

Chairman's Notes – July 2008

Welcome to the society's latest newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful events of the last few months. This society is thriving and the committee work hard to organise a variety of interesting and informative talks and outings. On our evening visit we again walked around the garden in the rain – I am always amazed at how many people venture out wearing raincoats and wellies to attend this event. We are a stalwart bunch of hardy gardeners! Our weekend holiday was a great success and Somerset offered us beautiful weather. I hope to see many of you at the annual show in the Barlow institute in August either as exhibitors or visitors. Some new categories should encourage new exhibitors. If you haven't had a schedule, pick one up in the village shops or contact a committee member and we will get one to you.

 **EVENTS**

Annual Show Saturday 16 August

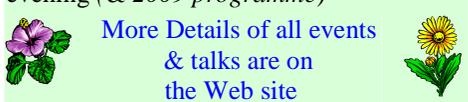
Autumn trip: Castle Howard
Saturday 4 October

Meetings {3rd Wed of the month}

September: Collecting and Sowing Seeds (Carl Brabin) See also November

October: Vegetables for Every Taste (Margaret Robinson) Margaret runs the family firm of W. Robinson & Son (Seeds & Plants) Ltd, famous for mammoth onions & winners of multiple silver medals at Chelsea.

November: AGM, Seed Swap and social evening (& 2009 programme)

 More Details of all events & talks are on the Web site

I look forward to seeing you at one of the meetings or events – *Barbara Kenny*

Annual Show IT'S EARLY this year (August 16th) and will be held as usual at the Barlow Institute in Edgworth, from 2pm until 4pm, We're looking forward to a good turnout, with lots of entries from members and local residents of this and adjoining parishes and horticultural societies. Hopefully the extended range of Junior categories will tempt more children to enter. During term time we work with schools, but the show is in school holidays so we rely on parents to encourage participation. A really new venture is a *Photograph on a Horticultural Theme* including a special section for juniors.

Whilst the emphasis is on flowers, fruit, vegetables and pot plants, categories such as home produce, handicrafts, art and floral art and photography provide for different talents and create a varied and interesting afternoon out.

The show schedule has details about how and what to enter and is available from local shops in Edgworth or on the web site: www.edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk or by emailing: show@Edgworth-Horticultural-Society.co.uk or contact Barbara Kenny on 01204 852274 for more information

New last year, the *Scarecrow Competition* drew a lot of interest. Making one is great fun and an opportunity for creative talents to be displayed by children, families and adults.

JUNIOR GARDENERS *Wellie Good!* Find an old boot, shoe or Wellie and make a flower arrangement in it. Probably not Mum or Dad's best pair though! There are separate competitions for under 16s, under 12s and under 6s. Why not make a miniature garden in a tray or younger folk can make "Bling" or "My favourite TV programme" in plant material. The schedule has lots more ideas. If you're under 16 we're *really* keen for you to join in so if you have a great idea for next year's show come and tell us!

Bumblebee Nests It's common in June/July to notice that bumblebees are nesting in our gardens. Bumblebees have an annual life cycle starting with one queen in spring and by July a nest can have a few dozen to several hundred bees living in it. They can be found in compost bins, under patios and in or under sheds.

Bumblebees are in decline and need protecting so if you are lucky enough to have a nest in your garden please leave them alone. The nest will naturally die out by September and they will only sting if severely provoked. They will help pollinate your plants and are fascinating to watch. – *Janet Comer*



Goodbye; Linda McMahon a longstanding committee member has left the North West for the warmer climes of Lincolnshire. Thanks for all your hard work Linda and good luck finding another horticultural society.

There are no vampires in my garden!

There are 400 billion slug pellets used every year in the UK attempting to protect plants from the 50 - 200 slugs per metre² of soil. A slug will consume its own body weight in plants every day using its 27,000 tiny teeth.

This year I've been trying various organic anti-slug methods. I have a bed of hostas that provide slug and snail dinners every year. This year I've surrounded them with used coffee grounds and liberally sprayed them with a garlic mixture every 3 to 4 days.

The garlic mixture is made by gently cooking 2 bulbs of garlic in water and puréeing. A tablespoon of mix is added to a watering can of water.

So far in early July there's minimal damage whereas other plants that are not protected have been eaten. It seems to be working, shame about the smell! – *Janet Comer*



Community News The society has again had an active year. In the autumn, we *planted daffodils* in two locations: along Broadhead Rd, extending the existing planting beyond the last houses and on Greens Arms Rd near the new estate where existing planting had been disturbed and then failed.

John King continues to visit *Edgworth School* on most Fridays to advise on their 'plot'. Plants and seeds for this have been provided by the Horticultural Society and also by DeRee Ltd

The *Tebay Garden* at St Ann's church is managed by the society in memory of a former member. Over recent years the garden has begun to look a little tired so this year it has been given a rigorous pruning and it will be replanted with roses and trees in memory of our former friends. – *Jean Turner*

Wildflowers Mike Arundel, EHS member and lay preacher at St Anne's church, felt that a country Parish Church should have native wildflowers growing in its grounds. Our volunteers sowed wildflower seeds and planted in areas of the churchyard that were hard for the strimmers to reach - against the stone wall and near the oldest graves – a spadeful of soil was replaced with foxgloves, ox-eye daisy, feverfew and knapweed. Some also went into the verges on Horrocks Road. – *Christine Matthews*

A Jolly Holiday The sun shone as we left Edgworth on Friday morning on our journey to Somerset- and it stayed shining for most of the weekend. Our first garden was **Gants mill and gardens**. The owner gave us an interesting tour of the mill that he had refurbished. His wife then showed us her small but beautifully arranged garden that included water features and rose arches. We enjoyed afternoon tea and cakes in her garden before travelling to our Taunton hotel.



On Saturday we visited **Lower Severalls**- a large garden which had a roofed green pavilion and a living dogwood basket. We stopped at **Montecute house** for lunch and a tour of the herbaceous borders. Some people took the opportunity to look inside the Elizabethan house, which was used in the film Sense and Sensibility, some of us just enjoyed basking in the sunshine smelling the scent of the roses. Our last visit of the day was to **East Lambroke Manor** once home of Marjory Fish who had a passion for plants and created a traditional English cottage garden. We were able to buy plants from the nursery at a reasonable cost. The evening was spent back at the hotel enjoying a pleasant meal and convivial company.



On Sunday we had an unscheduled visit recommended by the tour guide – and what a gem **Wayford Manor** proved to be. The head (and only) gardener shared his love of this old garden whilst the owner was at the nearby picturesque church. The garden had been opened just for us. Designed by Harold Peto, it proved to be a wonder of treasures- something unexpected around every corner - including topiary rabbits! Of all the gardens this was my favourite - I didn't want to leave and gave it 10 out of 10!

Next to **Hestercombe** – a National Trust property designed by Gertrude Jekyll and Edward Lutyens. Whilst there we had the only rain of the weekend – a short deluge that drove us inside the courtyard for a nice lunch accompanied by young musicians. Next to **Cothay Manor**, a medieval manor with an unusual and interesting garden designed in rooms. I walked through an arch in the hedge to find a small white garden; the next arch took me into a pink garden. This garden was full of plants of all types and colours. We were introduced to the garden by the owner who gave us a talk while wielding her secateurs and shouting instructions to her husband on the walkie talkie! At the end of our visit an outhouse was laid for afternoon tea with cream scones- lovely. This garden received another 10 out of 10 from me.

On Monday we visited **Lytes Carey Manor**, another National Trust property very different to the grand houses we had previously seen. This Tudor manor had lovely garden rooms being tended by volunteers. The herbaceous borders were stunning and the hornbeam tunnel and secret garden were very relaxing. The chapel was open and some of us took a little time to reflect before heading for the tea shop. Our last visit before heading off for home was to **Barrington Court**, another garden influenced by Gertrude Jekyll. This had a white garden, a rose and lily garden and a fantastic walled vegetable garden. More plants were purchased and stowed on the coach as we headed back up the motorway. We returned home refreshed, inspired and ready for gardening. – *Barbara Kenny*

Annual Dinner This year we held our dinner at the Chetham Arms in Chapeltown - it was some time since we had been there. The new owners made all 40 of us very welcome and an enjoyable evening was had by all. It's good to sit and talk with other members (sometimes about gardening!) - everyone in the society is so friendly.

Is your shed full of plant pots? Did you know that there are 500 million plastic plant pots thrown away every year in the UK. Most councils do not offer plant pot recycling so what can you do with them? Due to consumer demand some garden centres are now collecting used plant pots for recycling. One of the nearest is 'The All-in-One Garden Centre' on Rochdale Rd, Middleton. There is a skip in the car park for you to dispose of your clean plant pots and seed trays so clear out your sheds and get recycling. If you hear of any other places for recycling please let us know. – *Janet Comer*

Plant Sale Saturday the 31 May saw the EHS's first Plant Sale at the Edgworth Institute. The day got off to a rocky start when the door lock at the Institute jammed and stubbornly resisted all attempts to open it. That is until Phil "Fingers" Broughton arrived to save the day.



With the lock conquered the tables were soon out and all was ready when the plants arrived at 8.30 a.m. Approximately £800 worth of plants were delivered and sorted. The majority had been pre-ordered and the remainder nearly all sold by 10 a.m. About £20 worth was unsold and these were donated to a school and allotments. Two trays have been planted in the Tebay Garden in St Anne's' grounds. – *Carol Murphy*



Summer outing Our visit to Rydal Hall and Holehird was a very wet affair this year with true Lakeland weather. We were met at Rydal Hall by the head gardener Ian Turnbull, who directed us into a very grand room in the main hall to be regaled with tea, coffee and an assortment of home made cakes, an excellent start to the day! While we ate Ian gave us a comprehensive history of the house and then a tour of the gardens. Once owned by the leFleming family for more than 400years it began life as a farm house and was expanded in the 17th century. At the beginning of the 20th century Thomas Mawson a famous landscape architect was commissioned to create the Italianate terraces which sweep down from the house. It was Mawson who used a form of pre cast concrete to make the balustrades and urns for the house. The hey-day of the house lasted until the Second World War when the house and gardens fell into disrepair. In September 2005 work to restore the gardens to their former glory was started. Fortunately many of the original moulds for the urns and finials have been found and the house and gardens are gradually coming to life. This is a garden to watch! The hard landscaping is now complete and new planting is very much in evidence. I can recommend the walk to view the water fall and the tranquil garden which contains sculptures.

After a break for lunch and a visit to a garden centre in Grasmere we proceeded to Holehird, the showcase gardens of the Lakeland horticultural society. Fantastic! A complete contrast to the morning's garden and a plantsman's paradise. Our two very knowledgeable guides showed us around and it even stopped raining. Holehird has interest for all seasons and holds the National collections for Astilbe, Hydrangea and Polystichum. I really recommend a visit! – *Jean Turner*