



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

Summer is i'cumen in at last so our monthly meetings are suspended until August. We have an exciting summer programme of day visits, arranged by Miranda Gilmour and Jane Tilbrook, as well as our ever popular weekend away, this year in South Wales in June.

PLANT SALE

The Plant Sale on 19th May was moved to the Wesley Hall because the Town Hall had been double booked (you'd think by now they would have remembered we have been holding our Sale there for years!) Amazingly, the move proved such a success that we are seriously considering whether to change permanently to the new venue.

Heather Bridgeman and her team worked their magic and the hall was filled with a tempting array of shrubs, flowers, vegetables, herbs and house plants. There was the usual queue outside when the Sale opened and business was brisk. The Sale raised over £1000, an increase on last year. Many thanks to all those who helped on Friday night and on Saturday morning, and to all those who provided plants.

KEW GARDEN VISIT - 22 MAY

Jane Tilbrook writes: What a delightful day we were lucky to have for our first outing of the year to Kew. There is something for everyone, from the students' vegetable strips, a glorious Alpine house, beautiful trees and every possible type of habitat, to the stunning restored Temperate glasshouse with its amazing array of rare and threatened species. Highly recommended.

WEEKEND AWAY TO SOUTH WALES - JUNE 15th - 17th

The coach will pick up from Ogbourne St Andrew bus stop at 8.45am and Polly Tea Rooms at 9am. Please let Carol or Cheryl know if you wish to join at Ogbourne.

We will then be heading to Highfield Gardenworld in Whitminster for coffee before making our way to Dyffryn to arrive around 1pm.

Carol's mobile number 07734053147 Cheryl's mobile number 07890744510

MARLBOROUGH IN BLOOM

Anne Crawley writes: Marlborough has been chosen as one of the towns to be featured on next year's television series South West in Bloom. You may have seen the television crews around town filming selected sites. They will visit three or four times over the next six weeks, leading up to Judging Day on Tuesday 10 July when the town will, we hope, be looking its blooming best.

One of our worst problems is litter and as former Chairman I am appealing to everyone to pick up three bits of litter on your way to the shops. This would make an enormous difference to the look of the town. Plastic sweet wrappers and coffee cups that can end up in the

Kennet are particularly worrying. And please don't use our flower displays as rubbish bins or cigarette ashtrays!

You will notice another great improvement in the floral displays in the Marlborough in Bloom planters this year. Thanks to a generous donation of £2000 from Tesco, we are able to have Tony Archer of Superior Plants, plant up, water and feed the troughs so that our volunteers can concentrate on weeding and dead-heading. Wiltshire Council have promised more help with keeping the town swept regularly

**MARLBOROUGH OPEN GARDENS.
SUNDAY 10th JUNE 2pm – 6 pm**

This annual event, fundraising for The Merchant's House Appeal, is always a lovely way to spend a Sunday summer's afternoon, so do please come along and see some of Marlborough's most attractive gardens (not open to the public normally) and enjoy a traditional English tea in one of their open gardens between 3pm – 6pm.

Tickets available now at the pre-event discounted price of £6 each from the Merchant's House, 132 High Street (£8 on the day), children under 14 free. You will also get a 10% discount in the Merchant's House shop on the day of the Open Gardens.

GARDEN VISITS 2018

If you would like to join us when we visit:

- Hidcote & Kiftsgate on Wednesday 27 June
- Waterperry Gardens on Friday 20 July
- Hestercombe Gardens the Willow & Wetlands Centre on Thursday 23 August

Please complete and return the appropriate booking form which can be found below.

PLANTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.

Rosina Brandham gave a delightful and well researched talk to a packed audience in May. Millions of years ago, plants' ability to convert carbon dioxide to oxygen made the world habitable. As they died, coal and oil seams were laid down and in the Fertile Crescent formed between the Euphrates, the Tigris and the Nile rivers men began to settle and farm and civilization developed. Flax provided clothes, papyrus speeded up communication and woad (according to recent research) was used to beautify the men!

By the early Middle Ages, spices travelled the Silk Roads across the known world and mulberry trees fed the silkworms that enabled the wealthy to cast off itchy woollens and flaunt themselves in silk.

In sixteen hundred and forty two
Columbus sailed the ocean blue

and tobacco and potatoes arrived in England. While we may wish that tobacco had never been discovered, potatoes made for a healthier nation as people were better nourished and they became a staple for the poor. The 1848 Potato Blight saw thousands of Irish emigrants head for America where they still prosper to this day.

Until the discovery of coffee from Arabia and tea from China people drank eight to ten pints of beer a day which addled their brains. Coffee, tea and chocolate stopped them drinking alcohol and their brains woke up. Other plants that made a major contribution to our welfare were cotton (the Industrial Revolution), rubber (tyres for cars & bicycles) and medicinal uses for willow (aspirin), yew (taxol as a cure for cancer), and quinine.

"Plants laid down millions of years ago produce today's oil and coal. If we continue to deplete these resources and destroy plant diversity we could find ourselves in dire trouble." Rosina ended on this sobering note. The audience showed their appreciation with rapturous applause.

**The copy deadline for the July Newsletter is Monday 25th June
Contributions to anne@unicorn9.plus.com or phone 01672 512317**

**VISIT TO HIDCOTE AND KIFTSGATE COURT GARDEN
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2018**

Hidcote is one of the best-known and most influential Arts and Crafts gardens in Britain, with its linked "rooms" of hedges, rare trees, shrubs and herbaceous borders which we will visit in conjunction with Kiftsgate, a garden created by three generations of women gardeners. Whether we time it right to see the amazing Kiftsgate rose remains to be seen. Mobility scooters are available at Hidcote, but not at Kiftsgate which contains some steep paths. Both offer facilities and plant sales.

The cost will be £22.50 for National Trust members and £34.50 for non-NT members for coach and entry to house and gardens. *National Trust members – please bring your membership card to secure free entry.* Refreshments are not included in the price. There are cafes at both gardens and picnics are allowed at Hidcote.

To book a mobility scooter at Hidcote please call in advance 01386 438333.

Travel times:

Barnes coach pick up High Street (The Polly) Marlborough at **8.50 am**

An Ogbourne St Andrew pickup at **9.05 am** may be possible, see booking form (*you will be advised*).

Return to Marlborough at approx. **6.15 pm**.

Please return the booking form below by **13th June** if you would like to come.

**BOOKING FORM
VISIT TO HIDCOTE AND KIFTSGATE COURT GARDEN
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2018**

Name

Address

Phone

Cost £34.50 per person or £22.50 if NT member.

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

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association.

If you would prefer to be picked up in Ogbourne St Andrew please tick here, and depending on numbers this may be possible.

*Please send this form together with your cheque by **13th June** to:
Amelia Trevethick, Granham Thatch, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4DW*

**VISIT TO WATERPERRY GARDENS
FRIDAY 20 JULY 2018**

Waterperry Gardens were developed in the 1930's when Beatrix Havergal opened her School of Horticulture for Ladies. The 8-acre ornamental gardens include a rose and formal knot garden, water-lily canal, riverside walk, and herbaceous border. It will also be possible to view (optional) the contemporary frescoes in Waterperry. These are thought to be the largest single work of its kind in this country in over 500 years. There is a café, garden shop, gallery and plant centre. They have one motorised mobility scooter, so if you wish to use it, please ring to book it in advance on 01844 339226.

We leave Marlborough at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm. The cost will be £19 for coach and entry to gardens. Refreshments are not included in the price, nor is the optional tour of the frescoes. Picnics are allowed.

Travel times:

Barnes coach pick up High Street (The Polly) **9.30 am**

An Ogbourne St Andrew pickup **at 9.15 am** may be possible, see booking form

Return to Marlborough at **5.30 pm**.

Please return the booking form below by **6th July** if you would like to come.

**BOOKING FORM
VISIT TO WATERPERRY GARDENS
FRIDAY 20 JULY 2018**

Name

Address

Phone

Cost £19.00 per person

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association.

*If you would like to be picked up in Ogbourne St Andrew please tick here,
and depending on numbers this may be possible (you will be advised).*

*Please send this form together with your cheque by **6th July** to Amelia Trevethick,
Granham Thatch, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4DW*

**VISIT TO HESTERCOMBE GARDENS
THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2018**

Hestercombe Gardens are considered unique as they span three centuries of garden design. Set within 50 acres, the Victorian Shrubbery, the Georgian Landscape Garden and the Edwardian Formal Gardens all offer a different experience to explore. Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll influenced the design and planting of parts of the garden. Hestercombe offers cafe, shop and plant sales. Trumper Mobility Scooters are available but must be booked in advance (for which a charge is made). If you are interested please enquire on 01823 413923.

We will also visit the Willow and Wetland Centre where we will join a short tour to see the different types of withes being grown and a demonstration of basket making. We can also revive ourselves with afternoon tea. Mobility scooters are not available at the Wetland Centre.

This visit will mean quite a long, but hopefully varied day. We leave Marlborough at 8.15am and return at 6.30pm. The cost will be £30 for coach, entry to gardens and guided tour at the Wetlands Centre. Refreshments are not included in the price. Picnics are not allowed in Hestercombe Gardens, however a picnic area can be found near the Visitor Reception.

Travel times:

Barnes coach pick up High Street (The Polly) **8.15 am**

An Ogbourne St Andrew pickup **at 8.30 am** may be possible, see booking form

Return to Marlborough at **6.30 pm**.

Please return the booking form below by **9th August** if you would like to come.

**BOOKING FORM
VISIT TO HESTERCOMBE GARDENS
THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2018**

Name

Address

Phone

Cost £30.00 per person

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association

If you would like to be picked up in Ogbourne St Andrew please tick here, and depending on numbers this may be possible (you will be advised).

*Please send this form together with your cheque by **9th August** to Amelia Trevethick, Granham Thatch, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4DW*