



AGM: Bequest, Constitution and Flowers in Edgworth

Once again, a well attended AGM (75 members) heard our Chairman, Keith Shatwell, give an up-beat report covering many successes - fascinating monthly talks; an evening visit to a Secret Garden at Worsley which astonished us with its very existence; day trips to Harlow Carr, Temple Newsam and Trentham Gardens / Wedgwood were popular and enjoyed by all. Our Show was attended by several hundred and our adventurous holiday to Northern Ireland was voted one of the best yet!

The 2016 AGM had asked the Committee to reconsider their proposal EHS to become a charity to provide protection for the bequest we have received. The official part of the AGM took rather longer than usual, while Phil Broughton briefed the assembled members on the Committee's revised

proposal. Professional advice had been sought from a Chartered Accountant at Haworth's Accountants. After considering other options, he advised that EHS remains as a Society but should add an "Asset Lock" into our Constitution. This clause prevents some parts of the Constitution from *ever* being legally changed by *anyone* - specifically those clauses covering and preventing misuse of the bequest. The accountancy firm will monitor the Constitution following future AGMs. Thankfully members voted to accept this way forward!

The bulk of the bequest is being invested (by an advisor from Haworth's) to produce annual growth that can be used each year to benefit EHS and local horticulture. In 2018 it is proposed to buy up to 50 planters to be positioned in Edgworth. We will be asking you, our members, along with residents and businesses, to adopt a planter to keep it watered and looking nice. Phil asked members to consider other ways to benefit from the bequest - perhaps by forming a small working group.

The committee needs your help. Committee meetings (about 6 p.a.) are business like but a social event too and have forged many friendships. EHS is a thriving, busy and friendly society. BUT as Keith pointed out in his chairman's report, EHS is in danger of complacently watching our society collapse as advancing years leave us with no committee. Do not let EHS fail this way - several other societies already have. We need fresh committee "blood" (and new ideas) before this happens .. and it could happen any time! Please ask about joining or helping the Committee - you'll enjoy doing it, we do!

Committee changes: Carol Murphy has left the Committee but will continue as membership secretary; Thank you Carol for your efforts on the committee. We welcome Heather Dowel to the Committee.

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2017 (Local-ish!) Flower Shows

Tottington Spring Show	April 1	Saturday	
Harrogate Spring Show	April 20-23	Thurs - Sun	
RHS Malvern Spring Festival	May 11-14	Thurs - Sun	
RHS Chatsworth	June 7-11	Wed - Sun	
RHS Harlow Carr	June 23-25	Fri - Sun	
RHS Tatton Park Show	July 19-23	Wed - Sun	
Shrewsbury Flower Show	August 11-12	Fri & Sat	
EHS Edgworth Show	August 19	Saturday	
Southport Flower Show	August 17-20	Thurs - Sun	

Another Curious Visit to make

Janet Faulkner takes us to her next local beauty spot.



This woodland arose from the presence of two brooks which, although little more than six miles in length, had a huge

impact on the development of hamlets and towns through which they flowed. Their water was harnessed to power a water mill used for the grinding of grain into flour or meal. Although any trace of the mill are long gone, its past is recognised by the name of the road it now passes, Mill Brow.

Within the woods, a local Earl had a shooting lodge built in 1840 and decided to dam the brook to provide a



private boating and fishing lake just beneath the lodge. The 1860's saw the cotton famine and the Earl employed the cotton workers who had been thrown out of work to build paths and plant trees.

Today the trees and dam are part of a nature reserve, whose inhabitants include Herons,



Kingfishers, Grey wagtails and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. The dam is a site of special biological interest (wet woodland). Passing through the 30 hectares woodland is a former railway track bed (loop line), which has been converted into a walk and cycle way through the woods, and winds its way past a former railway station whose platform can still be seen.

Along the paths are many old and newly planted trees, with occasional wood carved flower sculptures, which are



representations of the local flora and fauna that can be found. In spring wild flowers are a feature and in Autumn the

changing colours of the trees make this area a popular destination for walkers and cyclists. Throughout the woods the path follows the line of the brooks which unite and flow into the dam called Old Walke



Dam. Small bridges and stepping stones add to the interesting features to be found.

Around 1790 a small black and white timber framed lodge was built at the top of the dam. The lodge is known locally as the 'gingerbread house' and is currently in private ownership.



In recent years the dam has been dredged to reduce the silt and small islands have been restored for breeding birds. A small children's play park with wooden climbing structures has been installed near to the dam. A number of seating benches have been provided along the paths and a great deal of the terrain is suitable for wheelchairs and prams.

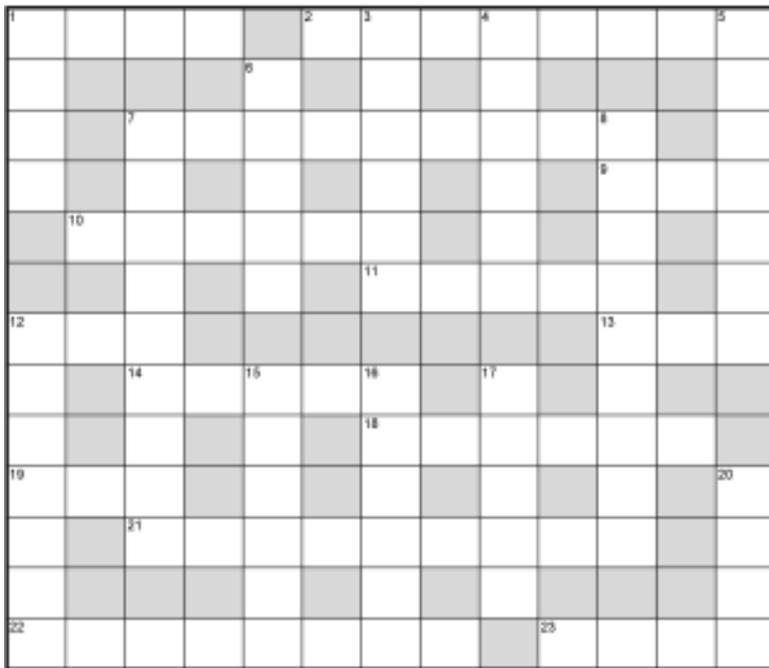
Who is this Earl who left such a legacy and Where am I? (see page 4)

Some Nearby NGS Gardens Open in 2018

- Weeping Ash Garden, (Bents), Warrington Road, Glazebury, WA3 5NS Sundays 11 18 25 Feb, 4 Mar, 9 Sept (10am - 4pm) Donation 🍴🍴
- Dale House Gardens, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2BE Sat 14 April, Sat 23 June, Sun 24 June (10am-4pm) £3.50 🍴
- The Ridges, Limbrick, Chorley PR6 9EB Mondays 27 May, 27 August (11am-5pm) £4.50 🍴
- Didsbury Village Gardens, Moor Cottage, Grange Lane, Manchester M20 6RW. 7 gardens 🍴 Sundays(12noon-5pm) 6 May, 12 June £5/£6
- 12 The Croft, Euxton, Chorley PR7 6LH Sunday 27 May (11am-5pm) Admission £3 🍴
- Bretherton Gardens, Hindley Green Wigan, PR6 9AD Sundays 27-28 May, 8 July 26 Aug (Noon-4pm) £5 4 Gardens 🍴
- Mill Barn, Goosefoot Close, Salmesbury PR5 0SS Sat+Sun 2-3, 9-10 June (Noon-5pm) £4 🍴🍴🍴
- Sycamore Cottage, Manchester Road Carrington M31 4AY Sunday 3 June £4 🍴

Gardening Crossword

Have a go at solving this crossword. The clues are cryptic and mostly with a gardening theme. *Martin Cox*



Clues across

- 1 Scaffold's pink flower? (4)
- 2 Hares set off into a copse of these (3,5)
- 7 Plant from Hades with eastern drill (9)
- 9 Narcissus chopped down (3)
- 10 Cassanova gets a hundred up front to make lucky plant (6)
- 11 Nutty container (5)
- 12 With ID sounds like washing – and nearly ready to iron! (3)
- 13 A victory from a bit of wind (5)
- 14 Leafy plant from a shoot lacking nothing (5)
- 18 Salvation losing heavy weight produces plant (6)
- 19 Short, short time (3)
- 21 Alien invaders from Japan? (8)
- 22 A gauge of tall rose bushes? (8)
- 23 Debauched playboy of a garden tool (4)

Clues down

- 1 Where 23 may scratch the surface? (4)
- 3 Sharpish ears hold garden tool (6)
- 4 Proportion of compost to grit or football result? (3,3)
- 5 Concealing yellow is affront in bulb bed (7)
- 6 Popeye's fruity girl (5)
- 7 Green and prickly with German wine, making tall bloom (9)
- 8 Austrian Captain's flowery air (9)
- 12 S.S. Nomad alters course for fruitful outcome (7)
- 15 What twisted hoes do - frightened off cat perhaps (6)
- 16 Seed planter sounds like a seamstress (1,5)
- 17 Amid Italian isle, Etna produces wintry weather (5)
- 20 Wise herb (4)

Answer on Page 4

Not an EHS member?

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

EHS on the Web

has galleries of pictures, up-coming events & lots more.

Tips & Ideas for the New Year

Enjoy your garden – work out how to change things if it feels like a chore. Maybe get some help; be less particular and avoid labour intensive schemes (e.g. fussy bedding)

- Feed the birds throughout spring. Hang feeders over places where pests lurk so the birds can catch them whilst sweeping up fallen seeds.
- Weed really well once; mulch deeply and many troubles will be avoided.
- Tidiness is great for the National Trust and RHS gardens where apprentices are learning the right methods – don't aim for Victorian perfection!
- Clean paths so they are not slippery – either with a power washer, chemically or scrub well with a yard brush. Choose your own level of effort. You won't get extra points for wearing yourself out!
- Feed spring bulbs whilst they are in leaf so they have the energy to make flower buds for next year. Let the dying leaves remain for about 6 weeks until the bulbs have drawn back all the nutrients they need. Do not tie them up or chop them off as the bulbs won't flower well next year. In spring herbaceous plants can hide the dying leaves next year so put new bulbs behind them.
- Bring catkins into the house to open early. This is a form of pruning. Choose from crossing, too long or in-the-way branches. Arrange daffodils with the catkins and you will have an early spring!
- Sharpen tools and service and clean mowers ready for the 2018 season. Check on the internet for instructions on how to do these tasks.

Local Plant Hunters' Fairs

– Specialist Plants (see planthuntersfairs.co.uk)

March 2018

Sat 17 National Memorial Arboretum 10am-4pm

Sun 25 Ness Botanic Gardens 10am-4pm

April 2018

Sun/Mon 1 / 2 Dorothy Clive Garden 10am-5pm

Sat 7 Hoghton Tower 10am-4pm

Sun 22 Bramall Hall 11am-4pm

Sun 29 Cholmondeley Castle 10am-5pm

May 2018

Sun/Mon 6 & 7 Weston Park 10am-5pm

Sat 12 National Memorial Arboretum 10am-4pm

Sun 13 Adlington Hall 10am-4pm

Sat 19 Arley Arboretum 10am-5pm

June 2018

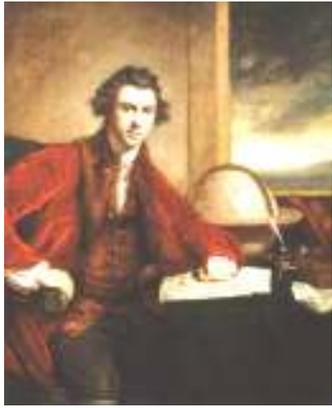
Sun 10 Norton Priory 10am-4pm

Sat 30 Jun / Sun 1 Henbury Hall 10am-5pm

Please note – many of these venues have other attractions which are payable separately

Famous Plants People - 4

In the fourth of our mini-series, Martin Cox writes about Sir Joseph Banks 1743-1820.



Joseph Banks, a Fellow of the Royal Society and President for over 41 years, was a naturalist and botanist from a wealthy background. His family seat was Ravesby Abbey, Lincolnshire. He was educated at Harrow, Eton and Christ Church, Oxford.

In 1766 he went on a plant hunting expedition to Newfoundland. This established his reputation as a botanist. His two ambitions were to travel the world and achieve fame as a naturalist.

His chance to achieve both came when he was sent by the Society to join Captain James Cook's first voyage on Endeavour to Tahiti. This was said to have cost him £10,000. Endeavour set off from Plymouth in August 1768 with 71 crew.

By November Rio had been reached, but despite a hostile welcome Banks managed to smuggle men ashore.



HMS Endeavour

They returned at night with exotic plants and insects. During their stay they collected more than 300 species, many unknown to Europe.

In January at Tierra del Fuego Banks and an expedition party found about 100 plants new to them.

By April Tahiti had been reached. Banks was enthralled by groves of coconut and breadfruit trees. Endeavour set sail in July after a three month stay.

In October the ship reached the east coast of New Zealand, but it was met with an angry reception at first by the Maoris. Further exploration of coastal zones revealed many varieties of trees and birds new to Banks and the crew.

By April Endeavour had reached New Holland, later to become known as Australia, and anchored off the coast. After a brief confrontation with local inhabitants, Banks and other naturalists found hundreds of plants new to them. One named by after Banks is Banksia, or red honeysuckle. It was induced Captain Cook to name the place Botany Bay.

On the way back to Europe in January 1771 in Batavia (modern Jakarta), there were many deaths from dysentery among the crew. Banks himself became very ill. Eventually on 10 July Endeavour reached

England after a voyage lasting nearly three years.

Banks did not accompany Cook on his second and third voyages. He regarded Resolution, Cook's next ship, as 'not fit for a gentleman to embark in'. Banks continued to be an important naturalist receiving new plant specimens from Cook's trips. He died in 1820

Banksia This is the genus of 170 species of the plant



Banksia praemorsa

family Proteaceae. These Australian wildflowers can be used as garden plants. They are easily recognised by their flower spikes and fruiting 'cones'. They range in size from low growing species to shrubs and trees up to 30m tall.

Banksias are heavy nectar producers. They are a vital part of

the food chain of the Australian bush and are an important food source for all sorts of nectar eating animals such as birds, bats, rats, possums, bees and many invertebrates.

Sadly Banksias are not straightforward to grow in this country unless in a heated greenhouse



Banksia serrata

Where I am! (from page 2)

We are in Worsley Woods behind Saint Mark's church near to junction 13 of the M60. Also known as Worsley Brook, the streams originate from Walkden and Little Hulton and outlet into the Manchester Ship Canal. The Earl is of course is the 1st Earl of Ellesmere whose shooting lodge is now called the Aviary which sits beautifully overlooking the lake he created. He also built Saint Mark's church and Worsley New Hall, the site of the new RHS Bridgewater garden. If you like a woodland walk with many historic features this is an attractive area in all seasons. You can access the woods via the Roe Green loop line which can be reached at various points throughout Walkden, Worsley and Monton.

Crossword Answers

Y	V	E	V		G	V	R	O	B	E	L	E
S					L	E	E					R
A		E	E	Z	I	A	L	O	B	Y		O
E		E	E		O	O						E
		R	F	A	Z	R	E		H	O		R
					E		E	L	S	O	H	R
R	F	H										
O		X	I	Z	H	E		X				
V		F				V	F	A	O	T		
A	R	O				E	F					
A						O	F	E	I	I		
R												
E	X	F	V	L	H	E	R					

Member Discounts

Suttons seeds

50% seeds

15% other

Arthur Lane Nursery

10% (except offers)

Mahers

Garden supplies 10%