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# PLUCKLEY WITH EGERTON GARDENING SOCIETY

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## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2020

Welcome to 2020. As ever we have a wonderful schedule of events for members this year and hope you are able to make as many of them as possible.

### Forthcoming Events

#### Willow Weaving Workshop – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Dominic Parrette is a Sussex based basket maker, willow grower and teacher specialising in traditional frame baskets, organically woven willow forms and beautiful strong plant supports. He sources willow, sweet chestnut and hazel from local coppice woodlands and willow beds and is committed to sustainable woodland management. Dominic makes woven products for small gardens and allotments as well as taking on commissions for clients such as The National Trust and Kew at Wakehurst.

If you went to the Plant Fair at Hush Heath Winery last year you may have seen his fantastic creations. Really unusual and beautiful. The photos below show examples of his work.

He will be running two classes for us in Egerton Millennium Hall; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each class is limited to 12 people and for £22 you will be given all the materials you need and with his expert guidance will make a plant support to take home.

Booking forms were available at the AGM but if you have lost your form, you can print one from our website [www.pegsoc.org](http://www.pegsoc.org).

Please book by Saturday 11th January. If you want to attend please phone Sue Steward on 01233 840320 and send cheques to Jennings, Charing Road, Pluckley, Ashford TN27 OQL to arrive by 11<sup>th</sup> January made payable to Pluckley Gardening Soc.



## Talk by Maureen Rainey from The Kent Wildlife Trust - Thursday 20th February

### “Encouraging Wildlife into Your Garden”

Maureen Rainey runs lots of events for The Kent Wildlife Trust and is keen to encourage us all to make our gardens more wildlife friendly. Now the birds have started to sing again as the days lengthen, the talk will be a timely reminder of what we can each do to make our gardens welcoming to the many birds and animals that are struggling in the wider environment. Given the significant decline in so many species over recent years, gardens have become much more important as refuges and feeding grounds for so many creatures. Maureen will hopefully inspire us to do more this year whatever size garden we have.

The talk costs £5 and will be held in Egerton Millennium Hall. 7pm for 7.30pm. Pay on the door. Non-members welcome so why not bring a friend? Refreshments available.



## First Garden Visit of the Year - Thursday 12th March Trip to Copton Ash - Hellebores and Flowering Shrubs

The garden at Copton Ash near Faversham was initially started in 1978 on 1.5 acres of former cherry orchard by Tim and his mother Nancy Ingram and is now run by Tim and his wife Gillian. Tim was brought up with a keen interest in plants, his first patch was a raised rock garden as a teenager. He spent his early adulthood in academia working on plant hormones, six months of this were spent in Tasmania where he took the opportunity to explore the wilds. He then started a nursery at Copton Ash where he grew a wide range of plants including those from the Southern Hemisphere, but became known for his interest in Umbellifers. Tim has been a member of the Alpine Garden Society most of his gardening life and is an active member of the East Kent and the Mid Kent Alpine Garden groups. Tim is also a keen member of the local Kent Group of the Hardy Plant Society.

At Copton Ash Tim and Gillian have been responsible for developing the garden into a woodland and alpine garden showcasing their love of these plants. The season starts with the snowdrops followed by hellebores which continue for months, then a flood of woodland species like anemones, hepaticas and trilliums. Later as summer approaches, umbellifers and plants which thrive in hot summers take over. The garden was featured in The English Garden Magazine in January 2017 and also in the RHS 'The Garden' in March 2018. Hopefully there will be lots for us to enjoy.

The nursery will be open and focusses on Alpines, perennials for drier gardens and woodland plants.

[www.coptonash.plus.com](http://www.coptonash.plus.com)

£10 includes minibus and soup. Please phone Sue to book a place on the minibus and to confirm soup order numbers.

Departure 11am from outside Pluckley Black Horse.

## Annual Spring Show – Saturday 4th April



Venue: Pluckley Village Hall

The Spring Show is the chance for us to show off all the beautiful spring flowers and plants we grow in our gardens. The classes are all listed in your Annual Schedule and are also on our website including a handy printable pdf version for you to download.

As well as the usual slight tweaking of the classes we have also decided to close the doors 15 minutes earlier in the morning to allow judging to start on time. Please be aware that if you are intending to leave it to the last minute, cut off time for set up is 11.30 this year.

If you don't know where to start and would like to have a go, take a look at the hints and tips on notes you can download from our website. Viewing is from 2.45pm with a raffle, tea and homemade cakes and a chance to catch up with other members. The awards are presented at approximately 3.30pm.

## Garden Trip to see the Magnolias – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

We have organised a trip to see the beautiful magnolias at Sandling Park near Hythe. Sandling Park is a Grade 2 Listed Park and Garden whose original house was destroyed by enemy action in WW2. The park is planted with beautiful acid loving woodland plants and has a stunning collection of Magnolia Trees. The gardens are now sadly rather unkempt and usually only open to the public for one day a year however we have been given the opportunity to visit this year and will be shown round by a horticultural tree expert.

Cost £4 to cover the minibus. Pick up from outside The Black Horse, Pluckley at 10am.

There are no facilities at the garden so we will take a comfort break and coffee at nearby Brockhill Country Park near Saltwood afterwards. Please phone Sue to book a place on the minibus.

## Garden Trip to Leonardslee – Thursday 14th May

Leonardslee Gardens are Grade 1 Listed Gardens near Horsham. The historic garden was begun in 1801 to complement nearby Leonardslee House but they became famous when Sir Edmund Loder bought the property from his parents in law in 1889 and filled the park and gardens with exotic and rare species brought to Britain by the plant collectors of the time.

In 2010 the gardens closed to the public and left to go wild. There followed years of uncertainty about their future until in 2017 the property was bought by Penny Streeter (OBE) and she decided to restore them. They reopened to the public in 2019 and have received much acclaim in the national press. In May they should be filled with rhododendrons and magnolias for us to enjoy. Some of the rhododendrons are approaching 200 years old and have grown into substantial trees and are now some of the largest specimens outside their native habitats. There are 240 acres of grounds to explore including seven lakes and nearly 10 miles of garden paths and woodland walks if you want!

This is a subsidised trip with a cost to members of only £11. To secure a place on the coach Sue will need your booking form and payment before 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Please note for security reasons Leonardslee is a cash free zone. Pick up will be at 9am from outside Pluckley Black Horse.

## Review of Events 2019

### Wine and Wander Evening at Jennings – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August



The weather changed just in time to give us a lovely sunny evening for our late summer social this year which was held in the glorious gardens of Sue Steward. We had a great turnout and members were treated to the delights of Sue's well kept garden. There were plenty of flowers for us to enjoy as her roses were in their second flush and the dahlias and late summer perennials were looking lovely. Over a glass of wine and with nibbles provided by the committee members we had a chance to catch up and chat.

### Salutation and Sweetbriars Gardens – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August



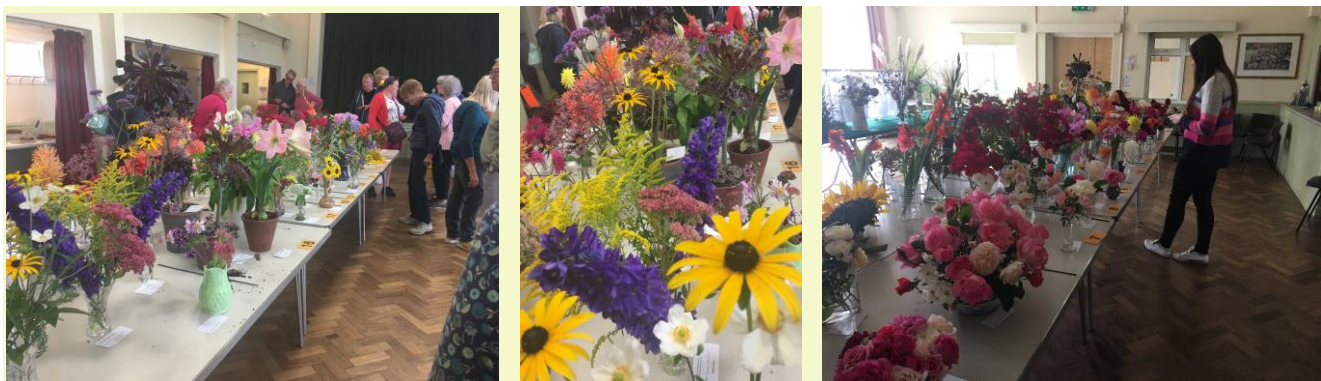
The Salutation Gardens in Sandwich include a mix of traditional borders and more exotic jungle-like planting all under the orchestration of head gardener, Steve Edney.

The original gardens were laid out by Edwin Lutyens as an integral part of the design of the property but over the years had been lost and neglected. As the head gardener since 2005 Steve Edney has restored the garden, laying out borders in the original positions and framing the same views but then allowing the planting to develop creatively and spontaneously. The effect is both eclectic and imaginative. The gardens included something for everyone and we had plenty of time to wander and enjoy the various garden rooms.

Many of us had looked forward to lunch in the hotel but sadly it didn't prove to be a quite the experience we had hoped, though the tea and cakes in the café certainly made up for it.

On our return home we paid a visit to Steve Edney and his partner's private garden where we explored his impressively even more jungly back garden.

## PEGS Autumn Show – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September



The displays of roses, dahlias and late autumn perennials along with all the fruit and vegetables and home produce made Pluckley Village Hall look a real treat for our annual Autumn Show. We had some lovely displays and the judges were really impressed.

## AGM & Craft Competition – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October



We had a good turn out for our AGM in October with more than half of members managing to renew their memberships on the night. We tried our luck at Sue's plant quiz and enjoyed a dinner of fish and chips, this year freshly cooked for us in the village hall car park. The craft quiz had some beautiful entries and the top prize was won by Viv Sinden for her felt acorn gatherer.

## PEGS Quiz – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019

We had 11 tables competing in the PEGS quiz in Egerton Millennium Hall and amongst much friendly rivalry the highest points went to the team from Egerton WI. The evening was a great success and much thanks must go to Elaine and Cedric Narbrough who wrote the questions and acted as such good quiz masters.

## Places to Visit this Winter

### Great Dixter Winter Opening Weekends

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb & Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Feb and Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March  
10am – 4pm.

A chance to see the garden's more structural side, along with winter flowering shrubs, bulbs and hellebores.

Entrance £5 for adults. Children free. Shop and nursery open.

### Sissinghurst Castle Garden

Garden open at weekends all winter from 11am – 4pm.

Coffee shop and shop from 10am. Tower, South Cottage & Exhibition from 11am. Estate open from Dawn to Dusk.

### Godinton House Gardens

Re-opens 1<sup>st</sup> March. Open daily from 1pm – 6pm.

### Doddington House Gardens

Open for the Snowdrop Festival on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 11am – 4pm.

### Belmont House Gardens

Gardens open daily all year round from 10am. House re-opens 5<sup>th</sup> April.

### Scotney Castle

Estate and gardens open daily from 10am

### Spring Platt, Boyton Court Road, Sutton Valence

Open by appointment 01622 843383 for NGS for snowdrops and alpines on Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Feb & Tues 11 Feb  
10.30am – 3pm. Home-made bread and soup available.

### Knowle Hill Farm Garden, Ulcombe

Snowdrop Open Days for NGS on Sat, Sun & Mon 8,9,10 Feb 11am-3pm. Hot drinks and sausage rolls served around the Aga.

### Copton Ash, 105 Ashford Road, Faversham

Open for NGS on Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Jan and Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 12-4pm.

## Sue & Mary's Late Winter Gardening Tips

All the gardening magazines are advising us to start sowing veg and flower seeds, but beware getting too excited and overdoing it. Make sure you have enough space in your greenhouse or cold frame to keep seedlings protected until after frosts have finished.

When tidying up the garden, don't cut back penstemons or deadhead hydrangeas until spring. Leaves and old flower heads help protect the plants and new growth from frost.

However, do trim hellebore leaves down to the ground, it not only helps to show off the lovely hellebore flowers but allows air to circulate and prevent Black Spot.

Gloomy January days are good for sitting down with seed and bulb catalogues and planning what you would like to grow in the coming year.

Start off your sweet peas if you haven't already done so. When 2 pairs of leaves show, put them outside in a cold frame or sheltered spot.

## PEGS Website

Just a reminder that our website can be found at [www.pegsoc.org](http://www.pegsoc.org). You can now look up information about events, download booking forms, download newsletters and see the latest news from the society.