

SUFFOLK GROUP JOURNAL

Spring 2015



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Cover photograph of *Geranium ibericum jubatum* and *Rosa* 'Felicia' kindly provided by Marcus Harpur
Cover design by Sally Geeve, www.sallygeeve.com
Layout courtesy Nicola Hobbs

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

JIM MARSHALL

We've had a busy six months since my roundup for the Autumn Journal, ending up with our AGM in November. We returned to Moat Farm, Otley at the kind invitation of Mrs Benedicta Chamberlain, It is a wonderful venue, with ideal kitchen facilities and a log burning stove in the function room, which insulated us against the terrible weather. Food and wine were excellent as usual and we were fortunate to have three Collection Holders, Robert Grimsey (Aesculus), Sean Reid (Buxus) and Kim Forester (Thalictrum) who gave very different and entertaining short talks about their collections.

Annabel Thorogood has retired as secretary, we will miss her horticultural knowledge, sense of humour and friendliness. We have decided to split the secretary's responsibilities, with Isobel Ashton becoming the group's contact with National Office and Helen Chen now our web and social media administrator. Both will be pleased to receive information about local events.

Our president Maggie Thorpe continues to be very actively involved, and has been a great help to the committee, not least by taking our minutes, as well as all the work she does with Anne Tweddle propagating and selling plants. Margaret Palmer is going to take over the minute taking.

Lots of work goes on behind the scenes by the committee, including a wide range of publicity initiatives, conservation work and, hopefully, making the group interesting for and relevant to our members. But do get in touch if you would like us to try any different activities.

The fine weather at the Autumn Plant Fair, and hard work by all brought record numbers of visitors. A financially successful year has meant that we have been able to send another donation of £10,000 to National Office. The support the group gets from all of you means we are major contributors to all the conservation work supported by National Office, and they have sent us a very grateful thank you letter.

All group committees have been asked by Plant Heritage's new chief executive to help in a strategy review, in particular giving consideration to membership, finance and resources and conservation. Again please get in touch if you have any comments on these important aspects.

Our thanks to Sue Hamilton for arranging another excellent series of lectures at Stowupland for 2015. We look forward to Peter Gibbs' presentation on Weather Intelligence in February 2015. Sue has decided not to continue in this role. I would therefore be very pleased to hear from anyone who would be happy to take over from her. You will get the support and help of the whole committee!

Finally I look forward to what I am sure will be another interesting and rewarding year for our Suffolk Group.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JUSTINE CORNEY

The accounts for the year to 31 October 2014 were presented to the AGM. They showed a slight fall in subscription income as the membership reduced during the year. Income from the Helmingham Plant Fairs increased at both the Spring and Autumn Fairs by £1,435 overall, but plant sales income from the stall at meetings and in Boxted and Lavenham fell slightly by £276.

We did however still manage to donate £10,000 to head office at the end of the year as we have for the previous three years, but we will need to increase our income during 2015 to ensure that we can continue at this level. The last three years since October 2010 we have reduced the funds held by our group from £15,933 to £11,168 at October 2014 and obviously we cannot continue to give more than we are receiving. We know that National Office relies on the amounts donated but the county groups for their finances but with falling membership and rising costs we must think of new ways to raise money and extend the knowledge about Plant Heritage.

Please do bring your friends and neighbours to meetings if you think that they would be interested in the subject – you never know they may become a member!

NATIONAL PLANT COLLECTIONS

DOROTHY CARTWRIGHT

I am very pleased to say we have another National Plant Collection in Suffolk. Jim Marshall has been awarded National Collection status for his collection of *Dianthus* (Perpetual Flowering Carnations registered in the UK before 1970).

Jon Rose's *Santolina* collection and Anthony Pigott's *Dryopteris* collection have both had their proposals accepted. They just need to do a little more work on their collections and then they can apply for full status. In late December we were told that Simon Weeks collection scope has been changed to *Erysimum* (perennial).

The Milton family kindly offered to host the Collection Holders meeting this year at Mickfield and Sarah Quarterman the new Chief Executive of Plant Heritage joined us for the meeting. She was shown the Milton's collection of *Hosta* and was very impressed.

All the collection holders have been working hard looking after their

plants, putting on displays at plant shows, providing plant material for the threatened plant project, being filmed for TV, having open days and giving talks. Sue Wooster has been especially busy helping the RHS with their *Campanula* trials and writing an article



From Jim Marshall's new National Collection of Perpetual Flowering Carnations, clockwise from above: PF 'Monty's Pink', PF Royal Crimson Carnation, PF 'Velvet Pelargonium',



about them for *The Plantsman*. Three collection holders gave talks at the Suffolk Group AGM – Kim Forester on *Thalictrum*, Robert Grimsey on *Aesculus* and Sean Reid on *Buxus* – which members told me they had greatly enjoyed.

Collection Holders do appreciate the support the group offers them — opportunities to display and sell plants, help to purchase labels and other equipment needed to keep their collections in excellent condition. They also appreciate visits to their collections and the interest members show — but it is always best to check when it is convenient to visit.

Suffolk's National Collections		
AESCULUS	Framlingham	Robert Grimsey, 01728 685203
BUXUS	Bury St. Edmunds	National Trust Ickworth Park, 01284 735819
CAMPANULA	A Bury St. Edmunds	Sue Wooster, 07879 644958
DIANTHUS (Malmaison)	Ipswich	Jim Marshall, 01473 822400
DIANTHUS (Perpetual Flov registered in th	Ipswich wering Carnations to UK before 1970)	Jim Marshall, 01473 822400
EQUISETUM	Stowmarket	Anthony Pigott, 01449 766104
ERYSIMUM (perennial)	Walpole	Dr Simon Weeks, 01986 784348
EUONYMUS	East Bergholt	Rupert Eley, 01206 299224
HIBISCUS	Pettistree	John Woods Nurseries 01728 745100
HOSTA	Stowmarket	Mickfield Hostas. 01449 711576
IRIS (Sir Cedric Mo	Ipswich orris introductions)	Sarah Cook, 01473 822400
SYRINGA	Stowmarket	Norman's Farm, lilacprez@hotmail.com
THALICTRUM	M Worlingworth	Kim Forrester 07796 183988

SUFFOLK IRISES AT THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

WIDGET FINN

Our own Sarah Cook, holder of the National Collection of Irises bred by Sir Cedric Morris will have a stand in the Grand Pavilion at the 2015 Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show.

The stand, in collaboration with Howard Wholesale Nurseries of Wortham, will be showcasing Tall Bearded Irises bred by Sir Cedric Morris the notable iris breeder and plantsman. He was also an acclaimed artist who ran the East Anglian Art School at Benton End, Hadleigh, Suffolk from 1940. His irises were shown at Chelsea in the late 1940s until the mid

1950s, but have not been seen there since. The exhibit will make the connection between Sir Cedric Morris as an iris breeder and an artist.

Howard Wholesale is one of Britain's leading wholesale herbaceous plant nursery and has previously won Gold and Silver Gilt medals at Chelsea. Owners David Howard and his daughter Christine have been growing Morris irises for seven years and now have enough stock to furnish this ambitious project.



Sarah at Helmngham Plant Fair.

Sarah Cook, past head gardener at the National Trust's Sissinghurst Castle, was born and bred in Hadleigh and has spent the last 10 years researching Sir Cedric Morris and collecting his irises. In all he bred and named about 90 irises, but many have been lost to cultivation. Since 2004 Sarah has searched out and collected over 25 of his named irises obtained from private sources and Botanic Gardens in Britain, Europe and the USA.

Backdrops to the exhibition stand have been painted by Cherryl Fountain who also decorated the stand for the Gold Medal Malmaison Carnations exhibited by Sarah's husband Jim Marshall at the 2013 Hampton Court Flower Show.

Congratulations to Sarah for gaining a coveted place at Chelsea and flying the flag for Suffolk National Collections. If you're going to the Chelsea Flower Show, head for the Grand Pavilion to see Sarah's stand.



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MEMBERSHIP

HILARY DRAIN

I'm not going to bore you with a lot of facts and figures, suffice to say that our group membership is steady at 251, according to National Office figures. As quickly as we welcome new members, we have lost old ones for a variety of reasons. This echoes but is slightly better than the national trend. National Office has put together a document for discussion at council and committee levels covering all aspects of Plant Heritage and this will include membership.

Although I am not available on the phone during the daytime, you can always contact me on membership@suffolkplantheritage.com. You may have some ideas about how to boost our recruitment? Please continue to give me any changes in your contact details, either by emailing membership@suffolkplantheritage.com or putting a slip in the box on the membership table at talks.

Thank you so much to all who helped at the Plant Fair at Helmingham, whether you have done it before or it was your first time! We were short of people, particularly at the end of the day this time. I simply haven't got the time to ring round people unfortunately with personal requests for help. So if you could spare an hour to help in May, in return for free entry, please email membership@suffolkplantheritage.com and let me know because we can't do it without you! Thanks.

New Suffolk Group members

Welcome to all who have joined the Suffolk Group since our last newsletter. Please make yourself known at the welcome table when you come to the next talk. Committee members have a green lanyard and name badge so that you can recognise them.

Mr Jan Michalak, Burgate
Mrs Pamela Garside, Burgate
Mrs Sarah Hepher, Frating
Mrs Judith Law, Stradbroke
Mr Roger & Mrs Linda Reynolds, Old Newton
Mr Brian Cartwright, Ipswich
Mrs Audrey Ewing, Little Waldingfield
Mrs Judith Cameron-Rollo, Clare
Mr & Mrs Gibson, Stanton
Mr John Pelling, Coddenham
Miss Wendy Hardy & Mr Ashley Mack, Newmarket

UPDATE ON PLANT PROJECTS

ANNE TWEDDLE

Iris Project

We are attempting to find cultivars of iris bred by five British breeders who were hybridising during the last century: William Dykes, Bertram Long, Olive Murrell, Geoffrey Pilkington and George Chadburn.

We have had some success in locating a number of cultivars at Glasnevin the Botanic Garden in Dublin. We received eight cultivars which we exchanged for iris material they were looking for. These eight are being nursed along by Sarah Cook. A further dozen or so cultivars were found in the lists of a garden in Bern Switzerland. We wrote in three languages (thanks to Liz Wells for the translation) but are yet to hear if any material will be forthcoming.

At the 2014 Autumn Plant fair, we had for sale the first wave of rhizomes from the project. It felt great to have got this far. Thank you to everyone who has offered to grow on material for us. We have sufficient offers for the moment.

Looking to the future, we have located more cultivars in USA, and so far they are very keen to help us, 'they' being the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS). However we have yet to enter the world of paperwork and regulations, so things might not go quite as easily as we hope. The Americans are very good at looking after 'heritage' plants, and have several nurseries and gardens dedicated to keeping iris material.

Buxus project

June 2013 saw the first visit to Ickworth to collect material. We took cuttings from six cultivars, all rare. These have been growing on in my veggie garden since then and should be large enough for lifting and sale in 2015. Some of the material we have will have to be returned to the collection at Ickworth, but the remainder will be available for sale.

All the plants we have will qualify for the Threatened Plant Project (TPP) and the Plant Guardian Scheme. They should be available from the spring onward.

For those of you who weren't able to get to the AGM and hear Sean Reid? talk about the Buxus collection at Ickworth, and the inevitable discussion about box blight, his verdict was "Forget about chemicals, nothing will work." What does work though is growing the plants as unclipped shrubs.

HELP US WITH PROPAGATION!

MAGGIE THORPE

Let me explain about our propagation days. Several years ago Anne Tweddle and I hired the Stowupland Church Hall, bought some pots and compost and asked Ivan Dickings (formerly head propagator at Notcutts) to come and instruct us using plants from our gardens. The idea was to teach others as well as learning ourselves so that we would have more and better plants for sale at our Plant Fair at Helmingham. We have also had the benefit of Rod Leeds' instruction on twinscaling *Galanthus* and some of our Collection Holders have given instruction in scooping hyacinths (Alan Shipp) and propagating *Erysimum* (Simon Weeks).

These days have given rise to hundreds of plants which Anne sells at meetings and brings to Helmingham for each of our fairs. We are keen to teach others, so do come along and bring your favourite plants and propagate them to share with Plant Heritage. Check with Anne to make sure we are not oversubscribed for the date you have in mind - see list overleaf

Collection Holders from all over the country are always keen to provide us with their expertise and valuable cultural tips - and we have been welcomed at several holders' gardens, receiving gifts of plants and great hospitality. We don't set ourselves up as experts but are now very experienced and love trying out new methods, the latest being *Eucomis* leaves chopped into sections. See our website for pictures.

At a workshop at the Helmingham Plant Fair last autumn Jim our chairman gave a very instructive demonstration on the use of peat-free compost; in particular he stressed how important it is to find out how long the bags have been lying about at garden centres, the quality thus suffering. So check age when buying, empty out just enough for the project you have in mind and add sufficient grit, vermiculite or perlite and ensure the compost contains plenty of oxygen.

These workshops cover many aspects of horticulture and have become a very important part of the plant fairs at Helmingham.

At our propagation days we deal mainly with herbaceous plants but will take on some shrubs. Keeping shrubs to reach a saleable size means storing them for quite a long time and we do not have the space, so if anyone has a spare cold greenhouse or empty cold frames, do let us know. Join in our stock plant scheme and house a particular plant, giving back

portions of it from time to time. Don't be afraid, plants do have a habit of dying! But this is a great way to spread the load and help Anne and me with propagation - and you will feel happy to be doing your bit for conservation.

We meet in Stowupland Church Hall, on a weekday morning for a couple of hours, beginning at 10, and we are usually all wrapped up by 12 noon. We propagate plants which we later sell, and we have the odd lesson from an 'expert' in their field. It's friendly, informative and hard working. We welcome beginners, and will take you through step by step whatever we happen to be working on. The dates for 2015 are:

Wednesday February 18th Tuesday, March 17th Wednesday April 15th Tuesday May 12th Wednesday, June 17th Thursday, July 16th Wednesday, August 19th Wednesday, September 16th Thursday, October 15th Tuesday, November 17th

Should you like to come along and give us a try, please contact either Anne (anne@tweddle1.co.uk) or me (maggiethorpe37@gmail.com).

GARDENERS' FRIDAY TRAIL

BELLFLOWER NURSERY, THE WALLED GARDEN, LANGHAM HALL, LANGHAM IP31 3EE

Sue Wooster 07879 644958 www.bellflowernursery.co.uk Open Thursday and Friday April to October 10-4

LUCY REDMAN SCHOOL OF GARDEN DESIGN, RUSHBROOKE, IP30 0ER

Lucy Redman 01284 386250 www.lucyredman.co.uk Open Friday April to end September 10-5

FULLERS MILL GARDENS, WEST STOW IP28 6HD Bernard Tickner 01284 728888 www.fullersmillgarden.org.uk Open April to end September Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 2-5

WYKEN HALL GARDENS, WYKEN VINEYARDS, STANTON 2DW 01359 250287 www.wykenvineyards.co.uk Open Monday-Sunday 2-6. Closed Saturday

See pages 33-37 for more gardens to visit.

PLANTS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2015

ANNE TWEDDLE

Violas

Ithought it might be interesting and fun to have a meander through violas. This has largely been prompted by an article found by Maggie Thorpe about a nursery in Scotland called Elizabeth Macgregor. Violas are a passion for Elizabeth and her husband Alasdair. The pictures on their website are simply lovely and their interest is infectious. At my first attempt to buy some plants everything I wanted was sold out. I have now bought some of their material.

The Garden (May 2014 issue) wrote about a young couple in Shropshire who have taken over the stock of an old and much loved viola nursery. They call themselves Wildegoose Nursery. They were full of praise of the genus.

Everything I read indicates violas are very useful garden plants, long flowering and perfumed with large flowers that stand well up against the foliage. How can they be resisted.

With an eye to plant conservation I have selected six from Wildegoose, six from Elizabeth Macgregor and not to be left out three from Bob Brown at Cotswold Garden Flowers.

The cultivation appears straightforward, liking a sunny or part shaded site at the front of the border. They like a free draining soil, preferably enriched with leaf mould or compost, but not manure. Their dislikes are heavy wet soils, or dry shade under trees.

Most cultivars begin flowering in spring. Deadheading will prolong the flowering into summer. Perfume is a feature of most of the chosen cultivars. Give them a light trim in July, then in Autumn chop back to 2-3". This way you will have a tidy green mound of foliage to look neat through the winter.

Almost all the cultivars chosen will be suitable for the Plant Guardian Scheme. The three Bob Brown cultivars: 'Elsmeer' grey lilac, winter flowering October-April; 'Violet Charm' violet, strong perfume, flowering May-July and 'Phyl Dove' peach, flowering March-May will be available from January 2015. Cultivars from the other two suppliers will be available later in the year.

Codonopsis

Maggie and I visited the new Collection Holder of this genus in August 2014, and saw some of the collection in flower. We were smitten. Bob and Ann Armstrong who live in Lincolnshire have a wonderful woodland garden which is a perfect setting for this interesting genus.

Codonopsis are scramblers/climbers in the *Campanulaceae* family. This gives a good indication of what the flowers look like and the colours they come in. We received seed

from the Armstrongs in Autumn 2014 and this has been sown and has germinated (left). The tubers will take a year or so growing on, before they are large enough for sale.

We are hoping Bob and Ann will come to the Spring Plant Fair in May, and you will be able to learn first hand about this interesting genus.

Galanthus and Narcissus

We were twin scaling once again in the summer of 2014, and we have a number of cultivars from previous seasons now large enough for sale. The following will be on sale from January onwards

G. 'Little John' G. 'Warham Rectory' N. 'Mrs Langtry' G. 'Robin Hood G. 'Robin Hood N. 'Kitten' G. 'Dionysus' G. 'Augustus' N. 'Stella'x G. 'Reverend Hailstone' G. x allenii N. 'White Lady'

In the pipeline, we have four cultivars bred from *Narcissus poeticus*. These were purchased in 2013, and are proving a little slower at growing on. When I emptied all the bulbs pots in August 2014 they were too small for sale, but another year should see them large enough for the garden.

Three of the cultivars are Engleheart introductions, and the fourth a French introduction: *N.* 'Horace', 'Ornatus', 'Cassandra', 'Sarchedon'.

Each cultivar will qualify for the Plant Guardian scheme, and possibly the Threatened Plant Project too.

We have already purchased the narcissus for twin scaling in 2015. This will happen in July at the propagation morning. If you would like to take part, please let me know.

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www.shrublandparknurseries.co.uk email:info@shrublandparknurseries.co.uk



Fullers Mill Garden at West Stow

OPEN DAYS 2015

Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays April to end of September 2pm to 5pm

WEST STOW IP28 6HD www.fullersmillgarden.org.uk email: fullersmillgarden@perennial.org.uk Tel: 01284 728888

(Fullers Mill Garden is owned and managed by Perennial a registered charity and remains fully funded by its maker Bernard Tickner.



SUFFOLK GROUP EVENTS 2015

JANUARY

Saturday 24 *Talk 'Alan Bloom: A Thinker and a Doer' by Jaime Blake 2.30pm. Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speaker: Having trained as a teacher, Jaime Blake decided he would rather work in horticulture. He first worked at Peterborough Parks Department, but was then offered the post of head gardener/curator of Alan Bloom's garden, where he has been for 25 years.

FEBRUARY

*Talk 'Weather Intelligence: How Does Your Garden Grow?' by Peter Gibbs 2.30pm. Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speaker: Peter Gibbs has been presenting the country's weather forecasts on BBC TV and radio for 20 years and is a regular chairman of Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time. A professional meteorologist, his career in weather began with a 2-year stint in Antarctica before moving to the Met Office. Peter is also a keen gardener.

MARCH

*Talk 'Bewitched and Bedazzled: the Wonder of Witch Hazels' by Chris Lane of Witch Hazel Nursery 2.30pm. Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speaker: Chris Lane runs a small nursery growing grafted trees for other nurseries to grow on. He has worked for other nurseries and as a lecturer at Hadlow College. He holds four National Collections: Hamamelis, Wisteria, Amelanchier and Parrotia, and good collections of Flowering Cherries and Nyssa.

APRIL

*Talk 'The Well Connected Gardener: Alicia Amherst, Founder of Garden History' by Sue Mintner 2.30pm. Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speaker: Sue Mintner read history at Girton College, Cambridge, and then re-trained in horticulture. She worked on the restoration/re-planting of the Palm House at Kew; was curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden from 1990-2001; and was director of horticulture at the Eden Project until 2006. She is now a horticultural consultant.

MAY

Sunday 24 PLANT HERITAGE SPRING PLANT FAIR
10am-4pm, Helmingham Hall, IP14 6EF Entrance £7

ЛПХ

Thursday 16 LILY STUDY DAY

10am-4pm, Fuller's Mill Garden, West Stow IP28 6HD £15 pp. including tea, coffee and light lunch.
20 places, booking essential by 1 July.
Contact: jhorne@perennial.org.uk 01284 728888

A day devoted to lilies, their history and how to grow them, how to deal with pests and diseases and hands-on propagation. Fullers Mill Garden, created over 50 years by Bernard Tickner, has a large collection of lilies naturally planted among rare and unusual trees, shrubs and perennials.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 13 PLANT HERITAGE AUTUMN PLANT FAIR 10am-4pm, Helmingham Hall IP14 6EF Entrance £7

Saturday 26 *Talk 'Autumn Flowering Perennials' by Rosy Hardy of Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants
2.30pm. Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

OCTOBER

Saturday 24 *Talk Michael Perry 'New, Different and Unusual Plants' 2.30pm. Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

Lectures marked * are free to members, with £5 entrance for non-members.

To advertise in Suffolk Plant Heritage Journal

Contact Heather Medcraft gingeandh@hotmail.com or 01359 270721.

1/4 page black & white £20.00 colour £25.00 1/2 page black & white £40.00 colour £50.00 Full page black & white £60.00 colour £75.00

SPRING PLANT FAIR

SARAH COOK

Our partnership with Helmingham Hall resulted in two more very successful Plant Fairs last year, the proceeds of which were a good proportion of the large donation we were able to give to Plant Heritage headquarters. So firstly many thanks to all of you who support the fairs, by attending as visitors, bringing friends, helping us with advertising, or volunteering on the day.

Our 2015 fairs are on Sunday May 24 and Sunday September 13 when we will be having many of our usual popular attractions and stallholders, with the Plant Doctors, unusual plants for sale and a special plants table in the Plant Heritage Marquee. The marquee also features a display of Suffolk Plant Collections, some of whom, such as hostas and campanulas, also have their own stalls selling plants and answering questions about their plants. We are always looking for different collection holders to join us, and are happy to welcome them from anywhere in the UK, so if you know any other collections who would like to take a (free) stall please ask them to contact Sarah (sarah@malmaisons.plus.com)

We are aiming to continue 'hands-on' workshops in the Garden Marquee with workshops on climbers, growing vegetables in containers and seasonal propagation. If you have any requests/ideas for future workshops please contact Sarah Cook - or better still would you like to lead one?

We have bookings coming in from lots of our popular regular exhibitors, with bulbs, trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants already booked in, but the prize for efficiency and enthusiasm goes to Janet Buist of Pennycross Plants, the first nursery to book their place. You can choose from their many well grown and often rare salvias, and wide range of other plants. We are now working on attracting a range of new and different exhibitors to the fairs.

The earlier opening time of 10am was deemed a success last year, so we are doing the same this year. Come early, and spend the day with us, collecting your free plant first (see next article). As always there will be 800, given to the first 800 people to claim them. Entry for adults is at the normal entry fee to Helmingham Garden and Park of £7 (with free entry for children)

If you are able to help again this year by volunteering on the day please contact Hilary Drain (membership@suffolkplantheritage.com). If you can

put up a few posters or distribute flyers please pick some up at the meetings, or contact Patrick Palmer (patrickjohnpalmer@gmail.com). Otherwise just come on the day, and bring as many friends and relatives as possible – buy plants and garden sundries (also cake stands, cards, clothes and much more!), dance or sit around listening to music, eating drinking and being merry. It is a good day out for everyone.

Photographs from the Autumn Plant Fair are on the centre pages.

ERYSIMUM 'RUSTON ROYAL', THE FREE PLANT AT HELMINGHAM

Our free plant for the Spring 2015 Plant Fair at Helmingham is an *Erysimum* introduced by Alan Gray at East Ruston Vicarage. This *Erysimum* is soft mauve in colour, sturdy and flowers over a long period. It makes a good garden plant, needs sun and reasonable drainage and dislikes heavy waterlogged soil and deep shade. It has the conservation classification 'Threatened in cultivation' RED label

Simon Weeks, *Erysimum* National Collection Holder, says "This is a good and rare cultivar from East Ruston Vicarage and should be conserved."









Photos by Ian Aldous, Elizabeth Piggot and John Kirby





HELMINGHAM PLANT FAIR AUTUMN 2014











COUNCIL REPORT

ANNE TWEDDLE

The third and final Plant Heritage council meeting for the year was held in London in November. The big news is we have a new chairman of trustees, and thus chairman of our council, Mike Buffin.

Mike is currently employed by the National Trust in a senior horticultural capacity. Up until he took on the role of chairman of trustees he was chairman of the PCC (Plant Conservation Committee). This is the committee which scrutinises application for National Plant Collections. Its work is fundamental to the plant conservation aspect of Plant Heritage.

The trustees and Sarah Quarterman (CEO) are leading a large piece of work round the strategy of where our charity and its work are headed. The plan is in the discussion phase at present, and will evolve over the next 12 months or so. Some of the targets we will be involved in meeting are linked to the international biodiversity targets.

This work will directly impact on us. All members of Plant Heritage are encouraged to be aware they belong to a conservation charity and to take part in as much of the conservation work as they can.

Money is always a slightly tetchy subject. However the year of 2014 ended with a deficit of £22k, considerably less than was forecast, thanks to a last minute legacy.

It is an interesting time on the council at present, lots of new ideas and ways of running the organisation. Group participation is encouraged, and our ideas and thoughts are being sought.

PLANT HERITAGE NEWS

FOR AN UPDATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NATIONAL OFFICE

VISIT THE CURRENT ISSUE OF NEWSLINES

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ON THE WEBSITE

WWW.PLANTHERITAGE.COM

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SUFFOLK GROUP ACTIVITIES

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HANDS-ON CONSERVATION

ANNE TWEDDLE

Plant Heritage is primarily a Plant Conservation Charity. So what can you do to further the conservation aspect of our work?

Bring us plants you have raised

We love it when you bring plants to sales and events. For several years now we have been able to give £10,000 to Plant Heritage National Office to support the work of Plant Heritage. This is quite a struggle and you can help by bringing us more plants to sell. If you are able to Gift Aid your gift of a plant, please let us know.

Your gift of a plant is the start of the journey.

Join the Plant Guardian Scheme

You can formally register the rare plants you have in your garden. Check the rarity by going to the RHS website and using the Plantfinder database, or ask us to check for you. The minimum requirement for a plant to qualify for the scheme is two or fewer nurseries selling your plant.

Another way to acquire a plant suitable for the scheme is to buy one from our plant table at events and sales. Then register your plant.

Becoming a Plant Guardian is important not only to the plant itself, but to the organisation you support. The more plant conservation Plant Heritage can perform, the greater the success. It's such an opportunity for everyone to do something about ensuring cultivated plants don't get lost.

Save one today!

Threatened Plant Project

When you register your plant for the Plant Guardian scheme, you may be told your plant is rare enough to be deemed as 'Threatened in Cultivation'. If you are lucky enough for this to happen, great...... but remember sharing plants is the way to ensure they don't get lost.

Get in touch with me or Maggie Thorpe if you are unsure how to propagate your rare plant. Once you jump the propagating hurdle, the world is your oyster. Share your plant with your family and friends.

Threatened plants are identified by a RED label, and are available for sale at Suffolk Group Plant Heritage fairs and events.



Threatened Chrysanthemums on sale at the Autumn Plant Fair

Fashion and breeding programmes are responsible for familiar plants becoming rare. This doesn't make them hard to grow. Many of the

Recliffonce, Turser

Bellflower Nursery The Walled Garden Langham Hall Langham Bury St Edmunds IP31 3EE

R Hardy plants, alpines,
& shrubs
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campanulas@btinternet.com
www.bellflowernursery.co.uk

threatened plants will be familiar, things you have grown and know for years.

Try one today!

National Plant Exchange

This exchange is open to all members and I would like to encourage more members to participate. All plants in the exchange qualify for the Plant Guardian scheme, that is they are only available at two or fewer nurseries. Is there something you have been looking for and can't find? The scheme may be able to help you.

If you would like to participate, contact me or go to NCCPG.com

Taking part in 'hands on conservation' is what we want to encourage.

THE YOUNGEST PLANT GUARDIAN?

IAN AND VIVIENNE ALDOUS

In Aldous, now aged 14, joined Plant Heritage in 2013 with his parents and one of the first plants he acquired from the Suffolk group was *Iris germanica* 'London Pride' of which he is now registered as a Plant Guardian. He might be the youngest Plant Guardian to have registered so far (unless anyone knows anyone younger?).

Ian's interest in irises first hit home three years ago when he went to an Iris Open Day at Wootten's Nursery in Wenhaston. "Seeing a whole field full of irises in bloom just blew me away," says Ian. "The colours were amazing, and I loved the shape of the flowers, and the ways the standards and falls could be such different colours to one another. I love the spikey

look of the plants too."

He soon started buying irises at plant sales and nurseries. "I just bought the plants I liked the look of when they were in flower," he says, "But when I got 'London Pride' and learned it was rare, I wanted to help save it, so I got Mum to register me as a Plant Guardian. My single plant of 'London Pride' that I got last year now has loads of side-shoots, and though it didn't flower last year as it was so small, I think it will next year."



Last summer, we had builders in, so all his irises had to be moved

to allow the scaffolding to be put up, and keep them from being trodden on by the builders. "It gave me a really good chance to see what I'd got, and make some more plants," explains Ian.

"Quite a lot of my older irises had grown into big clumps so Mum, Dad and I split them up into smaller plants which we had to pot up till the builders had gone and I could re-plant them in October. We dug them up gently with a garden fork, and then pulled the plants apart so we had a

single rhizome and shoot for each pot. We had 34 pots of irises in the end, and gave quite a lot away to friends and relatives. Some of the old rhizomes from the middle of the clumps had shrivelled up and didn't have any shoots, so we threw those away, but there were lots of new shoots and rhizomes from round the edges.

It was amazing how well the single rhizomes rooted in the pots in such a short time, and they've definitely grown well this year since we replanted them. We had to make sure we re-planted them with the rhizomes sitting just on top of the soil and the rhizome facing south, so the sun could bake it all day and it wouldn't get shaded or wet and soggy. Our soil is quite free-draining, which irises like, and they're in a sunny spot, so they do quite well in our garden."

Since Ian became a Plant Guardian for Iris 'London Pride', Sarah Cook of Suffolk Plant Heritage and holder of the National Collection of Cedric Morris Irises has kindly shared with Ian two other rare irises which were bred by the same breeder, Mrs Olive Murrell of Orpington Nurseries: 'Romance' (bred in 1924) and 'Cleo Murrell' (bred in 1941). He has now registered as a Plant Guardian for these two irises as well. Mrs Murrell bred over 80 irises between 1924 and 1958, but only about 15 are still known to be in cultivation, and not all of them in the UK.

Will Ian eventually have a National Collection of Murrell Irises himself? "If we can find a few more, then maybe I can," says Ian. Watch this space!

GERANIUM MADERENSE -CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

HILARY DRAIN

Geranium maderense is
Gendemic to Madeira,
where it used to grow on the
north facing slopes creating a
spectacular sight together with
Agapanthus and Hydrangea in
other areas. Because of
urbanisation and road
development there are now less
than 50 mature individuals left



on Madeira and therefore it is classed as Critically Endangered. I remember seeing mature plants at a garden in Cornwall years ago, so I have contacted them to ask if they are aware of this plant's status. Do you remember seeing it anywhere else?

We need to raise public awareness so it has already been mentioned on Twitter. Appropriate conservation measures are now urgently needed. Do you or your friends have this plant in your garden? Could you propagate more? If you could you give plant material to our propagation group. Please let Anne Tweddle or Maggie Thorpe know.

BAMBOOS – SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

HELEN CHEN

Many of the more than 200 species of bamboo which can be grown in this country are excellent garden plants. They come in an astonishing range of culm (cane) colours: black, green, yellow, blue, olive, grey, purple, white, brown, red, blotched with brown, yellow with green stripes, green with yellow stripes, green with a black sulcus (groove), and green with multi-coloured stripes. The culms may be grooved, zigzag, bulbous, or just ridiculously large. The leaves can be tiny and delicate or huge and tropical. They are evergreen and add height, structure and movement to the garden year round.

Once established, bamboos are very resilient plants. They are unfussy as to soil and most are very hardy. They can be grown in situations ranging from full sun to full shade, and are virtually pest and disease free in the UK. They appreciate feeding and supplementary water but don't need them, and established plants can survive periods of drought or flooding. Similarly, although they benefit from occasional tidying, they don't require pruning. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation about bamboos, mainly because they grow in a manner quite unlike most of the plants we are familiar with. In this article I would like to examine some of the myths and explain the growth habits of these wonderful plants.

Many people believe that all bamboos are invasive. This is simply not so. Bamboos have different rhizome structures which dictate their growth patterns. Broadly speaking they can be divided into clump formers and runners.





Above: The aptly named *Chusquea gigantea;*

Powder blue culms and purple culm sheaths of *Borinda papyrifera* CS1046; Left: Variegated foliage of *Sasa kurilensis* 'Shimofuri'.

Clump-forming bamboos send out new rhizomes which turn up to become new culms. Runners send out rhizomes

which send up new culms along their length and continue on. Clumping bamboos therefore send up new culms around the edges of the clump, expanding slowly and evenly. Runners can send up new culms at quite a distance from the main clump, expanding rapidly and unpredictably. Because of its rhizome structure, a clump forming bamboo simply does not have the capacity to send out long runners. However big it gets it will not suddenly pop up elsewhere.

However, clump forming does not necessarily mean small! While typical clumpers (e.g. *Fargesia* spp.) send up new culms very close to the clump, some (e.g. *Yushania* spp. and *Chusquea* spp.) have rhizomes with a long 'neck' which can grow outward 30cm or so before turning up into a culm. These can form a large, relatively open clump very quickly. Other clump formers can fountain outwards from a tightly clumped base, requiring space to appreciate their form. The foliage of such a bamboo may easily be four times the width of the base.

Running bamboos are harder to generalise about. Some genera (Sasa and Chimonobambusa most notably) are rampant and aggressively spreading. A few are very reluctant to spread or even bulk up. Most are somewhere in between. Unfortunately, it's impossible to say exactly where in that range a given plant will be in a given garden situation. The most spreading bamboo and the tightest clump in my garden are both 'runners'.

I have been asked whether bamboos are shrubs or trees. In fact they are woody grasses, and grow in a completely different way to either. They send up new culms each year, which never get any thicker; they push up through the ground already at their full thickness. They attain their full height in one growing season, and though they may branch and put on more leaf the next year they will not get any taller. The next year's culms, however, will be thicker and taller, as the underground rhizome system which produces them develops. Garden makeover programmes tend to put 8ft specimen bamboos into a small space as if they are going to stay that size. In fact they can gain height and width very rapidly. When a bamboo reaches maturity, it can send up culms twice as thick as the previous year's and half as tall again. The excitement of seeing the new, larger culms coming through never wears off.

Hopefully some of this has persuaded you to think about growing bamboos. It is always best to buy from a specialist nursery who will have a far wider range than the average garden centre and should be able to give you useful advice based on experience of growing these wonderful plants. Choose the right bamboo and site it carefully, and you will have a fabulous plant that will enhance any garden, and possibly the beginnings of a lifelong obsession.

If you are inspired to find out more about bamboos – or even tempted to acquire one – contact my nursery at japonica.plants@gmailcom

ON BEING LESS DOTTY IN THE GARDEN

MAGGIE LEGGETT

I walked to the end of the garden. Full moon. Owls hooting. Autumn. As I sat at the table, with my mug of drinking chocolate, under the Egremont Russet in what is my wild area. I began to think of all that was going on beneath the grass, of all the plants quietly waiting in the wings for their entry cue. The snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, chionodoxa, fritillaries and cowslips, and already around the trunk of the apple tree the

leaves of the grape hyacinths and primroses are a good six inches high. A great feeling of optimism came over me sitting there in the cold and dark.

Then thoughts drifted to the gloomy camp. "We change the clocks at the weekend. The dreadful long evenings with nothing to do except straighten the pictures". I say "Think renaissance, think garden" and the spirits will soar. It's not the end of the gardening year but the beginning of the next. With nature's help we have a clean slate (if we want it) and she is saying to us 'Now what are your plans for next year, what new projects have you in mind, what new plants can you not wait to grow?' and the excitement and enthusiasm (for me anyway) surges back afresh.

My main project for next year is to be less dotty. In the past I have been accused of being too dotty meaning that I have too many plants planted singly at random. We all know that plants generally look best in groups and particularly when grown in conditions which suit them but human nature being what it is, we don't always stick to the rules or take heed of good advice.

I have often been smitten and bought on impulse only to find on getting home that I don't really have the right position, conditions or even the space required, a prime example being the acquisition of *Ranunculus aconitifolius* 'Flora Plena' or Fair Maids of France. I first saw this delightful plant growing happily in Beatrix Potter's garden at Hill Top, Sawrey, in the Lake District. I had to have it. The tiny petals densely packed into white button flowers held on delicate wiry stems above smooth, dark green buttercup leaves. It's never been happy with me. To start with the Lake District is wet and East Anglia is the driest region in the country. My soil is on the heavy side, not so in the Lake District. This Fair Maid struggles. She is one I will always try to keep as she is so beautiful but she has become one of my dotty plants. I must try harder with her. I think more leaf mould and a feed might help. I would love her to increase and become one of a group.

There are other dotties squeezed into the wrong places which are more difficult to get rid of, if at all. These are usually plants (not always to my taste) which have been given by kind, well meaning gardening friends as 'thank you' presents for either feeding the cat in their absence or for inviting them to lunch.

So next year I have decided to create a Gift Garden. I have found the very spot for it at the end of the garden by the summer house. These gifts will be moved to their new home where they can all try to live in harmony. Invariably I will be asked by the kind donor "Oh by the way how did that plant do?" I will soon be able to say that I have put it in the Gift Garden and it's doing well.

Sue Minter will be talking to the Suffolk Group on Saturday 25th April about Alicia Amherst, a little-known but influential garden writer.

ALICIA AMHERST – THE WELL-CONNECTED GARDENER

SUE MINTER

A licia Amherst (1865-1941) is relatively little-known in garden history although she wrote the first 'History of Gardening in England' (1895) produced almost entirely from original sources. This is because her archive has been locked away at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London where she was a member of the Management Council, having saved the garden from

closure at the end of the nineteenth century. I have been fortunate, as a past curator of the garden, to have been granted access to the archive and with the support of her family have written the first biography of Alicia.

She was an extraordinary woman. Born into great wealth as one of seven daughters of Lord Amherst of Hackney, she was brought up on the vast family estate at Didlington Hall, near Thetford in Norfolk.

Within their Italianate mansion lay one of the finest libraries in England (and also a museum).

Alicia was introduced to the archae-



ologist Percy Newberry (also in early life a garden historian) who encouraged her to write the 'History' originally conceived as a series of articles for '*The Gardener's Chronicle*'. Through her parents she met Howard Carter, a skilled young draughtsman from Swaffham whom her father had engaged to record their archaeological collections and who later was to produce watercolours for her '*History*'. Of course we now know Carter from his discovery in 1922 of Tutankamun's tomb.

In 1895 Alicia married Evelyn Cecil, a nephew and Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister Lord Salisbury. With him she travelled widely to South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. These travels reflected their interests in the British Empire, in emigration (especially for women which Alicia supported as a way of women finding livelihoods), in botany and (for Alicia) in watercolour painting. Indeed Alicia's fourth book was grandly entitled 'Wildflowers of the Great Dominions of the British Empire' (1935) published with her own watercolours as a field guide for the botanical traveller - a first of its kind.

Alicia wrote a book on children's gardens in 1903, five years before that of Gertude Jekyll. She also created a fine garden at Lytchett Heath in Dorset which was trendsetting in her interests in tender plants and 'green gardens' and was profiled in the Royal Horticultural Society's '*The Garden*' magazine in 1931. However, it was for her 'war effort' that she was made an MBE, and then CBE in 1920 - she had been honorary assistant director of Horticulture promoting food production as a volunteer under Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge.

Alicia was passionately interested in women's education and employment and supported the move of women into horticultural colleges. She also wrote the first book on 'London Gardens' in 1907.

I have subtitled my book 'The Well-Connected Gardener' because I believe her social connections gave her an enormous entree into the world of grand garden owners and their archives. She was a personal friend of Ellen Willmott and like Ellen she was interested in photography. Her last book, 'Historic Gardens of England' (1938) used photographs from the newly-founded 'Country Life' to illustrate her views as to what were the most important gardens of the time.

Alicia's books were published under her various titles, the Hon. Alicia Amherst, the Hon Mrs Evelyn Cecil and later Lady Rockley of Lytchett Heath and are now out of print so you must look for them in antiquarian bookshops or trawl the web. She deserves to be better known.



Watercolour painted by Alicia. The portrait of her on the previous page was painted by her daughter.

MEMBERS GARDENS OPEN

RICHMOND HOUSE, CLARE CO10 8NP

Catherine Horwood Barwise (catherine@richmondhouse-clare.com)

Sunday 31st May, 2-5pm, together with Orchard House. Home-made teas and plants. Joint Entry £7.

Sunday 30th August, 2-5pm. Plants. Entry £3.50

Groups of 10+ welcome by arrangement May - September All in aid of the National Gardens Scheme

Half-acre walled garden with extended season 'new perennial' planting, informal wooded garden, formal vegetable/cutting garden, greenhouse with tender perennials. May for species roses, clematis, peonies; August for grasses, asters, dahlias. Featured in *The English Garden* (January 2015)

6 COLLEGE LANE, BURY ST EDMUNDS IP33 1NN Isobel Ashton, 01284 754993

Sunday 21st June, 11am-5pm, as part of The Hidden Gardens of Bury St Edmunds. Tickets £5, with entry to 30+ gardens, available on the day on Angel Hill, or in advance from Tourist Information (01284 7764667 tic@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

A walled garden in former workhouse exercise yards. Summer roses, sun and shade planting. Recorder consort in the afternoon. Plants for sale.

THE OLD VICARAGE, SILVER STREET, OLD NEWTON IP14 4HF Mrs Libby Brooks 01449 775334

<u>Sunday 14th June</u>, 11am-5pm, in conjunction with Hill House, Old Newton. Entry: £4 for NGS

A small garden for plant enthusiasts which has been extensively developed since 2006 with many interesting ornamental trees and shrubs. The informal beds are packed with herbaceous perennials. Clematis and roses scramble through trees and pergola.

HULLWOOD BARN, SHELLEY IP7 5RE Sarah Cook and Jim Marshall, 01473 822400)

Saturday 11th July 11am-5pm, by donation to Plant Heritage.

Garden, with borders, veg and glasshouse containing Jim's new National Collection of Perpetual Flowering Carnations and Malmaison Carnations.

GABLE HOUSE, HALESWORTH RD, REDISHAM, BECCLES NR34 8NE Brenda and John Foster (01502 575298)

Sunday 15th February 11am-4pm Entry £3.50. Snowdrop and Hellebore Day inn aid of NGS. Soup lunches and home made teas Large collection of snowdrops, aconites and cyclamen in one-acre garden. Sunday 7th June 11am-5pm Entry £3.50 in aid of NGS. Salad lunches

and home made teas

Flowering shrubs, roses, perennials, water feature.

Sunday 6th September 11am-5pm. Free entry

Autumn bulbs and perennials - Collection of cyclamen, crocus, colchicums, fritillaria, erythroniums etc.

Groups welcome at other times by appointment.

BOXFORD, NEAR SUDBURY CO10 5JT

Sunday 7th June 11am to 5pm

15 to 20 gardens open (including five Plant Heritage members) - cottage, courtyard, riverside, contemporary. Plant and cake stalls. Free shuttle bus to outlying gardens in the afternoon. £5 (children free) for St Mary's church. Programmes/maps available from outside the church on the day or from the first garden you come to. Information: Angela Tolputt: 01787 212264, angela@tolputt.com

SMALLWOOD FARMHOUSE, nr. BRADFIELD ST. GEORGE IP30 0AJ Widget and Tim Finn (01449 736358)

<u>Thursday 18th June</u> evening opening 6-9 pm Entry £5 including glass of wine in aid of Gedding Church

Three-acre garden combining traditional and contemporary styles. Cottage

planting with over 60 old roses, clematis, an ancient meadow and modern gravel garden. Groups very welcome at other times by arrangement

Right: Barn garden at Smallwood Farmhouse.



STAR ORCHARDS, SAXHAM STREET, STOWUPLAND IP14 5DF Mavis and Lawrence Smith 01449 615458 (right)

Sunday 14th June, 1-6pm. £3 in aid of Holy Trinity Church Stowupland (plus 8 -10 other gardens)

Half acre plantsman's cottage garden with fruit and vegetables. Plant stall.

CHURCH COTTAGE, CHURCH LANE, TROSTON, IP31 1EX Marysa and Graeme Norris, 01359268082

Sunday 26th July, 11.30 to 4.30

A garden of around 1/2 acre, still developing, with yew allee, kitchen garden, gravel



garden, wildlife pond, new grass beds and perennial borders. Opening with The Lodge, The Street, Troston - an established walled garden with large flower beds, a well developed kitchen garden and a Mediterranean garden around a swimming pool Entry £4.50 (covers both gardens) for the NGS. Teas and plant stall.

COLUMBINE HALL, GIPPING ROAD, STOWUPLAND IP14 4AT Owners: Hew Stevenson and Leslie Geddes Brown 01449 612219 Head Gardener: Kate Elliott 07730 922530 www.columbinehall.co.uk

Sunday 10th May, 2-6pm. Admission: £4 children free Open under NGS. Plant sales, teas, disabled toilets. Also open at other times by appointment (01449 612219)

Gardens surround a medieval manor house (not open) and its large moat. Formal areas have been designed by Chelsea gold medallist, George Carter. Elsewhere bog and Mediterranean gardens, colour-themed vegetable garden, orchards and wild rose beds. Featured in *Gardens Illustrated*, the *Daily Telegraph, English Garden* and *Suffolk* magazine.

TRING HOUSE, 130 HIGH STREET, HADLEIGH IP7 5EL John Parry-Williams, 01473 823233

Saturday 6th June, 11am-5pm, as part of the Hidden Gardens of Hadleigh. £5 for all the gardens (15-20). To raise funds for St Mary's Church.

An established walled garden. South and north facing walls allow for very different plants, mainly perennials and shrubs. There is a west facing rockery. The soil is light loam - good for peonies, clematis and roses and in the shade for hellebores, astrantias and hydrangeas among others. There are some interesting trees: maples, acers, strawberry, medlar and tulip tree among them. There is a further garden through a gate leading to the veggie patch with a variety of fruit trees and plants - this area is less tamed! Teas and ploughman lunches available in St Mary's Church.

FORD HOUSE, THE GREEN, GRUNDISBURGH IP13 6TA Nicola Hobbs and Peter Kendall. 01473 738267

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June 2-6pm, as part of the Hidden Gardens of Grundisburgh, Burgh & Culpho. £5 for all 20+ varied village gardens in aid for Home Start. Lunches, teas, plants. Programmes from Grundisburgh Green. The Ford House pond was a Victorian rector's moat and vegetables are grown in 'keyhole gardens' designed for African conditions by development charity Send a Cow



Open gardens are listed county by county on the national open gardens website WWW.opengardens.co.uk which is run by volunteers. Entries are included free of charge.

DATES FOR GARDENERS' DIARIES

THE SUFFOLK PUNCH TRUST, HOLLESLEY BAY IP12 3JR Friday Feb 20th Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm Tickets £6 for Suffolk Punch Trust Heritage Garden tel 01394 411327An evening of Irises and Roses – Jim Marshall and Sarah CookA series of short 'conversations' interspersed with questions from the audience. Please bring your iris and rose questions.

FULLERS MILL GARDEN, WEST STOW, IP28 6HD Perennial – Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society www.fullersmillgarden.org.uk Wednesday, 15th July RHS Bulb Committee advise visitors on all bulbs. Thursday 16th July Plant Heritage Study Day on lilies -£15 inc lunch Sunday 19th July Suffolk Nurseries Plant Fair -10am-5pm Sunday 9th August – Garden open for NGS Saturday) and 13th Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th September Heritage Open Days 11am-5pm.

REDGRAVE AND LOPHAM FEN PLANT SALE Suffolk Wildlife Trust, South Lopham, Near Diss, Norfolk IP22 2HX Sunday 19th April 10am-3pm Deborah Key 01379 688333. In aid of Suffolk Wildlife Trust



Fullers Mill garden

PLANTS AND COUNTRY CRAFTS IN THE GARDENS AT WYKEN Wyken Vineyards, Stanton, Bury St Edmunds IP31 2DW Sunday 26th April 10am-4pm 01359 250287. In aid of Stanton Woodlands Wildlife Action Group

NORFOLK PLANT HERITAGE PLANT FAIR Hethersett Village Hall, Back Lane, Hethersett, Norfolk NR9 3JJ Sunday 3rd May 10am-1pm. In aid of Norfolk Plant Heritage

MORE DIARY DATES

March	3	Boxford GS talk Kevin Hughes 'Shade Plants'
	7	EAGG talk Alys Fowler 'How to have your garden and eat it'
	22	Chippenham Park Spring Opening
	28/29	Alan Shipp National Collection Hyacinth Open Days
April	18	Essex Plant Heritage Plant Fair Hyde Hall
		24/25 Plant Finders Fair Kew
May	3	Woottens Spring Plant Fair
	4	Quay Theatre Sudbury Plant Fair
	16	Hadleigh Show
	27/28	Suffolk Show
	30/31	Bures Open Gardens
June	6	Hadleigh Hidden Gardens
	7	Boxford Gardens
	13	East Ruston Plant Fair
	14	Bury Hidden Gardens
	28	Chelsworth Open Gardens

If you have a garden/horticultural event which you would like to put on the Suffolk Plant Heritage website please email chen22@btinternet.com

Sarah Quartermain, chief executive of Plant Heritage, recently wrote to our chairman Jim Marshall in response to the Suffolk Group's donation £10,000.

Many thanks indeed for the extremely generous donation from the Suffolk Group fundraising efforts.... group donations like these are an essential part of raising the funds for our conservation work and so we are very grateful indeed for the hard work that you will have put in to generate this donation, which is an astonishing amount once again...'

FASHION NOTE FOR GALANTHTROPHILES

Plant Heritage member and galanthophile Christine Mole wears her passion for snowdrops on hernails. Could this be the start of a trend? The snowdrop 'Nail artist' was Theresa Foddering.



SUFFOLK PLANT HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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www.suffolkplantheritage.com

