to announce yet another garden walkabout and invites all members and their friends to come and enjoy some really interesting gardens. Why not invite a few friends over and make a day of it? To the best of my knowledge none of these gardens has been opened before. Our garden openers put a great deal of time and effort into preparations so please come along and support them.

For many years now entry for all five gardens has been set at £3, which bearing in mind similar such events is rather on the low side to say the least. As all proceeds from the gate and all profits from the teas go to the charities nominated by those opening their gardens, we have decided to raise the entry fee to a modest £5 per person - this of course covers the entry for all five gardens. You buy your ticket at the first garden you visit and this will be your pass to all the other gardens.

This year they are in two distinct areas, both with ample parking should you not wish to walk. The first is in the Newlands/Oakridge Avenue area (both of which have good parking) and the second is based around Battlers Green Farm. The overflow field for Battlers Green Farm will be open which is directly opposite the entrance to Battlers Green House. There is also ample parking in Battlers Green Drive. For those with restricted mobility it should be possible to drop people directly outside each property.

Teas will be served by Jane Poyser and her team from the barn at Battlers Green House. As usual it would help us if some people went here early in the afternoon.

The gardens are as follows:

18 Battlers Green Drive

Vanessa and David Wheeler

Small, interesting and economical cottage garden which proves that size isn't everything.

Battlers Green House

(opposite the exit from Battlers Green Farm)

Paul and Gillian Haworth

Large garden with lots of interesting features including old barns and a large fish pond.

Battlers Green Farm

(entrance to the garden is on the left just inside the entrance to the shopping village)

Joan Saletes

Another large garden with herbaceous border and what we believe is Radlett's only Ha-ha.

29 Oakridge Avenue

Diane and Alan Lane

Lovely terraced garden overlooking fields with a large rockery and an automatic mower.

24 Newlands Avenue

Kay and Tony Bartoldi

Large, attractive mature garden with significant herbaceous plantings.



The splendid Old Vicarage garden was highly popular on the 2018 walkabout



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Notice of Annual General Meeting

The **80th Annual General Meeting** of the Radlett Horticultural Society will be held at The Vision Hall, Christ Church, Watling Street, Radlett, on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Trading report
7. Secretary's report
8. Election of officers and committee
9. Special resolutions (if any)
10. Any other business

Members are reminded that all resolutions for discussion at the AGM and nominations for officers and the committee, with names of the proposer and seconder, must be notified to the Secretary in writing no later than Wednesday 2nd October.

Talk

After the Business Meeting, there will be an illustrated talk - subject and speaker to be announced.

Holidays

We also intend to give information on proposed holidays for 2020 and open lists for those interested.

– Secretary



Hertsmere Community Transport's "Shopper Scheme"

Hertsmere Community Transport operates a vital Shopper Scheme within the community yet little seems to be known about it. The **Shopper Scheme** is a door to door service for people who have difficulties in using public transport to go shopping. This may be due to mobility problems or other special needs. People are picked up from their homes by minibus and taken to local supermarkets and returned to their homes.



- ◆ Lower floor accessible minibus for wheelchair users and people who have difficulties with steps
- ◆ Cost – return trip £5
- ◆ If you need an in-store wheelchair please let us know and we will organise it for you
- ◆ Help is available to get your bags on and off the minibus and to your front door
- ◆ If you are a wheelchair user and need extra help you may bring someone with you
- ◆ Operates from Radlett and Shenley on Friday mornings to Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencer at London Colney. One hour 45 minutes shopping

To book telephone **020 8207 5115** on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

The talks outlined below will be at 8pm at the Vision Hall, Christ Church, Watling Street. Entry is £2 to include tea or coffee and biscuits.

Wednesday, 27 March 2019

'What Do I Do With This Space?'

by Darren Lerigo

This talk is about how other cultures garden, and what we can learn from them to make our own space easier to manage and better for wildlife, our families and ourselves.

I recently heard Darren talk to the Abbotts Langley Gardening Society. He says of himself that he smiles a lot and he does. He has a very relaxed and cheerful style and was most interesting. He is a gardener and topiary artist and gives talks all over the UK. The values he thinks important enough to garden by are the 'no chemicals' rule, the recycling of resources and the increasing of life....

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

'All about Roses'

by Jacqueline Aviolet

Jacqueline Aviolet has over twenty years' experience as a nurserywoman and she has given many talks during that time. A few years ago she gave us an entertaining and amusing talk about hardy geraniums. On 12 June she is returning to talk to us about roses, including their cultivation and history. Plants will be available for sale.

Wednesday, 31 July 2019

'Skulduggery in the Shrubbery – the sad, true and fascinating story of the Tradescants'

by Stefan White

The inspiring story of John Tradescant and his family – 17th century Gardener to English Royalty, founder of the world's first public Museum, widely travelled plant collector, adventurer and collector of nature's rarities, all stolen by a rascally lawyer, who took all the credit. A gardening talk but witchcraft, the last remaining dodo, mermaids, magic spells, Kings and Queens, intrigue and treachery all feature in this insight into a turbulent period of history.

Stefan White is a retired entrepreneur. His public speaking activities began with his development of a wide portfolio of enrichment talks, mostly on subjects of special interest to him, including the History of Gardening. He has lectured at universities, The Royal Horticultural Society, leading societies and special interest groups, including a Private Members Group in the House of Commons. He is founder and life president of an horticultural society, the Hurley Cucurbitaceae Club and the author of three books on women in gardening history, golf and wine.

Wednesday, 13 November 2019

There will be a talk after the AGM on 13 November but this has not yet been confirmed so details will be available nearer the time.



Holidays and Day Trips for 2019



Tapeley Manor was one of the beautiful gardens visited on our holiday to Devon last summer



Stratford on Avon was popular in 2017

Holiday to Stratford on Avon 19-24 May

This year's holiday will be to the Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford on Avon. We are returning to this hotel after a successful visit in 2017.

We hope to visit a mixture of National Trust and non National Trust houses and gardens. These include Stonor Park Gardens, Upton House and Gardens, a Cotswold village, Hill Close Gardens, Coughton Court and Waterperry Gardens.

It is also hoped that a visit to the Commodore Hotel, Instow will take place in late September. Further details will be published when available.

Please contact **Peggy Sjoberg** on **01923 854337** if you are interested in the holidays.

2019 Day trips

Bookings for this year's day trips can be made six weeks in advance at the Store or at the evening talks where forms will be available.

1. Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Mill

Lode, Cambridgeshire (NT)

Thursday, 25th April 2019

Once a priory, it was turned into a luxurious country house by Lord Fairhaven to show off his vast, beautiful collections. 98 acres of landscaped grounds, formal gardens with hyacinths, delightful walks and a historic working watermill.

Buggy service, restaurant, shop and plant centre.

Bookings commence Sunday, 17th March 2019

2. Southill Park House

Southill, near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

Thursday, 6th June 2019

A rare opportunity to visit Southill Park House (early Georgian grade I). It was bought in 1795 by Samuel Whitbread, the beer and hospitality magnate whose descendants still own the house today. Guided tour of the house by Charles Whitbread and his archivist. A large garden with mature trees, flowering shrubs, roses and a park designed by Capability Brown.

Lunch will be at the Shuttleworth Collection Restaurant.

On to **Kathy Brown's Garden** Stevington

A beautiful artistic garden created by the owners Kathy and Simon. Lots of roses, poppies, an edible flower garden, a wild flower meadow and more. Tea and delicious home-baked cakes included.

Bookings commence Sunday, 28th April 2019

3. Beth Chatto Gardens

Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex

Thursday, 8th August 2019

The world renowned gravel garden (never watered) was started by Beth Chatto in 1960 on wasteland and is full of interest and unusual plants. Visit the tearooms, gift shop and extensive nursery.



The walled garden at Easton last summer



The highly impressive Coton Manor on one of our day trips for 2018

On to **Green Island Gardens**

Green Island, Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex

A hidden gem with a beautiful tranquil garden designed by the owner. This is a plantsman's paradise, with a delightful woodland and a nursery. Tea and homemade cake are included.

Bookings commence Sunday, 30th June 2019

Further details are available from

Gesine Latimer on 01923 856970

(Cancellations may be liable to charge)

The Society's helpers

Members are always welcome to join our team to help with events, staff the Store and distribute our publications. Please contact the Chairman.

Jill Allibone 330195

Sue Altbach 859000

Joseph & Jacquie Angel 857442

Juliette Anthony 856487

Malcolm Bird 852465

Liz Bissett 855846

Dick Bolt 854302

Judith Breward 854564

Amanda Brooksmith 856770

Ian Brown 854984

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Nina Sofier 854420

Ken Staton 857532

Stuart & Maureen Thorne 857502

Fiona Todd 469166

Christopher Treves-Brown 857444

Liz Waterworth 490205

Hugh Young 854984

Quiz answers from page 23 - 1. A 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. A 7. D 8. B 9. B 10. C



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