



Chris Beardshaw - 2nd October 2013



Our celebrity speaker this year was TV gardener and author Chris Beardshaw. He spoke for about 90 minutes, describing the creation of a Gold Medal winning garden for the 2012 Chelsea Flower Show, based on Furzey Gardens at Lyndhurst in the New Forest. The

enthralled audience, who had packed into The Barlow, then took a break for tea and cakes, while for the next half hour Chris signed copies of his latest book, *100 Plants that almost changed the World*. Barely pausing for breath, he then got back on stage and spoke for another hour about his book. Chris's boundless energy, wit, good humour and public speaking skills were self-evident and the audience eventually departed, well satisfied with their evening, a little after 10:30pm. Meanwhile Chris was setting off to drive to Anglesey, where he was working next day.

What a performer and what an enjoyable evening! Most agreed it was the best talk the Society had ever had.



Stop Press!
Chris will be
back in 2016

40th Anniversary booklet

As a key part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, a commemorative booklet, detailing the history of the Society over the last 40 years, was presented at the AGM and will be issued free to all members. Those members present were able to collect their copy after the meeting. For all other members, a copy accompanies the delivery of this newsletter.

The booklet contains many photographs, facts, anecdotes, etc. and will bring back memories for long-standing members and, for newer members, will provide an insight into our development. David Spencer (who retired from the committee at the AGM but will continue as our archivist) has done weeks of research and hours of editing to produce it. We're sure this will "wow" you in 2014 and be a good reference book for the future!

In This Issue

2014 Things to Wow Us!

- EHS History Booklet
- Monthly Talks
- Visits
- Holiday
- Suttons Discounts

A Much Enjoyed AGM

- Report
- Committee Retirements
- New Committee & Officers

Highlights of 2013

- Chris Beardshaw
- Visits & the Holiday
- Barlow Garden
- Annual Show

Other Features

- Garden Puzzle
- New Membership Card
- The Web site

The Membership Card has changed!

We have re-styled your membership card to be credit card size to fit your wallet or purse. It still contains the full programme and contacts as before. Mahers and Arthur Lane Nurseries are offering discounts to our members if you present a valid card so please sign it on the front.

EHS on the Web

Take a look! It has galleries of pictures, upcoming events, EHS contacts and lots more.

The Barlow Flower Bed



Following the decision at the 2012 AGM to spend some of the Society's surplus funds on a project involving the local

community we decided to offer to revamp the flower bed at the front of The Barlow; this took place between September & October. The old lawn (mainly weeds) was taken up and the old plants and roses removed by a group of willing volunteers over several days in September, before being re-planted with a variety of white-themed herbaceous plants, half a dozen Asters 'Royal Ruby' and finished off with Cyclamen coum, Narcissi (two cultivars), Crocus and Snowdrops. A total of 700 bulbs have been distributed throughout the bed, including 2 types of Anemones. An access path was constructed to the rear of the bed and the back was then planted with Crinodendrons, Daphnes and the remaining bulbs, finishing it all off with a top dressing of composted bark.

As the work was being done, virtually everyone who passed by, even a cyclist, commented enthusiastically about the overall

improvement being made. Indeed quite a few of them took time to ask about the planting plan and were interested to find out how the bed would look throughout the seasons in future. We are now looking forward to Spring 2014 to see the fruits of our labours.



Suttons Discounts for Members

Suttons Seeds are again offering big discounts - 40% on seeds & 15% on plants/equipment These are sent direct to you but must be ordered via EHS -contact Amanda Mason on 853698 for their attractive catalogue and an order form.

2014 Programme (Web has lots of details)

Again our events secretary, Pat, has put together a fascinating mix of talks with excellent speakers. The talks are wide-ranging and include the prisoners' gardens from Styal; pruning; hydroponics; hybrid and hardy lilies; unusual plants and garden styles.

Four of the speakers have between them won more than 8 medals at RHS Shows. Perhaps best known two speakers are Sam Youd, renowned head gardener at Tatton Park, now retired who will talk about his life in gardening and local gardener Carl Brabin - knowledgeable, popular and always entertaining.

Evening Visit - The Ridges, near Chorley, The Ridges 3½ acres garden is featured in the independently produced Good Gardens Guide, the 'bible' of gardens to visit throughout the UK. It includes a walled kitchen garden with perennial herbaceous borders and perfumed rambling roses; lawns, patios, arches, water features.

Spring Outing - Plas Cadnant Garden, Anglesey and Crug Farm Nursery, near Caernarfon

Plas Cadnant Estate's recently discovered Hidden Gardens have undergone a spectacular transformation since 1996 and have been restored to their former glory. There is a large Walled Garden, The 'Valley Garden' with its waterfalls and The 'Upper Woodland Garden'.

Covering almost 20 acres, Crug Farm nursery specialises in unusual herbaceous, perennials, climbers, trees and shrubs. Hundreds of the plants are propagated from over 15,000 seed collections gathered on over 50 expeditions by the owners.

Autumn Outing - Scampston Walled Garden, near Malton - details in the summer newsletter

4-Day Holiday - Fife & Angus

We visit House of Pitmuies, Glamis Castle, Logie House, Cambo Gardens, Kellie Castle, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Wemyss Castle & Wormiston House.

Places are filling fast so get your name down quickly! Contact Phil Broughton (*see your card*).

2013 AGM

Many of the 80+ members (including 3 new) who attended said what an enjoyable evening this was! (Unusual for an AGM!!)

The official business was opened by Chairman, Barry Scanlon who first talked through (with pictures) the activities of 2013 and the 2014 programme, much of this is covered elsewhere in the newsletter. Membership had risen from 263 to 269 with an average attendance of 78 at meetings. Records were set again at the Annual Show, which he described as the best ever. 370 adults attended; and exhibits broke all records both in number and quality: the number of exhibits was 801 almost double those in 2004.

He thanked many members of the committee for the things they had organised as well as members of the society for their contributions to the Show and other voluntary work.

The Treasurer explained that the society had made contributions from reserves to the community totalling £1273 (Barlow Flower Bed, Tebay Garden, bulb planting etc) yet despite this we ended the year with reserves of £4915, only slightly less than we started with. A record surplus from the Show help to make this possible.

Following the election of officers the social evening began with a celebration of 40 years of the society since it was re-formed in 1973. A large cake was cut and later shared among those present and David Spencer spoke about the 40th Anniversary booklet, teasing about its price, and then revealing it to be free to members.

We then enjoyed a very sociable evening with a potato pie supper; wine again donated by Beryl Woffenden in Norman's memory; a rolling slide show of the year with music and two fun quizzes - one based on 1973 - from Irene Spencer.

Election of Committee and Officers

Barry as Chairman and Irene as Secretary had reached the end of their 3-year terms and stood down. Both plus John King, Barbara Kenny and David Spencer for various reasons had decided to retire from the committee. Collectively, they have contributed a considerable amount of time,

effort and enthusiasm to the Society over many years, also as past Chairmen, Treasurers, Secretaries and Show Secretary (often more than one). On behalf of the society Phil Broughton thanked each of them and gave gifts of wine plus a floral decoration for the ladies.

2014 Officers and Committee.

All the following were elected unopposed:

Chairman: Phil Broughton (who stood down as treasurer)

Treasurer: Keith Shatwell

Secretary: Amanda Mason

Sue Jeffries joins the committee along with the remaining members of the 2013 committee (Sue Brohi, David Mason, Carol Murphy, Jean Turner, Pat Whalley).

2013 Outing to Breezy Knees Nursery plus Yorkshire Lavendar



A coach full of plant hunters set off for a trip to Yorkshire, prepared for anything with waterproofs, umbrellas and sunglasses as well as plant crates!

First stop was Yorkshire Lavender; a 60 acre farm and garden set up by a family sixteen years ago. As well as lavender, the nursery on site also had a small range of unusual herbs and herbaceous perennials. The gardens didn't look their best in the wind and rain, but the sun did come out before we left.

Next we went to Breezy Knees Gardens, just north east of York. The 15 acres of gardens showcase the astounding range of herbaceous perennials produced by



the nursery and include a range of garden styles from the naturalistic block planting in the September Garden, to the more formal symmetrical layout of the Peony and Daylily Garden. In between, there is a Cottage Garden, Rock Garden, double Herbaceous Borders, Pond Garden and much more.

2013 Holiday to Kent & Sussex

En-route we visited Upton House, near Banbury, a garden of many 'rooms' on an enormous scale, with woodland walks, large lawns and an orchard. A well stocked kitchen garden had deep borders packed with colour.

On the next two days we visited 5 gardens.

Sissinghurst Gardens, around an Elizabethan

manor house has fine displays, many such as the white garden, with specific colours and scent as an accent. At **Great Dixter** if you want a manicured garden then look elsewhere but venture in for a profusion of colour and texture! The gardens surround a beautiful house and have a sunken garden, wall garden and colourful long border. At **Nymans Garden**, the remains of the house are surrounded by gardens containing exotic plants, a pinetum, a wild flower meadow and a stunning herbaceous border which continues through the walled garden containing summer borders. Altogether a very tranquil and peaceful spot enjoyed by all. At **Rose Cottage** a private home with 2/3rd acre developed we found an interesting garden for all seasons with well-established trees and shrubs plus under-planting and many old rose varieties. Late

afternoon of day 2 found us at **Perch Hill Farm**, home of TV personality Sarah Raven. Flowers for cutting were in abundance, along with an excellent variety of vegetables. We enjoyed visiting three very different gardens on a beautiful day.

Heading home we stopped at Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire - a garden whose scale and interest were a surprise to us all. There was so much more to see but we had to come home!

The head gardener's instructions:

"We need manure and if we grow potatoes then we must have carrots, if and only if we have either potatoes or manure and don't grow carrots"

What was planted and was it good advice?



2013 Outing - Thorp Perrow Arboretum

The Arboretum was planted from parkland in the 1930's. The 100 acres of woodland contains five National Collections of trees, including Walnuts, Limes, Ash, Cotinus and Laburnum and has 66 Champion Trees, being the largest of their kind in Britain.



There is also a Wildlife Park with Meerkats, Wallabies and various other unusual creatures and a Bird of Prey Centre. The weather was

very kind to us on the other side of the Pennines and we had a dry and sunny day - perfect for wandering amongst the fallen autumn leaves in this very peaceful woodland.

2013 Annual Show

The Show this year broke all records. The biggest entry ever had some real quality blooms - particularly among the dahlias. The main hall looked magnificent and a record number of the public



came to visit. Upstairs were very impressive handicraft and cookery displays. Outside at the plant stall sales were hectic. Thanks to members' donations of many quality plants the takings exceeding last year's record by over £100! Inside the Barlow, the café was also setting a new record, selling members' home-made cakes and drinks at a frantic pace.

The trophy presenter was Brian Arnold, once chairman and a founder in 1973. He talked about his time at EHS and clearly enjoyed presenting the cups- isn't it great to see the pleasure of the young winners! This must count as one of the best shows we've had.

