

August

**BATTISFORD &
DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB
2019**

50th Issue of Newsletter!



6th July 2019, 12th Annual Gardening Club Show

The Combs and Battisford Fete took place on Battisford Village Green for the first time. This of course meant a new venue for the BDGC Gardening Show, and a new smaller marquee—see above.

Monday 13th May

Visit to Otley Hall Gardens

On a fine May evening 35 members and guests assembled at the historic Otley Hall for a guided tour with Head gardener Simon Nickson and Guide Andy Vince. The history and creation of the gardens, canal, knot garden, mosaic, mound and maze were all explained with enthusiasm. We were accompanied at times by a white peacock and his fan tailed friend gave a fine display for us on the turf maze. A very enjoyable evening.

Bill

Otley Hall is a grade 1 listed 15th Century moated house with 10 acres of gardens. The current gardens are more recent, mostly designed by Francis Inigo Thomas, a well known 20th century artist and garden designer. As well as the formal gardens, conservation and nature play an important role, with the current owners encouraging wild flowers and natural wildlife habitats.



The Knot garden was designed by Sylvia Platt, author of 'The Medieval Garden' and symbolises the Universe with 25 beds representing 25 civilisations.



The stunning peacocks roam the gardens

Monday 3rd June

Visit to Moat House, Little Saxham

A lovely June evening saw us at NGS Moat House, Saxham near Bury St. Ed's. Richard Mason gave us a brief history of the site and house, part of the Saxham Hall estate dating back to 1507 with facts of cost in those far-off days such as 8 days work for 2/- (Two Shillings = 10p) and bricks were 4p a 100, hand made too! Richard then handed us over to his wife Susan for the garden details, who between them have created this lovely interesting garden of two acres in the past 20 years.

A Hartley Botanic Greenhouse in a pastel colour made a proud feature amongst the darker greens of box hedging, shrubs and a boundary of mature trees. Roses, especially climbers skilfully trained were just opening, perennial borders offered some highlights to interest our group, especially the herbaceous Clematis integrifolia and the bright Iris 'Rajah'. Several cultivars of Euphorbia's with their golden green and silver Artemesia helped to fill the borders.

A wonderful specimen of Cornus alternifolia 'Argentea' with it's layers of dainty variegated leaf, about to flower too.

Around the house stood containers with the black Aeonium 'Zwartkop' AGM and the large-leaved Gunnera, the container keeping it under control. Maybe it will find a home in the moat being restored, some of the original construction showing due to the low waterline.

Finally the evening finished off with homemade scones, jam and cream washed down with a cup of tea or coffee, a lovely finish to our visit to an outstanding garden. More members would have enjoyed this visit, they missed an outstanding garden.

Michael Warren



Garden at Moat House



Herbaceous clematis *intergrifolia*



Moat House—Iris 'Rajah'

Monday 1st July

Visit to Larks' Hill Garden, Tuddenham

On July 1st we had a visit to Larks' Hill in Tuddenham St Martin. Despite a perfect summer's evening the turnout was disappointing, with only eleven intrepid souls managing to make the journey. Including Daphne on her crutches. Well done Daphne!

Those who did make the journey were rewarded with an interesting and delightful variety of planting on both large and small scale.

Larks' Hill has a southerly aspect, overlooking the protected Fynn Valley. The present owner, John Lambert, arrived in 1984 and set about transforming the gardens. The gardens and grounds, which total just under eight acres and which slope in all directions, comprise woodland, fields and more formal areas. Including a vegetable garden, a herb garden, greenhouses and workshops.

As an aid to visitors, John has laid out a suggested route through the gardens with each area numbered. This helps to ensure that no areas are missed, although it is in no way a constraint on the visitors who are free to roam at will.

At the start of the walk, shrubs and herbaceous borders edge the pathway, which leads down across a dry stream towards the site of the old vegetable garden. Now replaced with raised beds and a large fruit cage.

On the other side of the house is an area of castellated walls and flower beds, including an arbour. The planting here mainly comprises shrubs interspersed with spring bulbs. The path moves on to an area known as the sun dial bed, but the name is misleading. There is no sun dial, and the area is well shaded and planted with Japanese Anemones, Hedera and early primroses.

The guided walk continues past the summer house to the long border, filled with a mixture of herbaceous planting and mature trees.

The bottom pond is a feature of an earlier garden. Under John's stewardship it has been enlarged, and a gravel area and decking have been added. With its small bridge, decking and seat it makes a peaceful hideaway.

There is much else to see in this fascinating garden. The route continues past the willow beds and pump house. Then over a succession of bridges crossing the stream and continuing through Gripp Fen. This leads in turn to the woodland walk, which continues up and out of the valley to emerge in the conifer garden.

By which time our starting point was in sight, so we all converged on the refreshment area to enjoy some well-earned tea, coffee and home made cakes.

Certainly a garden well worth a visit. But those who missed the trip will have to wait until next year for another opportunity as, apart from groups such as ours, John only opens the gardens once a year for the NGS scheme

Ian Clark (With acknowledgements to John Lambert's guide)

Battisford Gardening Show

Trophy Winners

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Battisford and District Gardening Club Trophy | Jenny Forbes |
| Greatest weight of potatoes | Jenny Forbes |
| Webb cup for vegetables | Mike Warren |
| Win and Bob Rolfe cup for fruit | Steve Thompson |
| BDGC 10 th Anniversary Trophy | Kathy Middleton |
| Ken Abel Pelargonium Trophy | Bill Baldry |
| Portway cup for flowers | Mike Warren |
| Paul Hansord Trophy | Bill Baldry |
| Battisford and District Gardening Club salver | Helen Read |
| BDHS Craft cup | Daphne Baldry |
| Edna Green Challenge trophy for cookery | M Miller |
| BDGC Treasurer's cup for photography | Jackie Collings |
| BDGC Children's cup | G Jackson |
| BDGC Junior cup | N Blake |
| BDHS Miscellaneous cup | C Crosthwaite |
| BARCLIF 2012 Jubilee tray for highest overall points | Mike Warren |



Steve Thompson



Eyore looks a bit sad cos he only came second!



The roses looked particularly good this year



The trophies were presented by Rachel Williams, chair of the Fete Committee. Here presenting to Mike Warren who won his usual clutch, including overall points trophy.

Rachel & her committee organised a very successful Fete at the new venue of Battisford Village Green

FLOWER ARRANGING

Jackie Collings has judged the flower arranging class at the Show since the very first Show. Here she comments on this year's entries. She writes:

'I do enjoy judging the flower arranging entries at the Annual BDGC Show, although it is not an easy task as the standard is very high and a great deal of thought goes into the exhibits'

HALLOWEEN



This class saw delightful interpretations of the title and all the arrangements used material so appropriate for Halloween. The spiders clinging to the flowers were quite creepy

HOT AND SPICY



Again an excellent use of colours, they really did look hot!

STRICTLY COME DANCING



Beautiful arrangements, but Helen Read had gone an extra mile, (middle one here) arranging some of her flowers in a bowl reminiscent of a ballroom disco ball and continuing the design by arranging flowers in a beautiful satin high heeled shoe and in one of Ken's rather large black shoes. The finished arrangement was stunning. Helen excelled herself this year gaining 4 1sts and a 2nd. Her choice of material and her designs were exceptional. Although all the entries were of a high standard, Helen swept the board!

ALL IN WHITE

This class had a few more entries, all charming. The arrangements featured a variety of white flowers and pale grey foliage. Lovely!



ARRANGEMENT IN AN EGG CUP



Some intricate arrangements using miniature flowers in keeping with an egg cup, won by Caroline Burgoyne.

PERCY J THROWER M.B.E

31.01.13 - 18.03.88

During a recent visit to Shrewsbury we happened upon a bust of Percy Thrower in the “Dingle Gardens of the Quarry”, a park where he had been the Superintendent from 1946-1974. During this time he was responsible for the construction of the gardens in a former quarry. The gardens today are well maintained and hold comparison with Abbey Gardens in Bury. In 1951 he first appeared on television and became the face and voice of the British Garden on both radio and television. He is said to have been the inspiration for Alan Titchmarsh to take up gardening. Percy wanted to become a gardener like his father who worked at Bawdsey Manor, his wife Connie’s father was head gardener at Sandringham. Percy became a leading light in the “Dig for Victory” campaign during WW2. He was always to be seen smoking his pipe and provided sound effects for “The Archers”. In 1963 he built his own house in Shrewsbury which gave him his first large garden and this subsequently became the location for episodes of Gardeners World. In 1976 he was involved with the first Garden Centre, later known as The Percy Thrower Garden Centre,. In 1975 he added yet another string to his bow, writing for the Daily Mail followed by several books. In 1977 he was awarded the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour and in 1984 he received the MBE. In later life he was involved in hosting gardening tours of Europe, and lecture cruises (Sounds like one of our club members!). He died in 1988 from Hodgkins Disease .He is buried in Leaton ,Shropshire, where he had lived since 1946

Sandra Henson



Photos of the Dingle Gardens taken by Sandra & Jim Henson

DID YOU KNOW?

- May 2nd is World Naked Gardening Day
- Astronauts are growing lettuce on the Space Station to study gardening in outer space
- Coconut extracts are good for growing plants
- Some non-native, invasive earthworms in North America are contributing to the deterioration of their forests
- George Washington grew cannabis on his plantation
- Baking soda sprinkled on your tomato plants will make them sweeter
- Asparagus is a member of the lily family
- Oak trees are struck by lightning more than any other tree



Alison Clark had 60 visitors and raised £300 for St Elizabeth’s Hospice when she opened her new garden in Stowmarket

BDGC Mini-Show Monday 2nd September 2019

Schedule

Below is the schedule for the Mini-Show on 2nd September

| |
|---|
| Class 1: Vegetables |
| 1. Carrots – 3 tops trimmed |
| 2. Runner beans - 5 |
| 3. French beans – 5 |
| 4. Tomatoes – 5 |
| 5. Cherry Tomatoes - 5 |
| 6. Cabbage – 1 (any sort) |
| 7. Beetroot - 3 |
| 8. Potatoes – 5 (any sort) |
| 9. A squash – any type |
| 10. Any other vegetable |
| Class 2: Fruit |
| 11. Dessert apples - 3 |
| 12. Cooking apples - 3 |
| 13. Plums - 5 |
| 14. Pears - 5 |
| 15. Any other fruit |
| Class 3: Plants & Flowers |
| 16. Foliage arrangement |
| 17. Chrysanthemums – 3 blooms any colours (may be mixed) |
| 18. Chrysanthemum sprays – 3 stems any colours (may be mixed) |
| 19. Dahlia – 3 blooms any colours (may be mixed) |
| 20. Dahlia, pompom – 3 blooms any colours (may be mixed) |
| 21. Anything in a pot from your garden – up to 6" |
| 22. Anything in a pot from your garden – up to 9" |
| 23. Vase of Perennials |
| 24. Sempervivum in a pot |
| 25. Chilli plant in a pot |
| Class 4: The heaviest & the longest! |
| 26. Heaviest marrow |
| 27. Heaviest onion |
| 28. Longest runner bean |
| Class 5: Photography |
| 29. An agricultural scene |

If you are entering please bring entries at 7pm

Also bring anything else you think may be of interest to members (not in show)

Judging will be by member's votes and there will be an appropriate prize

Future events

Monday 2nd September

Mini-Show and Social evening

Bring own drink, nibbles provided

Schedule on newsletter page 7

If bringing entries please arrive at 7pm

Monday 7th October

AGM

Talk by Matthew Long(Riverside Bulbs)

Autumn planting—Bulbs for Spring colour

Drinks & nibbles provided

Monday 4th November

Andrew Sankey '6 of the Best'

(Gardens he knows)

Saturday 30th November

Wreath making workshop

10am—1pm, £15 per person

Contact Caroline Wicking to book—01449 770980

Monday 2nd December

Annual Quiz with George Bethell

Arrive 7pm

Friday 17th January

Annual dinner at Stowmarket Golf Club

Arrive at 7pm for 7.30

Details to follow

If you would like information about Battsford & District Gardening Club please contact Bill Baldry

12 Tannery Road, Combs, IP14 2EL. 01449 672168

Or go to our website:

www.battsfordgardeningclub.org.uk

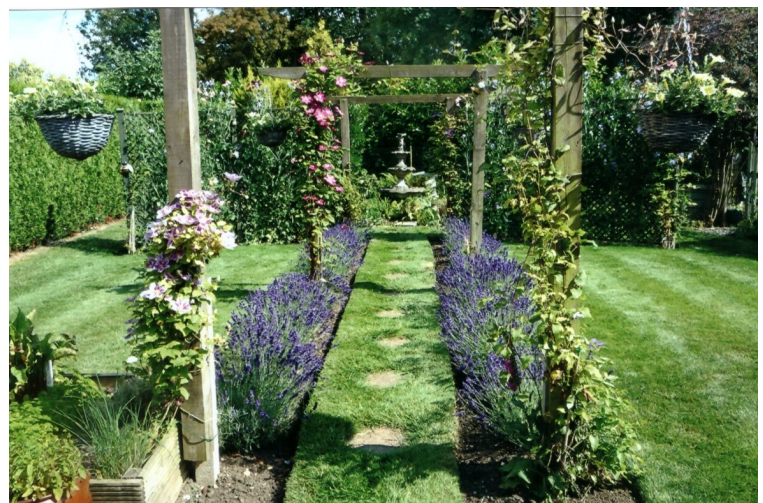


Jackie Collings Open Garden

Despite strong competition from numerous great sporting events on the television, we welcomed nearly 200 visitors to the garden. Thanks to Graham Green & Owen (my grandson) the garden looked stunning. (see below) I can say that as I didn't do it! The giant plant sale was very popular with hundreds of plants for sale. Owen, who is being tutored by Graham, the retired head gardener from Barham Hall, had propagated hundreds of lovely plants. I still have a number for sale so drop by and have a look.

A very big thank you to all who visited, provided delicious cakes, or helped on the day. If you didn't manage to visit on the 14th, you are welcome to look round my garden and maybe buy some plants for any spaces that need filling. Just phone first to make sure I am here—01449 613494. We raised over £1,000 for my 2 charities, Papworth Hospital and Hopgood Foundation.

Jackie Collings



May Quiz answers

1. Daisy
2. Poppy
3. Nigella
4. Hyacinth
5. Violet
6. Holly
7. Lily
8. Roses
9. Heather
10. Iris

