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# PLUCKLEY WITH EGERTON GARDENING SOCIETY

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## NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019

Welcome to our Third Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it. If you have any problems downloading it please let us know. Our calendar of events for the summer looks wonderful and we hope you can join us for as many events as possible.

### Forthcoming Events



On Tuesday 21st May we have a visit scheduled to The Orangery in Mystole. This is a 1 ½ acre garden in Chartham with extensive herbaceous borders, an ancient wisteria, large walled garden and collection of modern sculptures. The terrace affords splendid views over Chartham Downs. The cost to members will be £11.50 which includes the minibus, entry and refreshments. Please call Sue Steward on 01233 840320 to reserve your place. We meet at 1.15pm outside The Black Horse in Pluckley.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June we will be visiting Balmoral Cottage in Benenden which is famous for its amazing topiary. The owners, Charlotte and Donald Molesworth have created the garden over nearly three decades on a minimal budget in what was once the kitchen garden of Collingwood “Cherry” Ingram, a renowned Victorian plant hunter. Charlotte’s garden was almost a blank canvas when she started and she has built up an eclectic mix of hardy perennials in a framework of topiary hedges and sentinels of all shapes and sizes. It is almost totally hidden from view down an unmade track behind St Georges Church. The cost which covers the minibus, garden entry and refreshments is £11 and you need to phone Sue Steward to reserve a place.

Our first Social Event of 2019 is our Pimms Evening being hosted this year, by Judith Oakes in her beautiful garden at Surrenden House. The date is Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and the event runs from 6-8pm. You will have the opportunity to catch up with other members as you wander around her fabulous garden with its mature trees and shell grotto. The £5 entry charge covers your first glass of Pimms and nibbles prepared by PEGS Committee.

For all of you who are booked onto the coach trip to the 2019 RHS Hampton Court Flower Show on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July the visit promises a lovely summer’s day out packed with gardening inspiration and stunning floral displays. As well as show gardens and specialist nurseries there will be pavilions with unusual gifts, lots of trade stands offering an array of gardening products, a “Great Taste Market” organised by the Guild of Fine Foods and talks through the day from various well known garden experts and celebrities. By now you should have received Sue’s email setting out arrangements for the day.

August always brings a different feel to our gardens; the warmer weather encouraging late summer plants to show their best. We have our annual Wine and Wander evening in Sue Steward’s inspiring one acre garden at Jennings on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August and just before the bank holiday weekend we have a day trip to Sandwich to visit The Salutation and Sweetbriars Gardens. The well-known Lutyen’s designed Salutation Garden should be a riot of colour and Sweetbriars is the nearby exotic jungly garden of the Salutation’s Head Gardener.

## Review of Events

### Talk by Pippa Greenwood - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

For our first event of 2019, Pippa Greenwood gave a talk on Growing Vegetables and Having Fun to a packed Egerton Millennium Hall. Over 130 people heard her talk about the best vegetables to grow and how to care for them. She is a long standing champion of growing your own vegetables and encouraged us to have a go and see how wonderful home grown fresh vegetables can be. She encouraged us to try more slug resistant varieties such as red lettuce rather than green lettuce and Charlotte potatoes for a particularly productive tasty crop. She recommended interesting stripey aubergines and brought along some of her own produce which she used as props as she talked about the best crops to have a go at.



### Trip to The Walled Nursery – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Lots of us headed off in the minibus and accompanying cars to visit the old walled garden of Tongswood House near Hawkhurst now known as The Walled Nursery and heard a fascinating account of the Edwardian gardens, and glasshouses that were built by the Gunther family around their family home and how after WW2 it became St Ronan's School and the walled garden a retail nursery. The nursery is tucked away down a country lane between Hawkhurst and Cranbrook and is a delight. The hard work and effort put in by the present owners, Emma and Monty Davies, to build up the nursery and repair the derelict glasshouses has really paid off and it was lovely to see the glasshouses full of plants. Emma's sense of connection to the gardeners who had worked there before them and her respect for the history of the place was really evident.

The old Vinery now provides the venue for the delightful café and shop and many of us availed ourselves of the refreshments on offer. There were also plenty of plants for us to buy.



## The Spring Show - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April



Every year we hold a spring show where we exhibit some of the early flowers that grow in our gardens. Last year the show was earlier and the weather much colder with daffodils just starting to flower when the show was held. This year the show was later and the early spring weather much warmer which meant many early daffodils had already finished and the tulips were ready to exhibit. Next year the show is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April and we shall see what the weather throws at us!

The hall this year looked glorious as usual with vases of spring flowers filling the tables and there were plenty of plants available to buy. We had entries from approximately 25 different exhibitors, all of a really good quality.

In the afternoon the hall opened to everyone to see the exhibits and to enjoy cups of tea with cakes prepared by members of the Committee and to see Pat Morss present the certificates and cups.





## Gardens to Visit etc

(Please check details before visiting)

### Faversham Open Gardens & Garden Market Day

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 10am – 5pm

£10 for 2. Tickets on sale in the Market Place

[www.favershamsociety.org](http://www.favershamsociety.org)

### St Michaels Hospice Open Gardens 2019 Hastings & Rother

11/5 Winchelsea - 4 gardens

14/5 Mountfield - 2 gardens

21/5 Bexhill Old Town - 4 gardens

31/5 Sedlescombe - 1 garden

1/6 Winchelsea Beach - 9 gardens

4/6 Rye - 2 gardens

11/6 Little Common & Cooden - 5 gardens

18/6 Icklesham - 6 gardens

25/6 Pett - 6 gardens

2/7 Ashburnham - 1 garden

9/7 Bodiam - 1 garden

16/7 Hastings Old Town - 11 gardens

20/7 Fairlight - 1 garden

8/8 Brightling - 1 garden (Sarah Raven's)

10/8 St Leonards on Sea - 4 gardens

For descriptions of the gardens visit their website:

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

### Garden History Course – Godinton House

From the Sublime to the Ridiculous, The Development of the English Landscape Garden  
A 3 day garden history course led by Sally Ann Wardroper BA(Hons), MA, Cert.Ed Friday 10, 17th, 24th May 10am-3pm. Cost £90. For more information or to book please contact [wardroper7@gmail.com](mailto:wardroper7@gmail.com) or phone 07873726005

## Sue's Spring Gardening Tips

Now the soil has warmed up and you are sowing seeds either into pots or maybe now straight into the ground, don't forget to water the soil first to avoid the seeds from floating around. After covering them with the appropriate amount of soil, gently press the area to make sure the seeds are in contact with the soil.

Do remember when taking tender plants, such as dahlias or annuals out of the greenhouse to slowly acclimatise them. Take them out during the day and pop them back in overnight for about a week.

## 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 and see the latest news from the society. We have recently added information about the various cups that have been presented to the society and are starting to research the history of the society.

If anyone has any memories of the society or maybe some old photos of events, particularly from its earlier years we would love to know about them. You can email us at [pegsoc@outlook.com](mailto:pegsoc@outlook.com) or call Mary Walker on 01233 756588.



## And finally... a request

If you know of any lovely gardens that you think would be great places for the Society to visit on our outings next year and are within a reasonable distance from Pluckley/Egerton we would love to hear about them.