

Plant Heritage

National Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens



# SUFFOLK GROUP JOURNAL

Autumn 2017



# CONTENTS

Chairman's letter	3
Treasurer's Report	4
New Members	4
Suffolk Group events	5
Free plants and bulbs at Helmingham	9
Propagation report	10
National Plant Collections	11
Gold medals for Suffolk Collection Holders	12
Dispersed National Collections	15
Searching for George	16
Desperately Seeking Baggage	18
The Suffolk Heritage Garden	20
Plant Heritage Council report	21
Helmingham Spring Plant Fair	22
Nature's Firework Display	24
Sea Nymphs	26
The Suffolk Elm	29
Organic Matters	32
Herbology at Hogwarts	34
Remembering Marcus Harpur	36
Reviews: <i>Secret Gardens of East Anglia</i>	37
<i>The Great Dixter Cookbook</i>	38
<i>Thalictrums for Gardeners</i>	39
Dates for your diary	40
Suffolk Group Committee Members	43

*Editor: Widget Finn*

*Layout: Nicola Hobbs*

*Photo editor: Peter Kendall*

*Cover design: Sally Geeve. [www.sallygeeve.com](http://www.sallygeeve.com)*

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*Photograph by Jerry Harpur*

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

MAGGIE THORPE

Your continuing support for all we do in our Suffolk Group is so important and recognized as exceptional by our National Office. Apart from the money we raise, the help we give our Collection Holders and the plants we raise at our Propagation Days are vital elements in running a successful Group. This all culminates in our organization of the Plant Fairs at Helmingham, the spring 2017 fair having the largest gate entry ever. Well done to all you marvelous helpers. It was an outstanding day, wonderful weather, fantastic plants and happy children who entered the competition and took away seeds to grow and bring back in September.

I am very excited about our group progressing towards a 'Dispersed' Collection of the very elegant Engleheart narcissus. Look out for some of these bulbs which in the future will be available to members at our Stowupland meetings. The word 'Dispersed' simply means that several members will be growing and caring for these bulbs in different places as opposed to all cultivars being held in the same garden.

I want to say a big thank you to Jane Crowe who invited us to her beautiful garden for our Summer Social Evening. We were blessed with wonderful weather and had a superb supper provided by committee members, a very special event.

Congratulations to Mickfield Hostas who won a gold medal at Hampton Court in July, and also to Jim Marshall who was awarded a gold medal for his elegant Malmaison and perpetual carnations and the 'Best in Show' award in the Plant Heritage Marquee.

Please let me know if you have any ideas for speakers for talks in 2019 or can recommend someone you have heard. We have a new Speakers Secretary, Sarah Clark, who is already working on some ideas. A big thank you to Anthony Pigott for our new very much improved website: [www.suffolkplantheritage.com](http://www.suffolkplantheritage.com). Keep looking at it for up-to-date information about our group's activities.

On Sunday 19 November this year's AGM and lunch will again be held at Moat Farm Barn, Otley IP6 9PE by kind invitation of Mrs Benedicta Chamberlain. As usual we ask you to bring a pudding to add to the wonderful lunch provided. Please let me know if you intend to come as I need to know numbers for catering.

I look forward to meeting you all again at Stowupland in September.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

*JUSTINE CORNEY*

The Spring 2017 Plant Sale at Helmingham Hall was very successful with over 3,200 people coming through the gates. The weather was kind and although there were issues with the speed at which visitors could get on site and having to queue, everyone declared it was a great success.

The remedy for these issues are being discussed with the Helmingham staff. Thanks to the hard work of Sarah Cook, the number and quality of the stalls was outstanding with the craft section expanding still more. The overall income for the day was £28,563 for the gate, catering commissions and stall rents. Our 25% share amounted to £7,140, and together with plant stall income less our expenses we made £7,220 on the day.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome nine new members who have joined Suffolk Plant Heritage since January 2017.

Mrs Emily Cartlidge, Assington

Ms Julie Castell, Hemingstone

Mrs Lucy Dalziel, Sudbury

Mr Malcolm Dick, Bredfield

Mrs Sarah Green, Farnham

Dr Harriot Holt, Pebmarsh

Mrs Catherine Howard, Framlingham

Mr Peter Hutchcroft, Beccles

Mr Phillip Vaughan-Williams, Westhorpe

The committee and other members look forward to meeting you at the Stowupland talks and other events. Please introduce yourself when you sign in at the membership table.

# SUFFOLK GROUP EVENTS 2017/18

## SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday 17th                      **PLANT HERITAGE AUTUMN PLANT FAIR**  
10-4pm, Helmingham Hall IP14 6EF. Entrance £7

Saturday 30th                      **Talk: Greece from Forest to Phrygana.**  
**A personal experience of a diverse landscape**  
**and its flora.\***  
Speaker: Graham Kendall  
2.30 Stowupland Village Hall, IP14 4BQ

*About the speaker: Graham studied at the Savill Gardens, Windsor and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh then became head gardener at three National Trust properties before starting his own business. A year studying in Greece kindled his love for its native flora. Graham has been leading plant tours to various parts of Greece for 10 years.*

## OCTOBER

Saturday 28th                      **Talk: Trees for Autumn\***  
Speaker Graeme Proctor  
2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

*About the speaker: Graeme attended Hadlow, Merrist Wood and Capel Manor Colleges. He then started a successful landscaping company which he ran until 1993 when, with his wife and sister-in-law, he took over what is now Crown Nursery in Ufford. He is a BBC Radio Suffolk Gardening guru and writes a regular gardening column in the East Anglian Daily Times.*

## NOVEMBER

Sunday 19th                      **AGM and Lunch**  
Moat Barn, Otley, IP6 9PE by kind invitation of  
Mrs. Benedicta Chamberlain  
12 for 12.30.

*To help with the catering please let us know in advance that you're coming and bring a pudding! Contact Maggie Thorpe 01787 211 346, maggiethorpe37@gmail.com*

## JANUARY 2018

Saturday 27th

Talk: **Pond Owner's Calendar\***

Speaker: Linda Smith, Waterside Nursery.  
2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

*About the speaker: Linda Smith started Waterside Nursery 21 years ago. The Nursery is the winner of six Chelsea Gold Medals and is the only recipient of a Chelsea Gold for Aquatic plants in the Chelsea Pavilion during the last 20 years. The exhibit showcases their plant range of water lilies and pond plants and also the small fibreglass container ponds with miniature plantings that allows water to be introduced to the very smallest of garden spaces.*

## FEBRUARY

Saturday 24th

Talk: **Kirstenbosch and the Cape Floristic Region.\***

Speaker: Philyp Styner  
2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

*About the speaker: In 1999, Philyp took up a placement within the Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden in Cape Town, on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain which grows and maintains collections of indigenous South African flora gardens. Trained at Askham Bryan College, York, Philyp has gardened widely throughout the UK and was Head Gardener at Cottesbrooke Hall in Northamptonshire for 9 years. He regularly appeared on BBC Radio Northampton's gardeners' question time.*

## MARCH

Saturday 24th

Talk: **Hepaticas: The Ashwood Story\***

Speaker: Sam Hopes  
2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

*About the speaker: Sam initially trained as a Field Geologist, but became more distracted by the plants than the rocks that dwelled beneath them! She re-trained at Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses, and went on to work at the RHS Garden Wisley for a year with their Rock and Alpine team, with additional training at Kew and Great Dixter. Since then she has spent the last four years as part of the team at Ashwood Nurseries, growing hepaticas and roscoeas in particular.*

## **APRIL**

Saturday 28th

**Talk: 28 to 360 acres; the delights and possibilities of RHS Garden Hyde Hall\***  
Speaker Robert Brett  
2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

*Through their 10 year Strategic Investment Plan, the RHS are making a very conscious shift to invest back in the organisation and this investment includes some major garden developments at RHS Garden Hyde Hall; a new Winter Garden; large scale Perennial Meadow and a new Global Growth Vegetable Garden. This talk centres itself two years into this Strategic Investment, and explores these new developments and other ideas as seen through the eyes of its new Curator, Robert Brett. Robert has had a distinguished career in horticulture including working at Cambridge's Botanic Garden and the Eden Project and began his training at Kew.*

## **MAY**

Sunday 27

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

## **SEPTEMBER**

Saturday 15th

**Talk: A Passion for Climbers**  
Speakers: Jane Lindsay and Toni O'Connor.  
2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

*About the speakers: Tynings Climbers are a nursery specialising in hardy and tender climbers run by Jane Lindsay and Toni O'Connor. They are proud National Collection holders of Passiflora, Jasminum, Thunbergia and Mandevillas with many other unusual climbers. They are regular RHS flower show exhibitors and gold medal winners. Most of the plants grown on the nursery are propagated and grown from cuttings.*

Sunday 16

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

## OCTOBER

Saturday 28th

Talk: **Mr Bowles and his Garden\***

Speakers: James Hall and Helena Dove

2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

*About the speakers: James Hall started his gardening career at RHS Harlow Carr in North Yorkshire and went on to complete a three year apprenticeship in botanical horticulture at Kew. He has been head gardener at Myddelton House Gardens since May 2015. Helena Dove started out in horticulture working at Langthorns Plantery in Essex studying at Writtle College. From here she gained a place on the Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme (HBGBS). Though most of this apprenticeship was spent at Myddelton House Gardens, she also worked at Great Dixter, Chelsea Physic and Audley End as part of the scheme. Her main passion is kitchen gardening, and Helena has been Senior Kitchen Gardener at Myddelton House Gardens since September 2016.*

\* Talks free to members, £5 to non members

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# FREE PLANTS AND BULBS AT PLANT HERITAGE PLANT FAIRS

Traditionally Plant Heritage gives away 800 specially selected plants or bags of unusual bulbs at our Helmingham plant fairs in the spring and autumn. They are carefully chosen as being unusual or not widely grown, in keeping with our mission as a national charity to conserve the diversity of cultivated plants across the UK and Ireland.

The bulbs given away at the autumn sale were *Muscari latifolium* and were supplied by Matt Long of Riverside Bulbs.

This muscari likes good drainage and a sunny position. It is a very distinctive flower, being two-toned. The bottom two thirds of the flower are very dark blue, appearing almost black in some lights and the top is a tuft of bright blue. The leaf is broader and flatter than most muscari, and they tend to wrap themselves round the stem. The flower is bigger and taller than usual and is suitable for planting in drifts with other spring bulbs or in pots.

If you have had our free plants or bulbs from Helmingham in the past we would love to hear from you. Please let us know whether you found them successful or challenging, and also whether you were able to increase and multiply them so we can have an item in the spring Journal on 'Where are they now?'



Photo courtesy  
Richard Hobbs

# PROPAGATION REPORT

ANNE TWEDDLE

Our little group seems to be going from strength to strength. More plants and better plants are being produced. We have mastered the art of producing nice bushy salvias, which are always very popular.

Linda, a member of the group, is trying some rose propagation, the details of which she found on YouTube. The experiment has yet to be completed, but she hopes for an easy way to produce roses on their own roots.

We will be twin-scaling again in July. *Narcissus* and *galanthus* will be for sale to members. In addition we will also be working on the Engleheart *narcissus* as most of the cultivars we have found need bulking up.

A newish member of the group, Nick, was delighted to find the cuttings he had taken had produced roots and were ready for the next stage of development.

Lorna came with clematis seed from the collection holder and we ran a small test on two different methods of germination, zip lock bag with vermiculite or compost in a pot. The jury is still out on that one.

Anthony Pigott who has the *Dryopteris* collection is helping us again in August with collecting spores from ferns. It will take a couple of years for the resulting ferns to be large enough for sale, and we should have some interesting cultivars.

In the spring our group plant stall raised just over £1,000. We haven't done that for a while. Almost all the plants sold both there and at our talks are raised by members of the propagation group.

If you would like to come along and join in the ever varied types of propagation we do, please let me or Maggie Thorpe know, and we will be delighted to see you and give you details.

## PLANT HERITAGE NEWS

For an update on what's happening at National Office  
visit the current issue of News lines on the website  
[www.plantheritage.com](http://www.plantheritage.com)

To find out more about Suffolk Group activities  
visit [www.suffolkplantheritage.com](http://www.suffolkplantheritage.com)

# NATIONAL PLANT COLLECTIONS

*DOROTHY CARTWRIGHT*

Collection Holders had an interesting day in February being trained to use the Plant Heritage Persephone Plant Record Database. Penny Ross and her husband came to do the training and Jim Marshall and Sarah Cook kindly invited them to stay at their home the night before. Suffolk College in Ipswich generously gave us free use of a room and computers for the training and arranged our lunches. So the day went very well.

Several Collection Holders had stands at the Helmingham Spring Plant Fair so visitors were able to buy plants from the *Campanula*, *Dianthus*, *Hosta*, *Iris*, *Muehlenbeckia* and Suffolk Garden Plants collections. There was a display of blooms from the *Aesculus* collection and a few *Equisetum* plants were for sale in the Plant Heritage tent.

Collection Holders have worked hard to show people their collections. They have held open days, given talks and provided plants for shows – for example, *Muehlenbeckia* plants for the Hampton Court Palace Garden Show.



Jim Marshall receiving his prize at Hampton Court presented by Sir Nicholas Bacon, president of the RHS.

The applications for full National Collection Status are still in progress with the holders of the *Santolina*, *Dryopteris* and *Narcissus* (Rev. Engleheart). All of these collections are looking very good, so we hope to hear good news very soon.

Our congratulations to Suffolk Plant Heritage Group member Jim Marshall, holder of the National Collection of Dianthus (Malmaison) and also Perpetual Flowering Carnations (pre1970) who won a Gold Medal and also Best in Show in the Plant Heritage Marquee at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show in July.

Congratulations also to Mickfield Hostas who've been awarded gold medals this summer at Harrogate Spring Flower Show (Premier Gold), Malvern Spring Flower Show (Gold), Suffolk Show (Gold), Gardeners' World Live (Gold), Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (Gold), Tatton Park Flower Show (Gold).

## SUFFOLK'S NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

AESCULUS	Framlingham	Robert Grimsey, 01728 685203
CAMPANULA	Bury St. Edmunds	Sue Wooster, 07879 644958
DIANTHUS (Malmaison)	Ipswich	Jim Marshall, 01473 822400
DIANTHUS (Perpetual Flowering Carnations registered in the UK before 1970)	Ipswich	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
HOSTA	Stowmarket	Mickfield Hostas, 01449 711576
IRIS (Sir Cedric Morris introductions)	Ipswich	Sarah Cook, 01473 822400
MUEHLENBECKIA	Burgate	Jan Michalak, 01359 783452
SYRINGA	Stowmarket	Norman's Farm, lilacprez@hotmail.com
SUFFOLK GARDEN PLANTS (C 20th Hardy)	The Suffolk Punch Trust, Hollesley	Margaret Wyllie 01394 411327

# MICKFIELD HOSTAS HAMPTON COURT GOLD

Mickfield Hostas were awarded a Gold Medal at the 2017 Hampton Court Palace Flower Show for their Lindley display of the genus *Hosta*.

The display celebrated their 10th anniversary of Plant Heritage National Collection status by featuring a selection of key species and cultivars, which have been important to the development and popularisation of the genus.



Alongside a carefully selected array of plants from their National Collection, they shared their top tips for getting the best out of *Hosta*, including how to protect them against pest damage.

A short video of the display is available to view on the Mickfield Hostas YouTube channel;

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9yerli7Cb7V3gxVBNbTZ0w>

# SHARING A MEDAL

JAN MICHALAK

I have become a familiar sight, I'm told, at plant fairs over the last few years, offering, among other things a selection of New Zealand plants. When I was made aware of the Australasian Plant Society, it made sense to take the opportunity to correspond with like-minded enthusiasts, so I joined them a couple of years ago. For anyone interested in the huge variety of Antipodean plants, the APS is an excellent source of information, advice and seed, has an entertaining journal and e-bulletin, and a truly international membership.

The Society also has a special relationship with the RHS and Plant Heritage, not least because within its numerous plant collections - there are no less than nine National Collections: *Araliaceae*, *Corokia*, *Correa*, *Eucalyptus*, *Hebe (stricta, traversii & cvs)*, *Muehlenbeckia*, *Myrtaceae (with Lophomyrtus)*, *Podocarpus* and *S E Australian Banksia*

Despite a decline in membership of the 20-year old society, in the last couple of years renewed interest has reversed the trend, and it was felt that the time had come to attempt a stand at Hampton Court, under the aegis of Plant Heritage, and exhibiting plants from the National Collections. After a lot of planning and work from various members, the



stand came together for the show, and we were awarded a silver medal, to our great delight.

Given the curious plant forms emanating from Australasia, the oddities from my *Muehlenbeckia* collection fitted in perfectly, and six specimens were inserted into the exhibit, along with a comprehensive care and advice sheet, and an informative postcard. I delivered the plants to Tom Hart-Dyke of Lullingstone Castle in Kent, and he was so enthusiastic about them that they are now planted in the Australasian section of his World Garden.

*Muehlenbeckia* as a genus contains some strange types, but there are also attractive and useful forms that generate a lot of interest on my plant stalls, and have found their way into many gardens during the last year.

If you're interested, here is a link for the Australasian Plant Society:  
<http://www.anzplantsoc.org.uk>

*In the Spring 2017 edition of Suffolk Group Journal Mavis Smith wrote about the previously unidentified chrysanthemum which she had discovered in her garden. In the article she mentioned Judy Barker who held a National Collection of Chrysanthemums. Judy, along with two others, now holds a Dispersed Collection of Chrysanthemums and here she explains what a Dispersed Collection is.*

## **DISPERSED NATIONAL COLLECTIONS**

*JUDY BARKER*

**T**he National Collection of Hardy Chrysanthemums has been dispersed and I now share accreditation with two others with comparable collections. No one person can do everything. I'd had contact with Andrew Ward of Norwell Nursery and Rosemary Mitchell Trustee of Hill Close for many years so, in order to conserve and make all chrysanthemums more available, I approached National Office.

In due course full National Collection status was awarded to both Andrew and Hill Close with me as lead with the paperwork and database entries.

With all National Collections we own, fund, and maintain the living plants by the person or organisation named in the Directory. Therefore I own my collection, Andrew owns his and the same with Hill Close. There are three sites for the Collection, namely allotments, a nursery, and public gardens in three counties - Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire. The plants can be viewed in three places and purchased in two sites. The living plants are now in a much stronger position, I have partners to share plants with and we can back up each other in case of problems – a win-win situation all round.

I also do a lot of research as well as two to three days physical hard work on the allotments a week even in January. I estimate my collections costs me around £1,000 a year to run with allotment fees, mulch, feed, and compost plus computer and website costs. I cannot run a nursery as it is against the allotment rules.

Please do encourage other collections to consider dispersing as we are primarily about conserving healthy living collections for the future. Heritage plants as a living genetic library properly researched are a resource for the future just as valuable as, say, rare old cattle breeds. Will they be allowed to become as dead as a dodo pinned to a herbarium sheet? It's our choice how we develop these collections and Plant Heritage National Office can support, encourage and promote.

[www.gardenchrysanthemums.prg.uk](http://www.gardenchrysanthemums.prg.uk) (this needs rebuilding as the links are poor another cost)

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

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

## SEARCHING FOR GEORGE

*MAGGIE THORPE*

**I**n April 2017 three members of the newly formed Dispersed Collection Holders Group, Anne Tweddle, Mavis Smith and I, set off for Worcestershire in search of some long lost narcissi bred by the Rev. George Engleheart during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Why Worcestershire? There is a 4,500 acre estate there, Spetchley Park, which has belonged to the Berkeley family for over 400 years.



The famous horticulturist Ellen Willmott was a friend of George Engleheart. She only came to live at Spetchley with her sister Rose Berkeley because she had spent all her fortune making the garden, Warley Place in Essex, and when she became bankrupt her sister took her in.

During the 19thC together they set about making a formal garden near the house, and planted thousands of Engleheart Narcissus in groups around the



lake. Rose was quite commercial and grew them in the vegetable garden to cut and sell in bunches at markets. A lot of these were the ones we are looking to add to our Collection, but verifying the different groups after 100 years turned out to be very difficult.

However, in the formal garden, two groups were identified, 'Will Scarlet' and 'Great Warley', and the Head Gardener, Mike Beak, presented us with a pot of 'Great Warley' and has promised 'Will Scarlet'. We of course will be able to let Mike have a few of those we already have here in our Collection.

We had a walk round the lake on a most beautiful morning and then

Mike took us to the formal garden where lottery money has helped to restore the fabulous greenhouses and an archway covered in *Cercis* 'Forest Pansy'

There was a raised alpine bed full of treasures and a collection of fabulous paeonies. A quick glimpse in the bothy showed us buckets full of lead plant labels found around the garden but we did not have the time to search for Engleheart narcissus names.

The original Tudor house was burnt down in 1641 and later rebuilt, and the garden was laid out in the grand style. In World War Two it became a recuperation home for the 9th USAAF and the garden became rather neglected. However, a trust has been formed and under Mike Beak's leadership, it is steadily coming back to life.

Even without the exciting narcissus quest, this is a garden not to be missed.

For information about opening times visit [www.spetchleygardens.co.uk](http://www.spetchleygardens.co.uk)

# DESPERATELY SEEKING BAGGAGE

## THE HUNT FOR CEDRIC MORRIS'S CAT

SARAH COOK

*who holds the National Collection of Cedric Morris Irises*

**S**ir Cedric Morris named many of his irises for friends, and finding out about who they were and what they did has been one of the most interesting part of making my Collection. However it is the ones he named for his pets that have I have searched for most diligently.

Baggage and Menace, a pair of his cats, were both immortalised in irises. I have had 'Benton Menace' in my collection for 10 years, so have always wanted to reunite them. A list of irises growing at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens (Dublin) lists 'Baggage' but it was no longer there.

In 2015, when I put up an exhibit of irises at RHS Chelsea Flower Show several papers covered the story and all mentioned irises on my 'most wanted list', including 'Baggage' and saying it was last seen in Ireland.

Shortly after the show I received a phone call, obviously from Ireland, and when the caller said she had worked at Glasnevin in the 1990's I held my breath. 'Yes' she said, she had split *Iris* 'Benton Baggage' and passed some excess to a friend who worked at Altamont Gardens ((now in public ownership).

The friend confirmed that it was still growing there and several emails later permission was given for me to be sent some, and more to be returned to Glasnevin.

Last year the precious rhizomes did not flower, but this year they sent up flower spikes, which seemed to take ages to come out!

The iris is described in iris



nursery catalogues from the 1950s as: ‘A very large and lovely flower; standards old rose; falls old rose with faint blue suffusion’. It soon became clear that the flowers were going to be very pale, white or cream. They came out white, a big disappointment!

Then I noticed there were two more flower spikes coming up a bit later. As they developed I began to hope they could be the real thing, the bud shape was different, they certainly weren’t the same as the first flower spikes.

When the bud began to show colour I knew there was a chance, and when they were finally in bloom all was fine, the flower matches the description. I am confident ‘Baggage’ and ‘Menace’ have been reunited.

What next? I am now still seeking another of Morris’ pets – ‘Benton Rubeo’, named for his Macaw, which was given to him by Stella Gwynne, the mother of Elizabeth David.



## To advertise in Suffolk Plant Heritage Journal ...

Contact Heather Medcraft, [gingeandh@hotmail.com](mailto:gingeandh@hotmail.com)  
or 01359 270721.

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## THE SUFFOLK HERITAGE GARDEN

*MARGARET WYLLIE*

The Suffolk Heritage Garden which is part of the Suffolk Punch Trust, became a National Collection last year. Most of the cultivars have been in place for four years this summer and are becoming nicely established. Our drought conditions are not helpful to some of them from High Suffolk, though Cedric Morris's irises revel in it!

As the Suffolk Punch Trust has a visitors' centre, the garden is under scrutiny from early spring until the end of October and the majority of the people who pop in for a look round are not gardeners. We have recently had A5 information boards printed with facts about some of the cultivars and their breeders and these seem to be popular with the punters.

The volunteers labour to keep it looking attractive and above all, 'tidy' which seems to be the public's main criterion. I have found this a hard road to follow. Someone once described it on Trip Advisor as 'a patch of mud' and if I ever again hear the comment 'You've a lot of work here' I shall scream!

These episodes are more than compensated for when people come and take a real interest in what we are doing and, better still, tell me of an aunt who has a plant we've been searching for, thriving in her garden.

For information and opening times [www.suffolkpunchtrust.org](http://www.suffolkpunchtrust.org)

# PLANT HERITAGE COUNCIL REPORT

ANNE TWEDDLE Council representative

Significant changes are underway. Council, which has had the responsibility of scrutinising the activities and actions of the Board is to be replaced. The proposed new structures are called panels, and there will be three of them.

The panels are expected to be in place in September, and it will take a little time to see how the new system works out.

A fuller report on the new system will be in the next issue of the Journal. Suffolk Group has been instrumental in the suggesting the idea of panels and expect to play a role in the implementation of them. Needless to say we consider this system better, more open and give members greater involvement in running the organisation!



**Fullers Mill Garden**  
at West Stow

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1st April to end of September  
2pm to 5pm

WEST STOW IP28 6HD  
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email: [office@fullersmillgarden.org.uk](mailto:office@fullersmillgarden.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).

**PERENNIAL**  
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# SPRING PLANT FAIR AT HELMINGHAM





*Graeme Proctor runs Crown Nursery in Ufford and will be talking to Suffolk Plant Heritage on Saturday October 28th about trees for autumn.*

## NATURE'S FIREWORK DISPLAY

*GRAEME PROCTOR*

While we humans brighten up the autumn skies with fireworks, Mother Nature gives us her own display – more beautiful, longer lasting and a great deal quieter than man's variety! Some of my all-time favourite trees for autumn colours are:-

### **Acer saccharum** - *Sugar Maple*

Although this tree is fairly common in North America it is fairly unusual here in Britain. Its sap contains a large proportion of sugar and is one of the major sources of maple syrup. This tree is really sensational during autumn when clothed in orange-red, scarlet and crimson colours. It has winged seeds that feed the wildlife and birds too.

### **Amelanchier canadensis** - *Service Berry*

I often recommend this tree, as it really is one for all seasons. Producing masses of white, star shaped flowers in spring, vivid green leaves throughout the summer, and then it really comes into its own, with spectacular flame coloured leaves and claret red berries in autumn.

### **Cercidiphyllum japonicum** - *Candyfloss Tree*

An unusual but easy to grow tree that has beautiful heart shaped leaves which turn fantastic shades of yellow, purple and red at this time of year. As the leaves fall they give off an aroma similar to burnt sugar or candyfloss, hence its common name.

### **Koelreuteria paniculata** - *Golden Rain Tree*

This delicate tree gets its common name from the large panicles of



**Quercus rubra**



yellow and orange flowers and fruits that cover it in summer. Its leaves unfurl with a slight pinkish tinge in spring gradually turn into blazing oranges and yellows in the autumn.

**Parrotia persica** - *Persian Ironwood*

This little beauty flowers in late winter/early spring with clusters of bright crimson stamens. It is one of the best small trees for autumn colours, even on chalk. In older trees its bark will flake like that of the London Plane tree.

**Quercus rubra** - *Red Oak*

The clue is in the common name. A fantastic, majestic tree whose green leaves give truly spectacular red/brown colours in autumn.

**Sorbus Commixta** - *Japanese Rowan*

This small, upright tree is one of the very best Mountain Ash trees for autumn colours. In spring the bees love its fluffy white flowers. It bears bright orange-red berries and the mid green pinnate leaves turn into a riot of vivid red, yellow and purple in autumn.

**Taxodium distichum** - *Swamp Cypress*

Most famously associated with the mangrove swamps of the Everglades, this is one of the very few deciduous conifers found in Britain. Its fine feathery needles produce a stunning display of red foliage before they are shed.

There really are so very many beautiful trees to choose from; hopefully the above suggestions have whetted your appetite enough to plant one for yourself. Visit your local nursery for any advice you may need on selection or planting.



Parrotia persica

# SEA NYMPHS

LIZ WELLS

I know this title sounds whimsical but the word 'nerine' is Greek and it means 'nereid' which is a sea nymph. I think it is much prettier than the original name, '*Imhofia*'. Although they have nothing to do with the sea, William Herbert who first realised that they are not actually lilies, called them this because of the story of a ship carrying boxes of them to Holland, which was wrecked in the seventeenth century. Bulbs washed ashore on Guernsey and established themselves there; or so the story goes, perhaps you have heard it, but it is probably apocryphal.

In fact nerines were grown in England in the garden of the Cromwellian, General John Lambert in the 1650s; he acquired them from a nursery in France. At the time of the Restoration he was exiled to Guernsey and it is highly likely that he took his precious nerines with him. It was originally thought that nerines come from Japan, but in fact they all originate in South Africa. However they got there, nerines established themselves on the sand dunes of Guernsey. And they are still grown there for the flower trade. The exquisite, but tender *Nerine sarniensis* (photo 1) takes its name from the Latin name for Guernsey, *Sarnia*.

The flowers of *Nerine sarniensis* are the brightest red and in a good light they look as if they have been sprinkled with gold dust. This is a winter growing nerine and the new leaves would be damaged outside so it has to be kept in the greenhouse. It has been crossed with the hardy *Nerine bowdenii* to create some beautiful hybrids which are tender too, but worth growing in the greenhouse because they are so beautiful. *Nerine sarniensis* is the first to bloom for me. After it has finished, I look forward to the superb *Nerine* 'Zeal Giant' (2). This is well named because the flowers are huge and dark pink. They have a central stripe which is delicately shaded lilac.

Another superb *Bowdenii x sarniensis* cross is the dark flowered, *Nerine* 'Mr. John' (3). It has a purple stripe on its dark pink petals. I have seen it listed as *Bowdenii*, but I think this is wrong as it is not hardy. This is another nerine which has shimmering petals which look as if they have been coated with a dash of fairy dust.

Most of the *bowdenii* hybrids are reasonably hardy but I have found that the white ones can't take much frost. I have three. The first to flower is *Nerine bowdenii* 'Ella K'. When 'Ella K' finishes, *Nerine bowdenii*

'Alba' (4) comes into bloom. I think the flowers of this one are a purer white. They can be tinged with pink though, so it is best to buy it in flower. My third white nerine is supposed to be stronger, healthier and whiter than other white ones which can suffer from virus. It is called *Nerine bowdenii* 'Blanca Perla'.

The wonderful thing about nerines is the fact that some of them start flowering at the end of September and if you have several varieties you can have them in bloom until the end of November.

One of my favourite is the exquisite *Nerine undulata* (5) with its delicate spidery, pale pink flowers. I was given it by a friend years ago and told that it is hardy. It did live outside for a few years, but when I moved I dug it up and put it into a pot where it has grown happily for eleven years now. Nerines are great for growing in a pot because they flower well when the



bulbs are overcrowded. Now I don't want to risk this beauty outside. Last year it had 39 blooms.

My last tender nerine, *Amarine* (6) is actually a cross between nerine and amaryllis. No, I don't mean the giraffe-stalked hippeastrums which are sold at Christmas as pot plants. Amaryllis can live outside in a sunny spot. I am not going to risk my beautiful *Amarine belladiva* 'Aphrodite' outside though, even in a sunny spot. It has massive flowers with a distinct stripe on them and is absolutely gorgeous.

*Nerine bowdenii* is familiar to everybody. It is hardy in a sun baked position and does not need to be kept in the greenhouse. The bulbs need to be planted with the top of their noses above ground. They prefer a sunny spot, preferably in a sandy soil. They don't like competition for space. Although they like to be baked they do need watering from July onwards to make them flower well. If happy they multiply at an astonishing rate.

'Marjorie' was introduced by Jim Marshall and named after his late wife. It was a seedling selected at Edinburgh Botanical Garden. There is a lovely dark one called 'Isabel' but I am rather keen on the sugar pink ones such as 'Stephanie' or 'Pink Surprise' which blooms at the end of September.

Whilst it is great to have hardy nerines in the garden, it is a special treat to go into the greenhouse on a dreary November day and find it full of jewels.

## **SPRING FLOWERING SHRUBS DAY**

Thursday 26 April 2018 at Fullers Mill Garden,  
West Stow, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6HD

10am to 4pm

*£17.50 per person to include tea/coffee, lunch & homemade cake*

Enjoy a relaxing day learning about the variety of beautiful spring flowering shrubs in this wonderful 7 acre garden, established over 60 years by Bernard Tickner

Simon McWilliams from Hedgehog Nurseries will talk about his love for viburnums and other shrubs

For bookings please ring Fullers Mill Garden on 01284 728888 or email [adellbridge@perennial.org.uk](mailto:adellbridge@perennial.org.uk) by 5th April

# THE SUFFOLK ELM

DARREN ANDREWS

As I walk the countryside, I am regularly confronted by sizeable stands of elm; not often a stately, lone tree; but groups of trunks not much thicker than a well-fed thigh. They are usually clustered in the hedgerows and field margins, almost always showing some sign of Dutch Elm Disease (the appropriately abbreviated DED) with a nearby, bone-white skeleton of one of their brethren, standing a few feet taller.

DED is caused by a fungus which blocks the phloem of the tree, causing dieback of the boughs, and then the trunk of the affected elm. The fungus is carried on the body of the elm bark beetle. It was identified in the Netherlands in the 1920's, hence the name. It has nothing to do with the origin or indeed the confusingly named Dutch Elm-*Ulmus hollandicus*. The beetle flies in warm weather and prefers a windless day. I have heard it said that it also flies at a certain height, so that all trees under 20 feet are safe, while those that reach 30 feet are directly in their flight path; possibly proven by the fact that well trimmed, but mature specimens in hedges have survived in large numbers.

Occasionally, one is confronted by a truly majestic, mature elm. And in Suffolk they are likely to be forms of *Ulmus minor* – the small-leaved elm. Most books talk of about six species in this country, though within species, there is fantastic variability.

In the 1950s and 60s R.H.Richens made a survey of village Elms in East Anglia and came to the conclusion that he was able to show such distinction between the groups that he could discern specimens from groups of settlements, and sometimes forms from single villages. If the leaves and bark are looked at, even on the suckers from a mature specimen, large variation can be seen. It is this variability which has given us these survivors.

Elm was traditionally seen as an excellent hedgerow tree since the shade was not detrimental to grass growth beneath it and the timber was excellent for Windsor chair seats, due to the interlocking grain. Because of its resistance to rot it was used in the creation of water pipes (Roman examples, where still wet, remain to this day). Also, as anyone who has seen the elegant silhouette of the English elm (*U.procera*) can attest, they make superb specimen trees. As such, in the 18th and 19th centuries, the best suckers from the best looking elms were collected and sold by

nurserymen. This may well have been one of the downfalls of the elm, since the genetically identical trees were planted in great profusion, awaiting the onslaught of a new disease. It is not surprising that *U. procera* was the hardest hit of all the elms in the UK.

East Anglia, Suffolk in particular, has the warm dry climate more closely associated with the natural range of the European elms and the non-native small leaved Elm abounds here. Elm needs the warmth of a continental spring to produce fertile fruits (samara), and even then this may only occur every third year. Thus the production of seed-borne trees produced the wide genetic base that leaves us with a legacy of mature elms, resistant (to some degree) to DED not found in other counties.

DED waxes and wanes, the fungus itself suffers from virus and the battle between elm and DED is ongoing. The reason we see the stands of elm in the hedgerow is due to the fact that like its' close relative the nettle (the leaves on suckered elm can give you a slight sting) elm retains a large underground root system which can send out new growth. In the 1980s there was excitement as the new growth appeared from the supposed dead trees but by the 90s the disease was back, presumably due to the higher density of elm trees and the beetles liking for the 30 foot, 10 year old specimens.



There have been several waves of elm disease, being mentioned in the works of Elizabethan, Georgian and Victorian botanists as well as the visual evidence of large numbers of elm skeletons seen in the Italian renaissance paintings of the 1450s. So it is likely that even so-called resistant forms may succumb if a new strain of the fungus is formed. Around 3000 years ago,

Dedham Vale, by John Constable. Elms feature in many of Constable's Suffolk paintings.

and again 6000 years ago, elm pollen seems to disappear from the preserved pollen record of the peat bogs. It is thought that disease wiped out large swathes of the world elm population at these times.

Elm conservation has been around since the 1920s when the first wave of DED took a huge percentage of the world's elm trees. Breeding programs between Asian species (where DED is thought to have originated and thus resistance should be more prevalent in those species) and European species has been the commonest approach, and indeed several 'resistant' forms are advertised for sale. Butterfly Conservation (Suffolk Branch) has reported that several resistant elms of the 'Ademuz' strain has been planted to encourage the White Letter Hairstreak butterfly, on which tree the caterpillars feed. Strangely, White Elm *U.laevis*, seems to be free of DED. A study into the sterols of the bark suggests that the beetle does not attack the tree rather than the tree being immune to the fungus.

I took a look at the Woodland Trust website, since they have a website dedicated to the mapping of veteran and ancient trees. It was remarkable how many old elms were to be seen in the Suffolk countryside, with 105 being listed. Essex had 55, Norfolk just 13 with most other counties having numbers in the low 20's.

Brighton has the largest number of elms (about 15,000) due to the quick thinking, and radical way they dealt with the DED outbreak in the 1960s. The local authority cut down a swathe of elm around Brighton to a distance of about 10 miles, as it was felt that the beetle would not cover such a distance. The trees are treated with a fungicide and any affected trees are quickly removed and burnt. The result is a view of some of the best specimens of elm in the country, huge figure-eight English elms grace their parks, roads and open spaces.

Considering that in the last DED outbreak over 25 million mature UK trees were lost, and France reported that 90% had died, we are very lucky in Suffolk to have a resident, untreated population of elm. Visit the Woodland Trust 'ancient tree hunt' site, and locate a nearby tree. These are survivors, quietly and beautifully going about their business awaiting a passer-by to stop and admire their verdant majesty.....and their incredible good luck.

[www.butterfly-trust.org](http://www.butterfly-trust.org)

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

# ORGANIC MATTERS

*NEIL BRADFIELD*

Some members of Suffolk Plant Heritage may know that my wife, Christina, has two miniature donkeys. She has kept a variety of donkeys for over twenty years, which she and I show. But really, they are very special pets. The current two are half-brothers, both five years old, with 'aah' factor by the bucketful.

Donkeys are the equine equivalent of goats; designed by evolution to live on low nutrition food. In the wild they live in semi-arid areas, mountains and scrubland. Show them a field full of lush English grass and you might as well phone the vet straight away! To keep them in show condition, they have a carefully monitored diet of hay, small bucket feeds, mineral supplements and occasional limited access to short grass.

To consider them from another angle, they could be described as 'self-propelled, organic matter processing units', or alternatively, 'mobile muck machines'. They may be miniature donkeys but there is nothing miniature about the volume of mucking out that gets done! I have double-dug all the borders in my garden, adding tons of rotted muck. I also incorporate it in the topsoil and mulch with it in places, and my plants are thriving on it. But ultimately, there are limits to how much I can use.

Earlier in the year I attended a Professional Development Day at RHS Wisley. Such events are a useful refresher for a professional gardener and in this case emphasised the vital importance of organic matter. Soils low in





organic matter show a corresponding reduction in micro-organisms, and are often described as 'tired' and 'lifeless' irrespective of their actual fertility. Although such a soil could hold sufficient nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, with a low number of micro-organisms to process these and the micro nutrients and make them available to plant roots, they are of little nutritional value. There is a complex interaction between micro-organisms and plant roots, which benefits both sides. When we add blood, fish and bone (for example) to the soil, it is not instantly available to roots. Micro-organisms need to break it down over several weeks, if not months, to a form which roots can access. Conversely, sugars stored in plant roots are secreted into the soil to encourage and nourish the micro-organisms, to do their work of making nutrients available. Temperature and soil moisture levels also play a part in boosting or retarding micro-organism numbers and activity. If the ground is too hot and dry, or waterlogged, then everything slows down.

So, if micro-organisms are the key co-ordinators in the soil, it is organic matter that is the bit of magic that makes it all happen. It is a fundamental principal of the organic movement that one should 'feed the soil and not the plant' and to ensure the soil is 'in good heart'. The greater the amount of organic matter in the soil, the higher the numbers of micro-organisms and the more interactive processes can occur. Micro-organisms and organic matter also form the base of the food chain, supporting vast numbers of soil invertebrates, which go on to feed our garden birds, small mammals, hedgehogs etc.

Quite apart from all the above, organic matter also helps to break up clay soils, increasing the air pores in the soil and helping it to drain better. In light or sandy soils, it improves water retention and gives the soil more 'body'.

Organic matter (be it spent mushroom compost, garden compost, rotted manure or leaf mould) should ideally be added every year. Double digging is not necessary; it can be forked into the topsoil between plants or applied as a mulch. The important thing is to get organic matter into the soil, not just once, but repeatedly over the years. The breakdown of organic matter and increase in micro-organisms is a gradual process, but in time, your soil will benefit tremendously and your plants flourish.

To return to the donkeys: I have surplus rotted muck available, free of charge to Suffolk Plant Heritage members, although a donation to PH funds and the Ethiopian Donkey Library would be appreciated. The muck will sometimes contain a small amount of wood shavings but this will make no difference to its use. Collect only, but I have old compost bags to use. If interested, please ring me on 01787 211816.

# HERBOLOGY AT HOGWARTS

MAGGIE THORPE

(WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO GWEN BRUNO)

In her Harry Potter books, J.K. Rowling covers many fanciful plants, Devil's snare, snargaluff and puffapod being just a few. However, many of the plants mentioned have a long history and can even be found in modern-day gardens.

## **Wolfsbane** (*Aconitum napellus*)

Nothing can prevent a person from turning into a werewolf if he has been bitten by one, but wolfsbane potion can be used as a guard against its worst effects.

## **Aconitum**

has been in cultivation for centuries and gets its common name (and its reputation as a guard against werewolves from its mediaeval use as a wolf poison.) All parts of the plant are highly toxic but its properties as an anesthetic made it important in medicine before morphine was invented.

## **Mandrake** (*Mandragora officinarum*)

In their second year, Hogwarts students learn how to repot mandrakes in Herbology class. This task requires earmuffs because, as Professor Sprout warns them, the cry of the mandrake is fatal. The students learn that the mandrake can be used to return victims of transfiguration or petrification to their original state.

Mandrake is a member of the nightshade family and does indeed have a long, forked root that resembles the human form. The root contains poisonous alkaloids which act as a hallucinogen and a narcotic. and in ancient times the root was used as a painkiller and sleeping aid. Roman physicians had patients chew it as an anaesthetic before surgery. Put a fork into the root when you are digging and the mandrake makes a squealing noise!

## **Belladonna** (*Atropa belladonna*)

We learn in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* that Harry carries belladonna in his potion making kit. In reality, belladonna or deadly nightshade is one of the most toxic plants found in the western hemisphere. It was used by ancient man in making poisonous arrows, and was thought to be a witches' herb, supposedly used in an ointment that gave the user the ability to fly. The name stems from the practice of Renaissance Italian

women who would use it in eyedrops to make their eyes look bigger, thus 'bella' (beautiful) 'donna' (woman).

Belladonna is the source of atropine, a drug used in modern medicine in eye operations as a method of dilating the pupil. It is also used as a cardiac drug and in treating Parkinson's disease.

### **Hellebore** (*Helleborus orientalis*)

In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Hogwarts students prepare syrup of hellebore in Professor Snape's Potions class as an ingredient in the Draught of Peace, a potion used to calm anxiety.

Today we know hellebore primarily as the Lenten Rose, the beautiful early-blooming hybrids of *Helleborus orientalis* which are valuable for bringing long-lasting colour to shady areas of the garden. The plant was traditionally used as a cure for gout, but many species are toxic.

### **Rue** (*Ruta graveolens*)

In *Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince*, Hogwarts school nurse Madam Pomfrey gives Ron essence of rue as an antidote when he drinks poisoned mead. This is in fact how the herb was used by the ancient Greeks. In mythology, rue was the only plant which could withstand the poisonous breath of the basilisk, a horrible serpent. It was regarded by mediaeval people as a protection against witches and witchcraft. Rue (*Ruta*) is a bitter herb which today is grown primarily for its grey green leaves; it also serves as a host plant for the Black Swallowtail butterfly.

### **Dittany** (*Origanum dictamnus*)

In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Hermione uses Essence of Dittany to save Ron when he is splinched (in the magic world of Harry Potter, 'splinching' is a result of incomplete apparition, a very difficult spell for which the user must be licensed).

In reality, Dittany of Crete (*Origanum dictamnus*) is an aromatic member of the mint family and has long had a reputation as a magical plant; in legend it grew at the birthplace of Zeus. It is native only to mountainsides on the island of Crete, and its rarity sent collectors on dangerous, sometimes fatal, missions. Its strong aroma comes from an essential oil which becomes volatile in high temperatures. The flower is actually flammable on a hot, still night, which probably accounts for its association with enchantment.

# MARCUS HARPUR 1965 – 2017

BARBARA SEGALL

Marcus Harpur, garden photographer and owner of Harpur Garden Images, was well-known to many Suffolk Plant Heritage members as he travelled far and wide photographing gardens and plants in East Anglia.



His pursuit of colour and light, and the perfect shot, that moment in a garden when it all comes together, took him into many of our gardens. He was always on the hunt for gardens with impact,

travelling the country photographing plants and gardens and, at times, also writing about them.

His last book, *Secret Gardens of East Anglia* (Francis Lincoln, 7 Sept, £20) with me as its author, was the culmination of many years of seasonal and dawn or dusk photography in wonderful gardens in Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. He saw the first copy in early June but died just a few weeks before its September publication.

Marcus began his career in book publishing with Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd, then following a stint of freelance editing, joined his father, a pioneering garden photographer, Jerry Harpur. They formed Harpur Garden Images in 1992. Marcus specialised in photographing gardens in the UK and his work appeared in many publications in the UK and abroad.

He was a contributing photographer to numerous books, and the main photographer on several. In 2012 *English Country House Gardens*, on which he collaborated with George Plumptre, was awarded the accolade of Inspirational Book of the Year by the Garden Media Guild.

He was a frequent contributor to magazines such as *The Garden*, *Country Living*, *Country Life*, *The English Garden*, *Modern Gardens* and *House and Garden*.

Marcus was diagnosed with inoperable colon cancer in May 2016 and his positive and life-affirming attitude to this was heard by many in the short radio interview he made for Radio 4 with Eddie Mair in October 2016 (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07z29py>).).

# SECRET GARDENS OF EAST ANGLIA, A PRIVATE TOUR OF 22 GARDENS

BY BARBARA SEGALL WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARCUS  
HARPUR

*SUE BURTON*

I have been waiting for this treasure. And now here it is in all its sumptuous glory, more delicious than I dared hope, awash with Marcus Harpur's glorious photographs, and brimming with Barbara's vivid descriptions of 22 'secret' gardens in Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex.

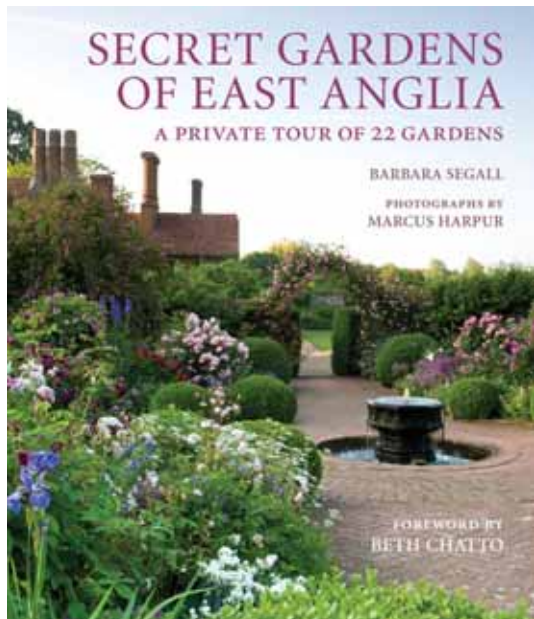
Open the book at random and find the jewel-like colours of the thousands of tulips at Ulting Wick, the roses clambering around Parsonage House, the lush green surroundings of the Winterton Lighthouse, the Desert Wash at East Ruston, the exciting sculpture collection at Barnards Farm, the mown paths and meadows of Wood Farm.

Crucially, through Barbara's skilled interviewing, we meet the owners of these gardens and are introduced to their particular passions and visions for their various landscapes, small and large, an artisan cottage in Cambridge, a stately home in Suffolk.

There are detailed descriptions of the planting, also of the ideas behind the choice of design and colour.

And if this book brings home the loss of the talented Marcus Harpur, it also serves as a joyous tribute. He and Barbara have produced a beautiful volume, one to encourage us to walk around other people's gardens for inspiration and sheer delight in the artistry and skill of their creators.

*Published: Frances Lincoln  
£20.*

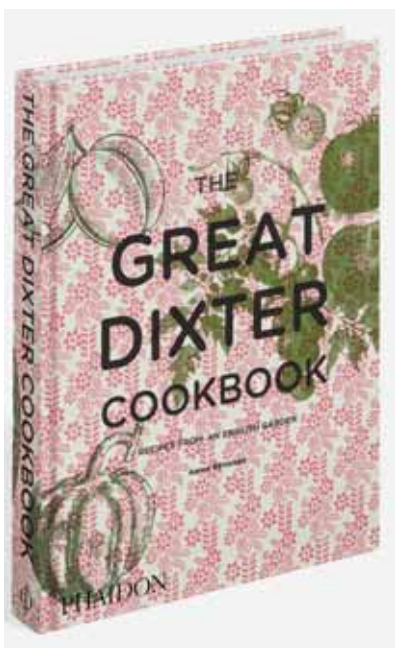


# THE GREAT DIXTER COOKBOOK

BY AARON BERTSELSEN PHOTOGRAPHY  
ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Review by Barbara Segall

Aaron Bertelsen arrived from New Zealand in 1966 and volunteered at Great Dixter. Then he studied for a Diploma in Horticulture at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and spent two years at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens before returning to Dixter in 2005. He became the vegetable gardener and cook and has been there ever since.



It is fitting that his book, *The Great Dixter Cookbook*, continues the legacy of the garden's legendary creator Christopher Lloyd, himself author of many books, including *Gardener Cook* (photography Howard Sooley) published in 1997.

Aaron Bertelsen's enjoyment of growing and using the produce of the vegetable garden is tangible and inspirational. He celebrates seasonal changes and produce in the garden and the kitchen, and offers readers simple, flavourful recipes that bring out the best in just-harvested and home-grown food.

In the first section of the book he offers his own experience of growing fruit and vegetables, with advice and tips, as well as key dates for sowing and cultivation, and information about common problems. Herbs feature in many of the recipes and his own enthusiasm for all herbs means that he finds it hard to name a favourite. Parsley is indispensable but, then, so is dill, coriander and rosemary... it is a good thing, he says, that he doesn't have to choose a favourite!

Recipes, illustrated with the delicious-looking finished dish photographs of Andrew Montgomery, are divided into breakfast, soups, mains, salads and side dishes, biscuits, cakes and desserts, followed by a selection of basic recipes for stock, bread, dressing, pesto and tomato passata.

The book concludes four seasonal diaries of garden work, harvesting, sowing and maintaining the fruit and vegetable garden.

Right at the end of the book I read that all royalties from the sale of the book are going to support the Great Dixter Charitable Trust, which is dedicated to maintaining the quality and atmosphere of Great Dixter... and among other things, ensuring that the garden remains open to inspire visitors in the future.

*Published by Phaidon 978 0 71487 400 5 £24.95*

## **THALICTRUMS FOR GARDENERS**

**BY KIM FORESTER**

*REVIEW BY DOROTHY CARTWRIGHT*

**K**im Forester has written a fascinating book about *thalictrums* based on the experience she gained when collecting them for a National Collection. She has also written about her favourite *thalictrums* and the conditions which suit them best. The book has lovely photographs and makes a very interesting read.

Kim had the National Collection of *Thalictrum* in Suffolk for several years but has now donated it to Plant Heritage and it is in being cared for by Alan Gray at the Old Vicarage at East Ruston.

The book is available in paperback from Amazon at £12.99, [www.com/thalictrum-gardeners-k-forest](http://www.com/thalictrum-gardeners-k-forest)



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sep 30/Oct 1    **Holkham Hall Plant Fair**
- Oct 3            **Agapanthus & Nerines** Steve Hickman *Boxford Garden Society*
- Oct 7            **Everything Silver** Howard Drury *East Anglian Garden Group*
- Oct 7            **‘Species Tulips @ Cambridge Botanical Gardens’**  
Simon Wallis *Alpine Garden Society*
- Oct 7/8          **Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair**
- Oct 15          **Lopham Fen Apple Day & Plant Fair** *Suffolk Wildlife Trust*
- Oct 22          **Beth Chatto Dry Garden** Asa Gregers-Warg *Essex Hardy Plant Society*
- Oct 22          **Chelsea Physic Garden** Nick Bailey *Norfolk Plant Heritage*
- Oct 25/26       **RHS Autumn Garden Show**
- Nov 2           **Trinity Park Conference** *Suffolk Agricultural Association*
- Nov 4**          **Sceptical Gardener** KenThompson *East Anglian Garden Group*
- Nov 4           **Seed Workshop** Richard Hobbs *Norfolk Plant Heritage*
- Nov 4           **Georgia** Arthur Nicholls *Alpine Garden Society*
- Nov 11          **Jan Pennings Lecture** Max Walters *Cambridge Plant Heritage*
- Nov 19          **Morocco** Tim Upson *Essex Plant Heritage*
- Dec 2           **Lavenham Xmas Fair**
- Dec 9           **The Bulb Trade** John Amand *Alpine Garden Society*

Please contact us with gardening events to add to the list for 2018. We are particularly keen to have details of open gardens.



# HEALING GARDENS

Garden designer Cleve West has been invited to the East Anglian Garden Group on Saturday 17 February. He will talk from a personal perspective on 'Healing Gardens', how gardens can enhance well-being and their therapeutic effect. Examples range from private sanctuaries to his own allotment and the much celebrated Horatio's Garden.

Cleve has won six Chelsea Gold Medals and two 'Best in Show'. His talk to EAGG takes place at Hitcham Village Hall near Stowmarket IP7 7NE, starting at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £7.50 (to EAGG members) and £12.50 (guests) including tea. A donation of £2.50 per ticket will go to the charity Horatio's Garden. Advance booking only from Matthew Long [flagpartnership@btinternet.com](mailto:flagpartnership@btinternet.com), phone 01449 741551.

# TREES IN THE SUFFOLK LANDSCAPE

Lecture by Professor Tom Williamson has been arranged by the Suffolk Preservation Society for Friday 6 October at Framlingham College. He will be dealing with issues such as what explains the range of species found in the Suffolk countryside? Is the health of our trees really declining – and if so why? And what can we learn from history about the kinds of trees we should be planting now, and the ways these should be managed, in order to ensure future resilience?

Professor Williamson heads the English Landscape Group within the School of History at the University of East Anglia. Tickets for the event cost £15 including refreshments from Linda Cockburn at the SPS Office, 01787 247179. [sps@suffolksociety.org](mailto:sps@suffolksociety.org).



## Annual Open/Tree Weekend Sat 7 & Sun 8 October 10am-5pm

Specialist Plant Centre stocked with an impressive range of plants from trees and shrubs, including fruit to climbers, roses, herbaceous, ferns, grasses, alpinas and herbs.

Garden sundries, pots, compost and gifts.

See website for more information about our open weekend.

The Place for Plants, East Bergholt Place, Suffolk CO7 6UP  
Tel: 01206 299224 E-mail: [sales@placeforplants.co.uk](mailto:sales@placeforplants.co.uk)  
[www.placeforplants.co.uk](http://www.placeforplants.co.uk)

# AND FINALLY .....

## GARDEN DEFINITIONS

Knee – a device for finding rocks in your garden.

Greenfingers – something everyone else has plenty of.

Perennial – this year, possibly. Next year, unlikely.

Seed catalogue - a work of fiction with fantasy photos.

Spade – highly efficient back pain generator.

## SOME THOUGHTS ON GARDENS

“A garden is a grand teacher.

It teaches patience and careful watchfulness.

It teaches industry and thrift.

Above all it teaches entire trust.”

*Gertrude Jekyll*

Editorial contributions to the Spring 2018 issue of  
Suffolk Plant Heritage Journal are wanted by  
1st December. Please send articles and photos to  
Widget Finn, [widget.finn@gmail.com](mailto:widget.finn@gmail.com)

# SUFFOLK PLANT HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**President & chairman** Margaret Thorpe, Weavers House, Swan Street, Boxford, Sudbury CO10 5NZ, 01787 211 346, maggiethorpe37@gmail.com

**Vice Chairman** Neil Bradfield, 2 Holmwood Cottages, Bower House Tye, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5BZ, 01787 211816, nbradfield@hotmail.co.uk

**Treasurer** Justine Corney, 3 The Glebe, Sudbury Road, Lavenham CO10 9SN, 01787 249407, patrickandjustine@talktalk.net

**Secretary** Isobel Ashton, 6 College Lane, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1NN 01284 754993, isobel.ashton@btinternet.com

**Interim membership secretary** Angela Ainger, 16 Motts Lane, Marks Tey, Colchester CO6 1NA, 01206 211872, ajaingers@gmail.com

**Journal editor** Widget Finn, Smallwood Farmhouse, Bradfield St. George, Bury St. Edmunds IP30 0AJ, 01449 736358, widget.finn@gmail.com

**Propagation officer** Anne Tweddle, Brook Farm, Charsfield, Woodbridge IP13 7QA, 01473 737337, anne@tweddle1.co.uk

**National collections co-ordinator** Dorothy Cartwright, 605 Neptune Marina, 1 Coprolite Street, Ipswich IP3 0BN, 01473 289556, collections@suffolkplantheritage.com

**Press officer** Heather Medcraft, 17 Smithy Close, Rougham, Bury St. Edmunds IP30 9LA, 01359 270721, gingeandh@hotmail.com

## **Other committee members:**

Anthony Pigott, Kersey's Farm, Mendlesham, Stowmarket IP14 5RB, 01449 766104, anthony.pigott@btinternet.com

Darren Andrews, 2, Hadleigh Farm Cottages, Woodlands, Raydon, IP7 5PY, 01473 822987, waspfactory72@yahoo.co.uk

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

