

## PLUCKLEY AND EGERTON GARDEN SOCIETY

### OUR 2025 GARDEN VISITS

For information on how to book these trips please see "How to book" in your Annual Schedule or the downloadable pdf on our website [www.pegsoc.org/events](http://www.pegsoc.org/events). All garden visits are at your own risk. PEGS and individual committee members cannot accept any liability for loss or injury during the outing.

#### Friday 25th April

##### **HEVER CASTLE "CELEBRATION OF SPRING" Hever, Edenbridge TN8 7NG**

The annual PEGS subsidised coach trip.

Departure by Carrs' Coach at 9am from outside The Black Horse, Pluckley. Cost £16 for members or free for any RHS members. Booking deadline: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

[www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)



Dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and the childhood of Anne Boleyn, Hever Castle is a magical setting for a glorious garden. PEGS has visited before to see the roses, which were beautiful. This time we are visiting in Spring for Hever's Celebration of Spring which has been planned with a spectacular display of mixed varieties of spring bulbs, over 40,000 daffodils and stunning tulips in a rainbow of colours, crammed into every corner of the woodland, maze and Italian Grotto.

We hear that Hever has a problem with squirrels eating the tulip bulbs, but let's hope their remedy of chilli flakes, moth balls and garlic powder works! There is so much to see and explore at Hever so it should make for a great day out.

There is also a choice of cafes and restaurants serving hot and cold food and of course, plants for sale. Leaving 3.30pm

#### Wednesday 14th May

##### **WITCH HAZEL NURSERY NATIONAL WISTERIA COLLECTION Newington ME9 7LU**

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 1.30pm from outside The Black Horse, Pluckley. Cost £16.50 for members.

Booking deadline: Wednesday 7th May.

[www.witchhazelnursery.com](http://www.witchhazelnursery.com)



Strangely enough this outing is not to see the Witch Hazel but Wisteria. The wholesale Witch Hazel Nursery in Newington, nr. Sittingbourne is also home to The National Collection of Wisteria and Chris Lane who owns the nursery is an expert on wisteria. He will give us a tour of the wisteria field. He will point out the 4 main species of wisteria, including advice on the one with the most prolific scent and the one with the longest racemes, also how to grow them, prune them and much else besides.

A walk in the wisteria field when it is awash with the colour and scent of these beautiful flowers is a wonderful experience, but it is a field, and you might need to wear appropriate footwear.

There will be refreshments available included in the outing price. All entrance fees go to Demelza House Hospice. Leaving 4pm.

#### Saturday 7th June

##### **HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE & ESTATE Wartling nr Hailsham BN27 1RN**

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 9am from outside The Black Horse, Pluckley. Cost £16 for members (plus £3 for optional tour of castle payable on the day). Booking deadline: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

[www.herstmonceux-castle.com](http://www.herstmonceux-castle.com)

A fascinating day out; a storybook, recently renovated, red brick 15<sup>th</sup> century moated castle set within a 300 acre estate. Near to the castle are seven named gardens:

- An Elizabethan Garden dating back to 1570 with two deep borders filled with herbaceous perennials and two Vielchenblau rambling roses.



- The Apothecary Garden which as its name suggests is filled with herbs.
- The Sundial and Rose Garden, set within the original walled garden, which will be in full bloom in June when we visit.
- As well as the Shakespeare garden, the lower garden, the shady garden, the long border and the magic garden.

Further into the estate are lovely walks to the Folly, the Red Lily Pond, the wildflower meadow and through acres of managed woodland. The castle, which is the UK campus of Queens University (Canada), is open for guided tours (£3 payable on the day). The estate has a small cafe serving light lunches and a picnic area. Leaving 3.30pm.

## Friday 18th July

### DEAN HOUSE GARDEN Newchurch, Romney Marsh TN29 0DL

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 1.30pm from outside The Black Horse, Pluckley. Cost £12 for members and includes tea and cake. Booking deadline: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

[www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/dean-house-tn29](http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/dean-house-tn29)



A garden created for people and wildlife, begun 20 years ago from an old farmyard.

Over the years, Jaqui Bamford, the owner, has taken advice from The Bumblebee Conservation trust, and had funding and other support from Natural England, The Woodland Trust, The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership and East Kent Wildlife Group and this is a chance to see her re-wilding project in its infancy. Jacqui will give us a tour of the garden and her 5 acre field.

There is a sitting area surrounded by masses of large pots filled with exotics - Cannas, Agapanthus, palms and much more, an herbaceous border planted to attract pollinators, particularly bumblebees, a wildlife pond, gravel beds and a hosta alley. The field is planted with native shrubs and trees, includes dense hedgerows and 2 large new natural ponds where great crested newts have been breeding. It is the perfect habitat for birds including skylarks and yellow hammers. She has a stunning collection of unusual succulents and if we're lucky she may have some to sell. Plants for sale. Leaving 4-4.30pm.

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August

### PERCH HILL FARM Robertsbridge TN32 5HP

Departure by Wealden Wheels at 11.50am from outside The Black Horse, Pluckley.

Cost £24.50 for members. Booking deadline: **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** (No tickets available after this date.)



Perch Hill Farm is the home of Sarah Raven and Adam Nicholson (also of Sissinghurst Castle), and we are visiting their garden on one of the public open days. Booking must be received and paid for by 22nd May to secure our places for this very popular garden.

In August the garden will be truly dazzling, masses of bold and brilliantly coloured perennials and dahlias of every shape and colour. These are the stars of the show, and it is Sarah Raven who we can largely thank for bringing them back into fashion.

There is also a shop and restaurant, though lunch is not included in our ticket so you may want to bring a sandwich to eat en route.

If you don't know Sarah, visit [www.sarahraven.com](http://www.sarahraven.com) and you will see her books, her shop, her workshops etc etc. Leaving 4pm.