

MARLBOROUGH GARDENING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST

GRACEFUL GRASSES AND FIRST-RATE FERNS

SPEAKER: ROGER TURNER

Venue: Christchurch Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

Doors open 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.

Roger Turner is an architect and a garden designer. He designed a garden at Chelsea Flower Show in 1983 and also designed two of the theme gardens and pavilions at the Garden Festival in South Wales in 1992.

Roger is the author of five books – two on garden design, one on Capability Brown and one on Euphorbias. His most recent book is about Tall Perennials. Copies of some of his books are available at £3 off the marked price.

Lectures are free to members and there is no need to book. They are also open to non-members and a donation is appreciated. Tea and biscuits are served before the talk so come early to chat to friends and buy some raffle tickets. Garden related offerings for the raffle – plants, books, seeds - are always much appreciated.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Hayllar writes: Our monthly meetings resume in August following our summer break. Although we have not held evening meetings in June and July there have been some excellent outings, which many members have enjoyed. The weekend away was a great success, with wonderful gardens and fantastic weather – which encouraged five or six members to swim in the sea at Worthing. Our day visits to Mottisfont Abbey in June and the Longstock Water Garden & Nursery in July were both

well supported and very enjoyable. One of our members, Pepita Hurd, opened her delightful riverside garden to members on a sunny afternoon in July, in aid of Minal church.

In this newsletter you will find details of our final visit of the year in October to Batsford Arboretum, in the Cotswolds, when the autumn colours should be at their best.

REPORT ON THE MOTTISFONT ABBEY VISIT

Miranda Gilmour writes: The trip to Mottisfont at the end of June provided an enjoyable and varied day. The rose garden, despite the very dry weather, remained colourful with a good mix of roses, clematis and other perennials. Some members joined a tour of the wetlands and learnt about the natural history which it supports, including a range of birds, butterflies and dragonflies.

Many members enjoyed the wonderful collection of art in the house, including the amazing trompe-l'oeil undertaken by Rex Whistler in the 1930s. Those of us who staggered up to the top of the house enjoyed The Shell Heritage Art Collection, featuring Shell's advertising which in the first half of the 20th century was driven by ideas of travel and discovery. As well as posters, Shell encouraged travel around Britain by producing guides and short travel documentaries and we were treated to the melodious tones of John Betjeman describing motoring along the A4 past Silbury Hill!

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN GARDEN: Sunday 27th AUGUST 2~ 5 p.m.

WUDSTON HOUSE

High Street, Wedhampton, Devizes, SN10 3QE.

Wedhampton lies on N side of A342 approx 4m E of Devizes. House half way up High Street, Parking signed. Adm £10, chd free. Pre-booking essential, please visit www.ngs.org.uk or phone 01483 211535 for information & booking. Home made teas are included in the admission charge. There is partial wheelchair access.

This is a chance to see a new and very fine garden, only 7 years old but so much to see. The owner, David Morrison, has designed a garden that intrigues all the way – with formal gardens round the house, glorious borders, a meadow with plants from all over the world, a young arboretum, a pinetum and hidden spots of clever planting to enjoy. Nick Macer and James Hitchmough (who pioneered flower meadows at the 2012 Olympic Park) have been extensively involved in aspects of the garden, which is still developing. There will be a guided walk given by David, followed by tea around the pool.

MARLBOROUGH in BLOOM

Excerpts from Neil Goodwin's Marlborough News Online article: "The weather smiled on Marlborough on 13 July as the South West in Bloom judges toured all the beautiful displays created by the town to fulfill Marlborough's attempt to hoist a Gold Standard award in this year's SWiB competition.

The judges were impressed with the quality of the displays, but also with the strong sense of the community coming together in Marlborough.

Richard Beale, Marlborough Town Council's former Grounds and Estates Manager, said: "Marlborough in Bloom was very pleased to host Jon Wheatley and Denise James, Chairman and Secretary of South West in Bloom, on the 2017 in Bloom judging day. We were able to show the town at its best, vibrant and welcoming. In

his summing up, Jon Wheatley said that it had been an excellent day"

Gardening Association members met the judges at the site of the three Association sponsored boxes under High Walls, planted and maintained by our members. Thanks to your generous donation, the boxes were planted with sustainable (and expensive) shrubs for year-round displays with minimum effort.

Special thanks go to all our members who have helped to make Marlborough a cleaner, greener town, planting 5,000 crocuses, weeding and litterpicking throughout the year.

Results of the competition are announced on 5th October.

CEDAR TIMBER – WHAT OFFERS?!

Lesley Andrews writes: This timber comes as a minimum order only which means we have left overs from our recent repair job. As a result we have newly milled cedar planking and timber available. So if you have plans for a new porch, posh bin store, play house for children or that garden shed project on the go please do call Lesley for more information on 01672 540180. I am away on a holiday break for the early part of August but am back on 14th so do call after that please.

The copy deadline for the September Newsletter is Friday 25 August 2017

Contributions to Anne Crawley, 3 River Park, SN8 1NH or email

anne@unicorn9.plus.com

**VISIT TO BATSFORD ARBORETUM
WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2017**

Our visit this autumn to Batsford Arboretum will we hope coincide with nature's natural fireworks display which takes place in the arboretum at this time of year with leaf colour to take your breath away. Unbelievable beauty at every turn! We will enjoy a guided tour of the arboretum, which will introduce us to the extensive plant and tree collection from around the world.

The plant centre and shop will provide an opportunity to treat yourself as well as do a bit of early Christmas shopping for your 'green fingered' friends, while the Garden Terrace Cafe offers a range of hot dishes at lunchtime and delicious home baked cakes and pastries.

For anyone who thinks the visit might involve too much walking for them, the Arboretum does have a couple of all terrain vehicles (Trampers) available, which must be booked. If anyone is interested please contact the Arboretum direct and talk to Helen Powell on 01386 701441.

We leave Marlborough at 9.30am and return at 4.45/5.00pm. The cost for coach, entry and guided tour of the arboretum will be £15 for Batsford or Westonbirt Arboretum members and £22 for non-members. (Batsford and Westonbirt Arboretum members - please bring your membership card to secure free entry). Refreshments are not included in the price. There is a restaurant and 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 **4.45/5.00 pm**.

Please return the booking form below by **10 October** if you would like to come.

**BOOKING FORM
VISIT TO BATSFORD ARBORETUM WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017**

Name

Address

Phone

Cost £22.00 per person or £15.00 if you are a current member of Batsford or Westonbirt Arboretum (please remember to bring your membership card).

I am/am not a member of Batsford/Westonbirt Arboretum (*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 **10 October 2017** to: Amelia Trevethick, Granham Thatch, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4DW*