



### Chris is back!

Ever popular TV personality, plantsman and designer, Chris Beardshaw returns for our September meeting. Quite a scoop for EHS and Edgworth!

Chris' talk this time is titled 'How Does Your Garden Grow'. His last visit was in October 2013, when he spoke on '100 Plants that (almost) changed the World' (but added far more!) and this is still remembered as one of our best evenings ever.



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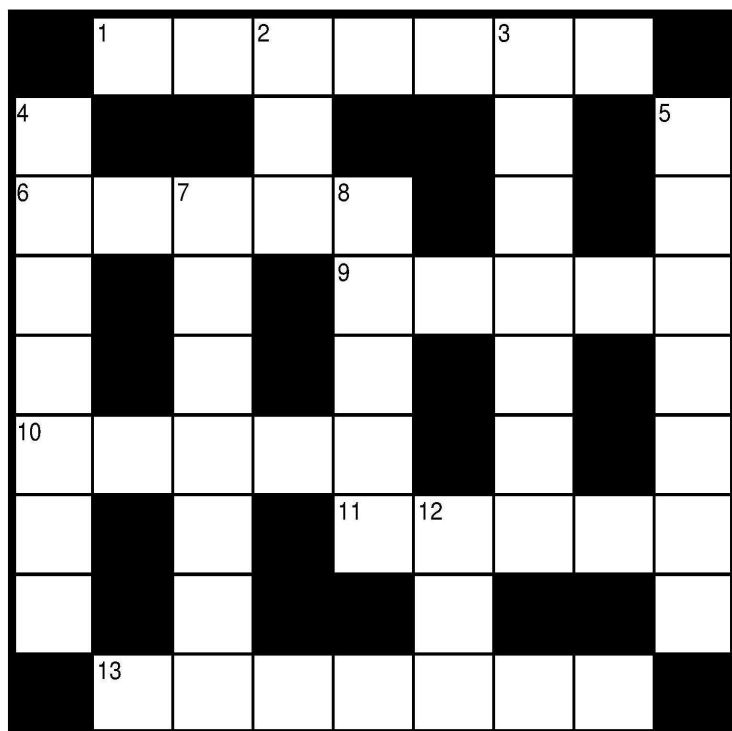
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Chris regularly broadcasts on BBC2's Beechgrove Garden on Sundays, on Radio4's Gardeners' Question Time and was again prominent during coverage of RHS Chelsea Show where he designed a roof garden for Great Ormond Street Hospital. This won 'Gold' following his eighth 'Gold' last year.

The meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> will be by ticket only. Priority for tickets is being given to members until July 1<sup>st</sup> after which they will also be available to non-members at £15. Until then, one ticket per member can be obtained from Barbara Kenny at £12 each. (email [tickets@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:tickets@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk))

### Puzzle Corner

No prizes this time but we hope you have fun doing this cryptic crossword. Most answers have a gardening theme. Good luck!



#### Clues Across

- 1 Confused bat lies in a feathery flower (7)
- 6 Bark mulch needing salt and vinegar? (5)
- 9 A juicy, choice example (5)
- 10 Entrance where the tide is kept at bay? (5)
- 11 Dismisses sports day equipment (5)
- 13 A flavour I need as mixed up as can be (7)

#### Clues Down

- 2 A root and valve in the garden (3)
- 3 Royal garden content 'on cue' so to speak
- 4 Garden 'lupine poison' by another name (7)
- 5 Non-believer takes cover in Panama the isthmus (7)
- 7 Pasta, ice-cream and garden design (5)
- 8 Expectorates dug depths in garden (5)
- 12 What George Washington may have taken to the cherry tree? (3)

Answers at the bottom of page 4

## A Curious Visit to try

This garden is a 4.75 acre oasis of peace and seclusion in one of Manchester's most densely populated suburbs. Tucked away behind busy roads it is often described as a hidden gem. This garden has been enjoyed by the community for over 100 years.

Historically, Johann Silkenstadt originated from Germany moving to Manchester around 1865 and developed his wealth through the cotton industry. Johann met and married Josephine Genth from Huddersfield. They had just one child in 1865, Marie Louise. Marie Louise married in 1888 but unfortunately died three years after in 1892 from peritonitis. Her husband William Bagshawe had a mysterious death in 1901. He was lost at sea while on a cruise ship off the coast of Madagascar. Johann also died leaving his wife Josephine grief stricken, without her husband, daughter and son-in-law. She decided to do something in memory of her daughter and bought a piece of land on Palatine road for £5,250.

The design of the lodge and gardens was undertaken by Joshua Cartwright, a Manchester civil engineer, who was also responsible for the Arts and Craft Centre in Bury (former Bury Technical College), which is now a grade II listed building. The total cost of the land and building was £15,000, 1.3 million in today's money.

Initially there were 72 different types of trees planted which boasted many species not seen before in this country. The gardens were entrusted to Withington Urban District Council in 1903 and were a great success with local folk. The council employed a Mr Coulson to tend them and manage their upkeep; he was the first resident park warden and the first occupant of the graceful lodge. He was paid a weekly wage of 25 shillings a handsome amount in 1903. Mr Coulson took great pride in looking after the Gardens and was given two days off a month!

Over the last 20 years the Gardens deteriorated and there was a plan to sell them for development. However in 2008, after a successful campaign the



the Gardens. For the third year running the gardens have been given green flag status.

A number of events have taken place over the last few years including plant swaps, Christmas crafts, nest box building and planting sessions.

This garden is best described as an urban oasis, comprised of pathways edged with many rare and majestic trees. There are many interesting botanical specimens including a Ginkgo Biloba, Tulip Tree, Caucasian Elm, Monkey Puzzle and Acers. The planting includes numerous shrubs and has a number of lawned areas. There is a mosaic sundial created by local school children. During my visit there were a number of people wandering round the garden - mothers with young children on the lawns, enjoying the peace and tranquillity, away from urban activity.



Any ideas where I am?  
(see page 4)

## Gardens and events to Visit

**Sunday 10 July** EHS member Lavinia Tod is one of five gardens in Stubbins near Ramsbottom, opening her garden in the National Garden Scheme 12 - 5pm. Plant sales and home-made teas at 1 School Court. All the gardens are very different and show what can be achieved in a small space. [Vinnie.tod@hotmail.com](mailto:Vinnie.tod@hotmail.com)

**20-24 July** RHS Tatton. Look out for local gardener Andrew Walker who is designing a "Back-to-Back" garden for the NSPCC to represent the Lake District, He won Gold and the People's vote last year.

**12-13 August** Shrewsbury Show

**18-21 August** Southport Show

**Saturday 20 August EHS Show !!!**

Come along to see a fantastic display of flowers, vegetables, handicraft, art, cookery, photography and floral art. Visit our plant stall and café. 2:30 to 4:30pm

To enter pick up a schedule at a local shop or from the EHS web site. Bring entries on Friday 7-8:20pm or Saturday 9-11:40pm



## Famous Plants People

**Nora Barlow 1885-1989**, granddaughter of Charles Darwin, studied botany at Cambridge



University and later was a pioneer in the new field of plant genetics. She initially concentrated on examining aspects of the primrose family of flowers.

In 1911 Nora married Alan Barlow and they had six children. Alan was the son of Sir Thomas Barlow, Royal Physician to Queen

Victoria, Edward VII and George V. Sir Thomas (1845-1945) and family who lived at Greenthorne donated the Barlow Institute to Edgworth in 1910.

Once free of her family commitments, Nora continued her study of genetics, editing a new edition of her grandfather's book 'The Voyage of the Beagle' (1933). She published a complete edition of 'The Autobiography of Charles Darwin', earlier editions of which had personal and religious material removed by his son, Francis and also edited letters, notes and correspondence between Darwin and his mentor John Steven Henslow.

Nora Barlow particularly enjoyed growing flowers in her Buckinghamshire garden and although her preference was for simple

flowers she is remembered by the aquilegia cultivar named after her. 'Nora Barlow' is a double form of the flower which is found today in various colours.



Recently Nora has found fame in another way - as a character in Scott Westerfield's 2009 Steampunk novel 'Levithian' for young adults. Her renown as a plants person, botanical geneticist, gardener and even a book character lives on to this day!

## Gardening Tips

1. Estimates have been made that there could be up to 20,000 slugs per square metre this year because of a mild wet winter. Ideas to combat the threat:

*Garlic water - boil up garlic cloves in water, cool and spray where the pests lurk - into dry stone walls, under stones, all inaccessible areas and round vulnerable plants. Take care not to be so diligent that nesting birds and other creatures are harmed.*

*Slug pellets - use as directed on the carton. Remember they are designed to attract slugs and snails, so using more is counter productive.*

*Jam jars - the tip given by the April speaker is worth reiterating - put slug pellets into jam jars and place horizontally on the soil, the pests go inside, poison themselves and die in situ ready for disposal, and with no danger to other animals such as birds.*

2. The original old tip - trim the lawn edges. This gives an instant boost to the garden - equivalent to spraying the house with furniture polish as the in-laws hove into view.
3. Take care not to trim hedges when birds are nesting. They may nest up to August. The shaggy hedges can soon be neatened, but birds disturbed may not breed successfully.
4. Compost - if the heap is covered to keep in heat, ensure that it is kept moist enough to rot down.
5. Whitefly enjoy warm and dry conditions so spray plants in greenhouses regularly to deter them.
6. When the weather improves and the threat of frosts passes house plants enjoy a summer holiday outside. When they come in again re-pot them in new compost so you are able to check for bugs and problems (such as vine weevils) so they don't work away through the winter indoors.
7. Label plants in the garden so you know what is where. Also check old labels so they can be renewed if they fade. A chart of plants is useful
8. Power hose areas which are dirty or have algal growth. Do this before re-cementing cracks in paving or repairing decking.

**Plants Alert!** A brief reminder - we hope to have a well-stocked plant stall again at the Annual Show. The help of members is invaluable. Please will anyone with surplus plants or divided perennials of any variety bring them along on the morning of the Show (or Friday Evening). Please present plants tidily to attract buyers.

## Spring Outing to Wentworth Castle and Yorkshire Sculpture Park

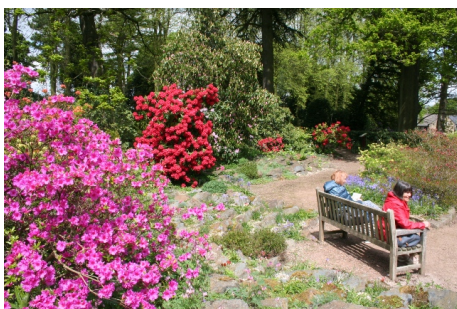


The weather on the 16<sup>th</sup> May proved to be much better than expected when we set off to Yorkshire on the Spring outing and stayed fine for the rest of the day. We arrived in time for welcome refreshments prior to a tour of the castle and the famous conservatory. Our guide, Rita was extremely knowledgeable. The house was originally the home of the Earl of Strafford and she talked about the significance of the family's involvement in the siege of Pontefract Castle. Rita explained the evolution of the various architectural styles of the house, which has had a varied and chequered history. It is now in a much healthier state of repair after a £11m lottery funded grant and is home to a college.

The conservatory has been meticulously restored, helped by donations and publicity from a visit by Prince Charles in January 2012. It now houses a collection of temperate flowering plants arranged by continent - an interesting and beautiful backdrop for our group and also popular for weddings.



Wentworth is surrounded by 500 acres of garden and grounds, which feature a striking memorial to Queen Anne and a picturesque rotunda set in rolling pasture. After the tour we explored the gardens, which contain important collections of magnolias, azaleas, rhododendrons and beeches. Though the cool spring meant that these were not yet at their showy best, the rhododendrons gave glorious drifts of colour to many areas and in the azalea garden, orange and yellow blossoms predominated, with some lovely red varieties.



Our visit had been very well organised by the Wentworth staff who even met us in the coach park with electric vehicles to take the less agile of our group to the house and then all around the slightly hilly gardens. We finished the visit with a delicious lunch in a private room.

We then set off for the Yorkshire Sculpture Park just a few miles away. This is extensive (500 acres) and is set in rolling landscape

leading to a large lake. Our party dispersed to discover the many sculptures dotted around. These were by a wide range of artists including a lot of large bronzes by Henry Moore who was born and raised in near-by Castleford. Amongst the many temporary exhibits were dramatic ones by Kaws - some of these abstracted, almost cartoon-like forms are enormous. One of the fascinating things to visit is the Sky Space, installed in an old lime kiln. Here you can contemplate a section of sky drifting past a large glass square set in the roof - quite moving and relaxing.



We arrived home at about 6:30pm after a delightful day out - historical, colourful, artistic and thought-provoking, a treat for all the senses!

**John King** John was an enthusiastic supporter and main-stay of EHS for many years. His horticultural knowledge was encyclopaedic - you name it, he had grown it! Many of us sought his sound advice - for computers as well as plants! He was a thoughtful and highly valued committee member for 32 years from 1981 - 2013. With 2 years as treasurer; 14 as secretary and instrumental in setting up our web site, John will be missed.



### Where I am (from page 2)



Marie Louise Gardens  
Holme Road  
Manchester M20 2UP  
0161 998 2117

[Marielouisegardens.org.uk](http://Marielouisegardens.org.uk)  
Open from dawn to dusk

1: ashtree 2: top 3: bottom 4: adonis 5: daisy 6: chips  
7: holly 8: spts 9: peach 10: met 11: saks 12: axe 13: unised