



### Have your questions ready for January!

We kick off our monthly meetings with a slightly different take on Gardeners Question Time, entitled "Ask the Experts". Bill Blackledge from Carnforth, is one of the county's most popular and sought after gardeners. If it's green and needs watering, Bill can tell us about it. He answered BBC Radio Lancashire listeners' queries for over thirty years, nearly as long as the transmitter existed! He is joined by Anthony Norman who came to explain pruning techniques in 2014 but instead challenged us to throw questions at him. His answers were both knowledgeable and entertaining.

Both experts will take questions "on the fly". It will help to keep the questions flowing so, if you can, email us with an outline of your question at [questions@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:questions@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk) or you can just ask on the night.



Three nationally famous gardeners will speak at our monthly meetings in 2015. Pat Whalley has worked hard to put together a fascinating programme of talks; some of the topics were suggested by members.

*Who is this?*

See page 3 for details plus the full programme of talks and visits

### Tips and Tricks

- New Year's resolution - make a promise to yourself to renew your resolution each month. Each month of the year go to the garden centre and select a plant that is at its best and is truly indicative of that time of year. If you like the idea, keep on repeating it to have an amazing garden all year round.
- When feeding the birds in winter put food out where garden pests are likely to congregate. They can then have our offerings regularly and go on to their preferred food if anything is available that day.
- Mark the place of spring or summer bulbs - doubled over bright drinking straws are very effective. When the foliage has died away the areas can be used for summer annuals or winter bedding.
- Soil testing: Kits come as two basic sorts: chemical kits (~£7.50) and electronic readers (~£18). If you suspect a problem, a quick test can help. Test in various areas of the garden and doing this annually can indicate changes due to cultivation practices. Kits are available from Mahers (10% discount applies) and from B&Q.

If you suspect real problems the RHS will report on the nutrients and the PH of a sample for £30 (£25 RHS member) per sample.

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**Win tickets to Tatton!**  
Try the Quiz!

### Member Discounts

On production of EHS card  
Arthur Lane Nurseries 10%  
(Harwood to Ainsworth road)

Mahers 10% off garden goods  
(Lever Edge Lane, Bolton)

#### Suttons Seeds

It's an easier system this year and an even bigger discount on catalogue or web prices.

Packets of Seeds 50%  
All other items 15%

*You need the special order form and can then order by post, phone or their website*

For order form & catalogue call Phil on 300541

### EHS on the Web

It has galleries of pictures, upcoming events and lots more.

### Not a member?

You'll be made welcome at our meetings. Just come to one or look for details on the website.

## Another Curious Visit to make

In the second in her series Janet Faulkner takes us to another lesser-known beauty spot.

I am standing in the grounds of a grade II listed hall and park estate that was built between 1856 and 1858 for the Ormrod family of Bolton costing £50,000. Peter Ormrod was a banker and cotton manufacturer. His father James was one of the founders of the Bolton bank (now Royal Bank of Scotland). Ormrod also paid for the rebuilding of Bolton Parish Church which was reopened in 1871 and also owned Halliwell Hall, rebuilding it in the mid 19th century.

At the estate I am visiting today, the Ormrod descendents added a deer park and lake. The range of activities undertaken in estate buildings are well illustrated by the outbuildings. The hall and parkland was purchased in the 1920's by the Riddell family. In 1967 the hall was bought by the Whewells. During the 1960's the M6 motorway was driven through the grounds severing the main drive from the lodge.

The main features of this estate are the grazed pastures, upland fells, including Nicky Nook, woodlands containing tulip trees, magnolias, red woods and ginko. Walking boots would be useful if visiting. There is an excellent café (open Wed to Sunday)., located in the restored glass houses in the shelter of the former walled garden. Rowing boats are available for hire on the large lake.

This is not an estate with floral displays, but well worth a visit. Even in the winter months there are opportunities for walking the woods, fells, or around the lake, the wood burner in the cafe will give you an incentive to complete your excursion.

*Any ideas as to where I am? (see page 4)*



## Quiz **Win 2 tickets to RHS Tatton Show**

Q1) What is this Flowering Plant?

- A bulbous perennial
- Prefers wall protection and winter mulch
- Good cut flower; sold commercially in bunches
- Well drained, light humus rich soil
- Full sun
- Divide overcrowded clumps in early spring
- Flowers June – August
- Warm pastel base colour with darker flecks on the petals
- Flower 2"/5cm across
- Probably from western side of South America

Q2) What is this Vegetable?

- A native of the eastern Mediterranean
- Seen on Egyptian tombs – considered a sacred aphrodisiac
- Quick growing annual
- Induces sleep and dreams
- Many forms and a few colour variations
- Dried sap can be smoked with varying results
- Soil should contain adequate organic material
- Dislikes poorly drained or exposed sites
- Pests – birds, greenfly and slugs/snails

To enter you must be a member of EHS.

At our April meeting a single winner will be drawn from those with both answers correct to win two tickets to RHS Tatton Show on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Submit your answers before March 31<sup>st</sup> by email or on paper handed in at the door at a meeting (marked "Quiz" and with your name & telephone number) [quiz@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:quiz@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk)

*Answers will be given in the next newsletter*

## Some 2015 Flower Show Dates

Harrogate Spring Show	April 23-26	Thurs - Sun
RHS Malvern (Spring)	May 7-10	Thurs - Sun
RHS Tatton Park Show	July 22-26	Wed - Sun
Shrewsbury Flower Show	August 14-15	Fri & Sat
EHS Edgworth Show	August 15	Saturday
Southport Flower Show	August 20-23	Thurs - Sun

The Society looks after the flowerbed in front of the Barlow. This was planted by us two years ago and keeping it tidy is important to us and to Edgworth. The commitment is one shared visit per year in the spring and summer months (about 2 hours) and a rota is published. **Please help.**

We also maintain the Tebay garden in St Anne's churchyard in Chapeltown (just near the front porch) in memory of past members. Again the commitment is small. **Please help.**

Contact Irene on 307897

[secretary@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:secretary@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk)

## An Exciting Programme for 2015

We strive to have really good speakers and 2015 is no exception. Three speakers are less familiar to EHS but are well known nationally:

- Pam Warhurst CBE co-founded Incredible Edibles. This started as a voluntary gardening initiative in Todmorden, where volunteers now look after small vegetable gardens all over the town. The produce is sold in one of the shops.
- Paul Cook is now the Curator at RHS Harlow Carr. Paul has been to talk to us before, when he was head gardener at Ness Gardens.
- Sarah Raven is our "Celebrity Speaker". She is a gardener, writer and a guest presenter on *Gardeners World*. Her picture on page 1 was taken on our garden holiday in 2013 when we visited her garden at Perch Hill Farm in East Sussex. Her September talk will be by ticket.

### Monthly meetings

7:30pm at The Barlow on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

**January** *Bill Blackledge, Anthony Norman*

Ask the Experts

**February** *Judy Popley*

Flower Power - Gardens Well Worth a Visit

**March** *Pam Warhurst*

Growing Vegetables - the Incredible Edible Way

**April** *Paul Turner*

Herbs and their Cultivation for Culinary Use

**May** Evening Visit The Barn on the Green, Inglewhite

**June** *Phil Dunnett* Hellebores

**July** *Paul Cooke* The RHS Northern Garden

**September** *Sarah Raven*

50 Most Productive Plants

**October** *Tom Attwood*

Putting the Garden to Bed

### Other events

**Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Members Evening Meal at the Red Lion Hawkshaw

**Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>**

TRIP: Wollerton Old Hall & Hodnet Hall Gardens

**Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup>**

4 Day GARDEN HOLIDAY to Herefordshire

**Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>**

ANNUAL SHOW

**Saturday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>**

TRIP: The Lake District - Holehird and more

### About the other events -

Make a note in your diaries - the summer outing to two Shropshire gardens (both near Market Drayton) is on a **Sunday** because Wollerton and Hodnet are not open on our usual day, Saturday.



*Chris Beardshaw - "I can show anyone, anywhere in the world, photos of (Wollerton) and they all agree that it is a world-class example of an English Garden"*

The holiday to Herefordshire is now so popular that it fills rapidly when reservations open at the AGM. There are very few places left. For details contact Phil (300541) or visit the website.

Details of the late summer/autumn visit to the Lake District Horticultural Society are still being finalised. More details will be on the website and in the summer newsletter.

### Radio personality to award trophies at Show

Anyone who listens to BBC Radio Lancashire on Sunday lunch times will hear the ramblings of a "radio forester", Stephen Lowe. Stephen has agreed to present the prizes at our Show.

For our **plant stall** we need lots of good quality, well grown plants to sell (especially good in flower). So when you are sowing or dividing in spring please do a few extra. Here are some ideas for the stall: (Please label up pots.)

- divided and potted perennials, especially unusual or late flowering varieties
- late flowering annuals in pots are colourful and can fill dull spaces to extend the season;
- grow a row of wallflowers in the vegetable plot, dig up and wrap in newspaper with about 10 per package;
- sow violas and pansies for winter bedding and pot up a few for the stall.
- Look out for free seeds on gardening magazines.

### Seed & Plant Catalogue definitions

Attractive to birds - *don't plant near paths, cars or clotheslines*

Vigorous - *takes over the world*

Very compact - *not worth sowing*

Boasts a colour combination like no other - *tasteless*

## Where am I? (from page 2)

You may remember this estate which featured in the C4 program Country House Rescue.



Wyresdale Hall, Wyresdale Park Estate, Snowhill Lane Scorton Nr Preston Lancs. PR3 1BA.

Scorton is slightly north of Garstang just off the A6. Go into Scorton village and head up Snowhill Lane.

The house is not normally open to the public but if you get the chance it has some fine and some quirky features.

## EHS Rabbit Rarebits

*A simple fun recipe for supervised children & adults!*

*Preparation 5 minutes*

*Cooking 8 minutes*

*Eating time = fast!*

Ingredients for two

Rabbit Rarebits

1 English muffin ,  
halved and toasted  
45g Grated hard  
cheese (any sort)

1 egg yolk

1 tsp of cream or milk

2 drops Lancashire sauce or similar

Pepper to season

To garnish

1 baby carrot

1 small black olive / black grape halved & stoned

4 peas

4 mange tout

1 Spring onion chopped

2 Fresh chives

Method

- 1) Preheat the grill on high.
- 2) Mash the cheese, egg yolk, cream/milk, and Lancashire sauce together in a bowl,
- 3) season with pepper to taste.
- 4) Spread the cheese mixture over the cut sides of the toasted muffins, right to the edges.
- 5) Grill the muffins 8 cms from the heat source for 3-4 minutes until the cheese is golden and bubbling.
- 6) Decorate the muffins with peas for the eyes, mange tout for the ears, half an olive or grape for a nose, chives for the whiskers, chopped spring onion for the teeth and a halved carrot for fun!
- 7) Serve immediately heeding requests for more helpings!



## 2014 AGM (held in November)

This followed the usual format with reports by the chairman and treasurer. The Chairman summarised the high points of 2014 whilst suggesting ways in which members could consider helping a busy committee in 2015. He thanked all those individuals involved in the Society's successful year.

The treasurer reported a slight fall in the bank balance to £4545. The main reasons were expenditure of £600 on the anniversary booklet which was given to members last autumn and reduced takings at the Show. The plant stall which again had record sales thanks to the support of members and the support of advertisers in the schedule made very important contributions to making the Show affordable.

Maintaining a high standard of talks can be costly so the treasurer warned that membership fees are planned to rise by 50p to £3.00 at the next (2015) AGM. Members present clearly thought this was still good value judging by their reaction!

A number of Constitution changes, designed to bring the Constitution in line with common EHS practices over the last few years were passed.

There have been some changes to the committee and officers. The Chairman thanked two members who stood down:

- Amanda Mason for her work as secretary, organising the plant stall and leading the design and work on the Barlow front bed.
- David Mason for his very effective maintenance of the web site.

The committee was joined by Martin Cox and re-joined by David & Irene Spencer. The 2015 committee and officers were confirmed as:

Phil Broughton (Chairman), Keith Shatwell (Treasurer), Irene Spencer (Secretary), Sue Brohi, Martin Cox, David Spencer, Carol Murphy (Membership), Jean Turner, Pat Whalley (Events)

The AGM minutes and the revisions to the Constitution can be found on the website.

Can you help serve tea/coffee and cakes at a meeting or make a cake? **Please help**

Contact Carol on 307364

[carol\\_m@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:carol_m@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk)