

MARLBOROUGH GARDENING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER **SEPTEMBER 2018** **NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER** **AUTUMN FLOWERING PERENNIALS** **SPEAKER: ROSY HARDY**

Venue: Christchurch Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

Doors open 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.

We are very pleased to welcome back Rosy Hardy, owner of Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, her 23 times RHS Chelsea Flower Show gold medal winning nursery. Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants is now recognised as one of the U.K.'s leading plantsmen's nurseries founded by Rosy and Rob in 1988 at Freefolk, near Whitchurch. They stock over 1200 plant varieties and are breeders and introducers of new perennial varieties and exhibit at major flower shows throughout the year. Her book charts the nursery's 25 years at Chelsea, including a Show Garden in 2016.

Rosy picks 24 autumn flowering perennials and talks about their attributes – how best to grow them, combine them with other plants to create great planting combinations and how to avoid common pitfalls.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served from 7.15pm so come early to get a good seat for this popular event, which is free to members; guests are welcome for a donation.

VISIT TO HESTERCOMBE GARDENS & THE WILLOW & WETLAND CENTRE **23 August 2018**

Miranda Gilmour writes: The last visit of the year was one of variety. We started off at Hestercombe where we admired the Edwardian formal garden created by Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. This was set below the house with extensive views of the Somerset countryside. The simple blue and white of the Victorian terrace was very tranquil, while the warmer colours, including some stunning peachy coloured gladioli in the Great Plat below, were true to Jekyll's original plans which we later saw in a small exhibition in Hestercombe House. For those members who were up to stretching their legs there was then the Landscape Garden to explore. Originally laid out in the 1750s, the restoration of the Georgian garden started in 1995. This involved removing tons of silt to reveal a number of lakes and has over the years involved restoring a wide variety of buildings, ranging from temples to rustic seats.

Willow and Wetland Centre, where we were given a short but informative tour. We learnt how the willow was grown and how the four different colours (green, white, buff and brown) were produced. We were shown how willow was stripped and how traditionally bundles were tied using a rose knot; this being achieved by the deft twisting of a piece of willow, which left us full of admiration. In the weaving room we saw employees at work, making baskets and more and learnt how different styles of weaving were used.

The day provided members with an opportunity to shop - at Hestercombe for plants and at Coates for baskets. No one to my knowledge put in a order for a coffin, but they were much admired, as were the huge Christmas hampers being made for Fortnum and Mason.

Just half an hour away at Stoke St Gregory we had a fascinating visit to Coates

BEST FRUIT VARIETIES FOR YOUR GARDEN

Eva Rogers gave a very informative talk about the 'best fruit varieties in our gardens' – she covered both top fruit (including apples, pears, plums) and soft fruit – strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and the various currants.

For all fruit sunny space is important as more sun more fruit! Eva recommends tasting days to help you choose what variety is the best taste for you, and there will be a wider section to choose from than just what is on the shelves in Waitrose.

Eva explained the importance of rootstocks upon which the fruit tree is grown. Rootstock controls the vigour of the tree therefore if you wish to grow an apple in a pot on your patio you need to have a dwarfing rootstock (M27 or M9) whereas if you are growing in a orchard you may wish to have a MM106 which should give a tree of 12' – 18'. Pears and plums have differing names for the rootstock.

Pollination is also important and although some varieties of tree are self-fertile it does help to have another pollinator nearby. Weather also plays a part; if the weather is cold and wet at the peak flowering time the bees won't be flying so pollination will be poor. If there is a frost once the flowers are set, that can lead to poor yield. If possible protect from frost using fleece, easier if grown against a wall.

Eva gave detailed notes on planting distances, training, best varieties and additional information about pruning, mulching and growing from seed. If you would like a copy of her excellent handout, please send a s.a.e. to Anne Crawley, 3 River Park, Marlborough, SN8 1NH.

PEWSEY CARNIVAL - FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOWCASE 2018 SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16th

The flower & Produce Showcase is held as part of the fabulous Carnival alongside the Bake Off. The Show will be judged by Graham Schofield, head gardener at Oare House. For more information email Barbara Dalton: dalton@talktalk.net

Calling all growers in Pewsey.

Show us the best of your produce and flowers at the first Carnival Flower and Produce Showcase taking place at the Carnival Family Fun Day.

Vegetables and Fruit Class.

- A: A display containing fruit and or vegetables
- B: Three onions from sets.
- C: Apples, three from any one variety
- D: Tomatoes, three from any one variety

Flowers Class.

- E: Display of mixed cut flowers and foliage.
- F: One perfect flower.
- G: Vase of Dahlias of any variety.

Childrens Class

- H: Make an animal from fruit and or vegetables

**Deadline for copy for the October Newsletter is Friday 26th September.
Please send contributions to anne@unicorn9.plus.com**

WEEKEND VISIT TO CHATSWORTH & BARNSDALE

FRIDAY JUNE 14TH – SUNDAY JUNE 16TH 2019

Next year our weekend away will take us northwards. Friday we visit Packwood House, a Tudor manor house, park and garden near Lapworth, Warwickshire, followed by Baddesley Clinton, a moated manor house set in the heart of the Forest of Arden. Both properties are owned by the National Trust.

Saturday morning, we head to Barnsdale Gardens, Exton near Oakham, which was originally the home of Geoff Hamilton and BBC's Gardeners' World and where Nick Hamilton continues the work started by his Dad. On the way back to the hotel we visit another RHS partner garden, Melbourne Hall Gardens.

Sunday morning we travel further north to Chatsworth House and Gardens, where a guided tour of the house and a buffet lunch has been arranged for us.

Our hotel for the weekend will be The Mickleover Court Hotel, Derby where there is a leisure club, boasting among other things, a beautiful indoor swimming pool.

The price, to include all coach travel, 2 night's bed, breakfast and evening meal, together with a buffet lunch at Chatsworth House and all entrance fees, is £280 for a minimum of 30 people and £260 for 40 people.

There is a single supplement of £25.

Numbers will be limited to 40, and a reserve list kept for any over this number, should anyone drop out.

A deposit of £40 per person will secure your place. Please complete the booking form, and return it together with your cheque, to Carolyn Davis (address below) by December 31st2018. The final balance is due April 12th 2019, and you will be advised of the amount due and also the pick-up points/departure times etc. in the March & April 2019 newsletters. Please note that the booking is made through Barnes Coaches Ltd., who are members of the Bonded Coach Holiday Group – i.e. should the company cease trading you are guaranteed repayment of any money paid.

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. If you do not already have a policy, cover can be provided at an estimated cost of £19 (the cost for 2019 is not available until late 2018) for the 3 day tour. To comply with FSA regulations, a representative of Barnes Coaches Ltd will have to contact each individual, who requires insurance. Please indicate on the booking form if you require this service.

BOOKING FORM – your details please

Name-----

Address-----

Telephone - home-----mobile-----email-----

Double----- Single (£25 supplement)-----

Twin----- Sharing with (name)-----

Any special requirements (dietary or otherwise)-----

Travel insurance – required/not required (please delete as appropriate)

I am/am not a member of the National Trust (please delete as appropriate)

I am/am not a member of the RHS (please delete as appropriate)

Deposit £40 per person. Cheques should be made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association, and sent to Carolyn Davis, Bridleway Cottage, Ogbourne St Andrew, Marlborough, SN8 1XF by December 31st 2018 (Please note that cheques will not be presented for payment until after this date.)

For further details please contact Carolyn Davis 01672 841294 or Cheryl Swan 01672 841521