

West Yorkshire Group Newsletter



*The glowing colours of *Mukdenia rossii* 'Karasuba' (framing this photo of the show stand) attracted much admiration from visitors to the HPS stand at the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show in late September.*

November 2015

Welcome to the Autumn 2015 Newsletter

Whilst I am sure none of us like to think about it, the year is gradually slipping away and it is time to turn our thoughts to next year, and that most eagerly awaited meeting in January, the AGM.

For 2016 the committee thought it would be good to change things slightly, and so to follow the AGM we will be having a speaker, Michael Myers, talking on 'Hepaticas and Aconites'. To accommodate this, the AGM will commence at **7pm** - please make a note of this in your diaries. The photographic record of our year which has followed the AGM in recent years will be shown, as a continuous presentation, at our Christmas gathering in December.

May I remind you that all the Officers of the Group, and the committee, are elected on an annual basis so, if there is someone you would like to nominate either as a committee member or Officer, (Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer), please get their agreement and let Pat or me know by the end of the year.

As you may know, our Treasurer Wendy Platt is now spending much of each year in France, and whilst she has done an amazing job at maintaining our accounts from that distance, (and attending committee meetings by Skype!), she feels the time has probably come for her to hand over the reins to someone who is around more. So, we are looking for someone, possibly with a financial background, who would be willing to undertake this position on behalf of the Group. If you think you might be able to help, or know of anyone who you feel could fulfil the role, please do let me or Pat know. Maggie has said she is willing to continue to assist with day to day matters.

I look forward to seeing you at both our Christmas Social Evening in December and the revised AGM in January. With very best wishes,

Sue Gray
*Chairman, West Yorkshire
Group HPS*

*Sue Gray (R) with the
hostess of 2015 Group Holiday
garden, 67 High Street, Finedon,
on a glorious June summer day.*



New Year Extras

With this newsletter you will find your 2016 Members' Information Pack consisting of:

- Your membership renewal form – please complete and return to Kate Van Heel
- The 2016 Programme of Events
- An itinerary and booking form for the 2016 group holiday to Essex.

If you have any questions about membership or future events, please talk to a Committee Member. Most wear a badge at Group events while contact details always appear on the Newsletter's back page.

HPS at the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

Yet again the show stand team pulled off a Silver Gilt Medal at this year's Autumn Show. Congratulations to all who helped out over the 3 days of the show and the one and a half days beforehand allowed to build up the stand. Once again huge numbers of visitors showed an interest in the HPS and the informative display that explained exactly what a hardy plant is. Many were unaware of the hardiness ratings used to help gardeners choose plants suitable for their particular location. Visitor compliments flowed once more, with the planting scheme much admired, photographed and this year, sketched!



2015 Gardens Tour & Holiday

The 2015 Northamptonshire Garden Tour was organised by our chair, Sue Gray, and what a sterling job she did for her first stint as tour leader. Fifteen gardens and nurseries in 5 days in this lovely county - HPS heaven!

The weather was pretty fantastic but the organisation was also impressive. Sue had done her homework, and it showed. The coach driver was an interesting character but he got us to each garden pretty near bang on time, which is no mean feat. He also got all our precious cargo packed up for the homeward return journey with care and precision. I would say he was pretty pleased with himself when that jigsaw was complete.

The venue for our stay was Moulton College, a rural further education/university campus specialising in outdoor vocations including horticulture. In the evenings we were able to walk round the campus, including the student plots, and that in itself stimulated lots of gardening debate and identification skills. Many of us were also pleased to discover their Millenium Arboretum - 2.5 hectares, planted with over 100 interesting and unusual specimen trees. Thank you Sue, for another great holiday tour - a real bonanza for the gardening enthusiast. Here are reviews of some of the gems we visited.

Brightwater Gardens, Saxby, Lincolnshire by Judith Ladley

The first stop on this year's holiday was at Brightwater Gardens in Lincolnshire where we were met by Chris, the owner, who told us about the building of the house and gardens, which commenced little more than 15 years ago. We then enjoyed refreshments in the well-appointed dining area before setting out to explore the eight acres of planting.

The garden consists of a number of differing areas, ranging from formal planting near the living accommodation through to a semi wild area known as the damp valley and pond. I was particularly impressed by the beautifully planted herbaceous beds placed around

well-manicured lawns and with an impressive backdrop of countryside. These beds contained a wide variety of plants, all looking their best (and illustrate the wisdom of giving each plant plenty of space, a practice some among us do not always follow!). The impressive stands of *Dictamnus albus* var. *purpureus* drew many envious glances.



An arboretum of rarer trees, a wildflower meadow, a stand of pleached red-twigged limes and a solar garden are but a few of the delights of this garden. I think my favourite area was the formal planting by the house, consisting of a series of ‘rooms’ edged by low growing evergreens and with ornamental pathways. Here we enjoyed beds of delphiniums, roses, foxgloves and peonies, all at their very best in early summer.



Along the road from the garden stands the recently renovated St Helen’s Church, an attractive Grade I listed building constructed in 1775 as a mortuary chapel for the Earls of Scarborough. A visit here proved a pleasant end to the very enjoyable start of our holiday.

This short description does not do justice to the truly impressive garden and I do recommend a visit to the website at www.brightwatergardens.co.uk - you will not be disappointed.



Dictamnus albus
var. *purpureus*

Bosworth House, Arthingworth near Market Harborough, Northants

by Denise Dyson

Celine’s garden had all the right plants but not necessarily in the right order. With only a nod to the idea of colour co-ordination and combination planting espoused by many hardy planters I soon realised we were in for an eye-opening visit. The unfolding vista was one of a much-loved garden owned by an enthusiastic rose-grower.



Froth and vistas

As we ambled up the steep drive to the elevated, exposed site, amongst the many roses, I spotted a stunning creamy-yellow shrub rose – *R. ‘Crème-de-la-Crème’*, one of many roses growing around all sides of the garden. In the same bed and drifting through many more roses towered *Crambe cordifolia* gloriously intermingled with foxgloves and poppies. All the plants were lush and well-fed especially pink *R. ‘Bonica’* and apricot *R. ‘Joie-de-Vivre’*.

By the front door a large *Magnolia grandiflora* looked very well-established underplanted



Rosa 'Hanky Panky'

with various pink and white dianthus. Round the side of the house a beautiful rambler rose filled a whole wall. When Pat Clarke discovered it to be *Rosa* 'Ghislaine de Féligonde' she was over the moon, having just bought one but had been unsure how it looked in full bloom. The flowers are the most pleasing shade of apricot yellow ageing to yellow tinted white and softly fragranced.

Centrally-placed in the front lawn, a magnificent Wellingtonia [*Sequoiadendron giganteum*] stood pride of place exuding a feeling of order and permanence among the carefree colour palette in the rest of the garden. Attached to the right hand side of the house a large wrought-iron pergola sported roses and wisteria with deep blue lavender bushes flourishing at the base. This was a recent acquisition to celebrate the Irving-Swift's 30th wedding anniversary.

Round the left-hand side of the house, where views of the countryside opened up before us, yet another sloping flower bed was full to bursting, all the flowers appearing to cope with the windy site. Self-seeded nigella floated amongst blue codonopsis and striking yellow irises. More roses pushed their way in including pink *R.* 'Jacques Cartier' and the creamy buff *R.* 'Gruss An Aachen', which were a gentle contrast to the nearby *R.* 'Hanky Panky' with its garish stripes of scarlet, orange and cream. Black *Sambucus nigra* f. *porphyrophylla* 'Eva' with its flat corymbs of deep pink provided a striking contrast with the paler roses.



The majestic Wellingtonia

Before we left I enjoyed talking to Celine about the history of the house and the area. Speaking with characteristically French vivacity she expressed her love of plants and gardening philosophy. Celine certainly embraced Miriam Osler's 'A Gentle Plea for Chaos' and if not exactly chaotic then a happy mix of colours and medley of plants ensured this was an invigorating visit.

Hill Grounds, Evenly near Brackley by Pat Clarke

The first visit of the day on Monday 29 June, the bus drew up and there waiting to greet us were Mr and Mrs Cropley. Mr Cropley offered a lift in the car but I joined Mrs Cropley and the walkers. A stroll through the village, then we turned onto a path leading through meadows glistening with poppies. We reached the garden gate then, 'Open Sesame', to a most beautiful, restful, gorgeously planted English country garden.



Liriodendron tulipifera was
flowering.

There were two acres to explore; where to begin? First I asked



Meadows glistening with poppies



Established trees dripping with climbing roses

Mrs Cropley if indeed this was the garden that was the birthplace of *Lychnis* 'Hill Grounds'. Immediately a group of us were taken to view the spot where the sterile hybrid between *L. flos-jovis* and *L. coronaria* had occurred.

It was hard to know where to start the exploration – every which way promised new delights. Herbaceous borders generously planted with well combined plants - beautifully colour coordinated plants. Mr Cropley directed all enquiries about plant names to his wife. What a font of knowledge she was. Never a hesitation about the name of the many rare and interesting plants that we had to ask about. New to me was what I thought was a blue-flowered libertia; it turned out to be *Orthrosanthus chimboracensis*, a little tender but flourishing in a pot at the back door. The terrace housed many large planted pots. There were pergolas swathed in roses and clematis, well placed sitting areas - it was a joy.



The Millenium Arborette

Intriguingly when I asked for the name of a small white-flowered tree Mrs Cropley told me it was *Crataegus laciniata* (*Crataegus orientalis* 'AGM'), and that of all the plants in her garden this is the one she would choose to have planted on her grave.

Now I have a confession to make. I sat so long imbibing the lushness of this hardy planter's dream garden that I did not have time to enjoy the Millenium Arborette. Gill told me that I had missed a treat.

On the way back to the bus there was a memorable moment when the large dog chased a bunch of Canada goslings. They flattened themselves on the path and played dead till the threat had passed. Hill Grounds oh yes, I remember it well.

67-69 High Street, Finedon, near Wellingborough, Northants

by Diane Rawnsley

Our last visit of the scorching hot day that was Tues 30th June was to a 1/3 acre garden behind a 17th century cottage. This was made up of 'rooms' and was packed with inspiration for a relatively small garden.

There were pergolas and a swing and a vegetable potager where I thought the idea of using all those small terracotta pots as 'stoppers' at the end of stakes and bean canes was a brilliant idea. The owners had also used different coloured bottles at the end of canes as a novel way of protecting your eyes!



Terracotta pots used as cane toppers - decorative and practical.

The roses were in full flower and the scent was heady on such a warm day. There was a beautiful white single cluster rose, a hybrid of *Rosa helenae* called 'Lykkefund' and a stunning shrub rose called 'Alissar, Princess of Phoenicia', which starts as a caramel colour and changes to a coral pink with a red blotch at its centre. There was a white rambler growing right up the side of the barn which apparently was *Rosa* 'Wickwar' AGM. On researching this rose I found an article in Country Life entitled 'Beware the Wickwar Rose' The author of this article says "it seduces you with its beauty and then moves on to make the kill, smothering everything in sight"....Yikes! Looks like it's another from the



An invigorating cup of tea.



It was hot enough for the roses to release their perfume.

'Rambling Rector' stable...

There were containers aplenty and an impressive collection of hostas in pots. The owner's attention to detail was even evident on one of the tables where we were drinking our tea, with a pretty china teacup on its side on its saucer with succulents growing out of it.

A great example of how a lot can be fitted into quite a small space, I think we all came away with a few ideas and a few more plants on our wish list!

4 Dene Close, Penkridge, Staffordshire by Margaret and Terence Scott

Last day of our holiday and Wollerton Old Hall still to come! David and Anne Smith, members of the Staffordshire HPS Group, welcomed us warmly. There were plants for sale around the corner, already found by our group. Soon, many of us were buying, especially grasses including one unnamed spiky grass.

In the front garden, penstemons, helianthemums, *Syrinchium striatum* and helichrysums were growing through gravel, intermingled with various grasses which were happily seeding around them. Behind the house *Salvia sclarea* with lilac flowers and tall creamy *Aruncus dioicus* along with red and gold kniphofias stood tall above the borders. *Euonymus fortunei* 'Silver Queen' and the herbaceous rich blue *Clematis* 'Arabella' were stunning growing together. We left, feeling refreshed, and carrying yet more plants grown by generous 'hardy planters'.



The aromatic front garden led to a hidden sales area.



Appreciation eloquently expressed and graciously received.



Vibrant mounds of foliage and flower under the summer sun.

2015 Day Trip, Reviewed by Pat Inman

Once again we were lucky with the weather and a full coach set off towards the East coast.

First stop, the 2 acre garden Jackson's Wold at Sherburn nr Malton. The owners were away and we were warmly welcomed by Caroline who helps in the garden two days a week. This is a very well designed garden with superb plants that thrive in soil enriched by manure from the family farm. Formal structure and flowing borders, quite superb plus a nice selection of plants for sale.

Reighton Nursery next and for the few who weren't interested in buying there was a convenient garden open a few hundred yards down the road which was enjoyed whilst the rest of us indulged ourselves in this exceptional nursery. Such a huge choice of plants at real bargain prices. It really needs many hours to look at all that is on offer. Knowledgeable nursery staff and many unusual treasures to be found, especially in the shrub area. I know there will be many return visits there. Many thanks to Stephen our driver who once again had to fill the hold with purchases!

A few miles to The Ridings at Burton Fleming where Roy & Ruth Allerston have a small treasure of a garden with excellent design and superb plants. I never fail to be amazed how different gardeners manage to fit so many interesting features and areas in to make use of every inch available. I especially liked the way the Pemberton shrub rose 'Buff Beauty' had been trained up to cover an archway.

Our final stop was at Linden Lodge, Wilberfoss where Jarrod welcomed us. It's a few years since I last visited here and the many choice shrubs and trees planted since 2000 have grown of course, which means quite a lot

of shade and there seemed fewer herbaceous plants now. A further 5 acres of developing meadow, green men and refreshments including delicious scones freshly baked by Robert



Trained to clothe an archway, Rosa 'Buff Beauty' was looking spectacular at 'The Ridings'.

and served by his very courteous young son, Jacob. We arrived safely back at Paxton around 7.00pm.



Green fingers and green men were in evidence at Linden Lodge, Wilberfoss.



Jackson's Wold was full of superb plants to view and buy.

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