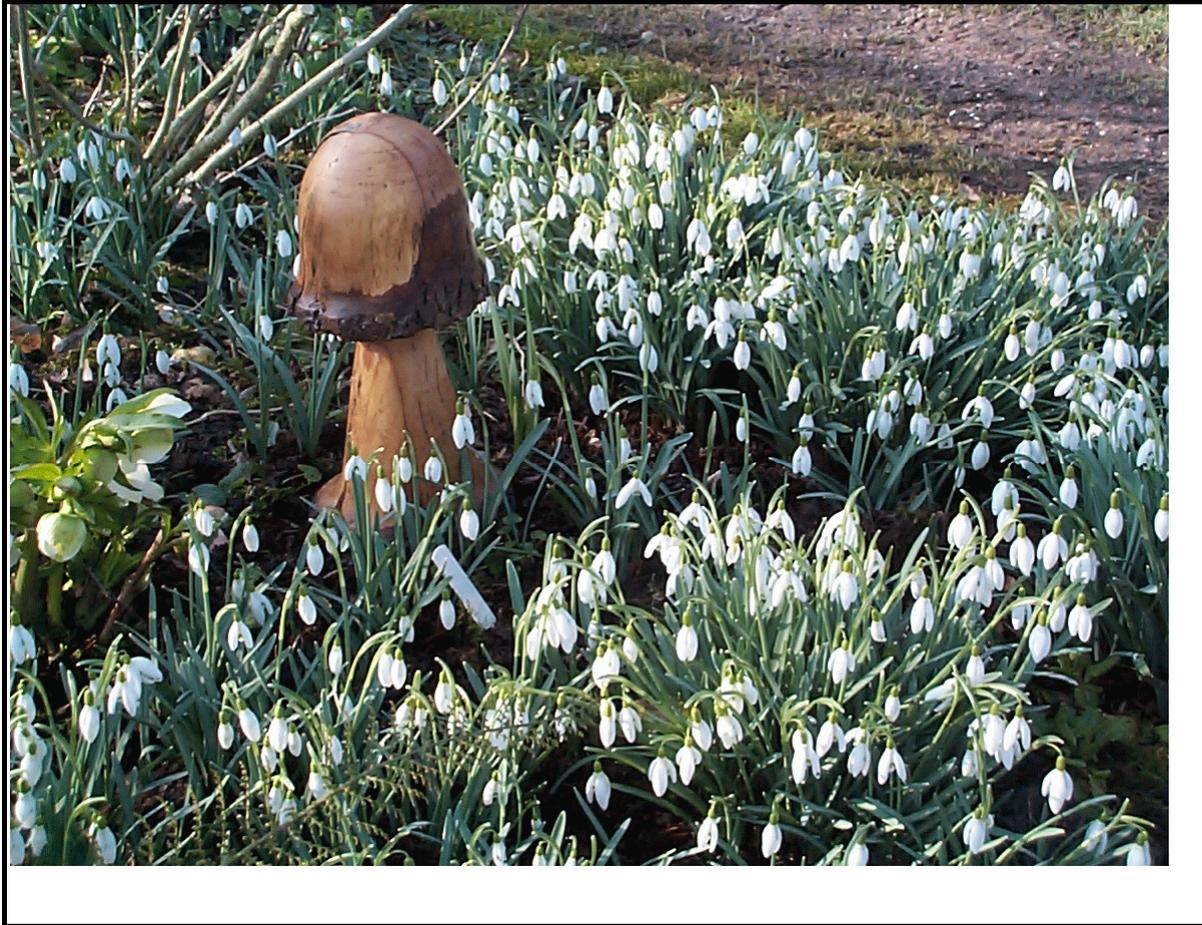


MEOPHAM GARDEN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER Winter 2003

Spring Show Saturday, 22nd March 2003

Look around your house and garden for plants to exhibit and make sure they are at their best by the time of the show. Judges look for quality and uniformity, so take care of any plants that show promise. Bring along the named bulbs you may have taken for the show, whatever their condition. Show Secretary, Jayne Macknish asks that you make sure you let her know what you will be entering by 9 pm on Thursday 20th March. The fee is 10p for each entry. Exhibits may be staged on the Friday evening between 9 and 9:30 pm and between 10 am and 12:45 pm on the day of the show. Admission is free, doors open at 3pm and prize giving is at 4:15pm.

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

If you enter something in the show, please help clear up afterwards. Buckets and black sacks will be provided to help with the operation. Please do not expect others to clear up for you.

Recent Events

November

Mr R Dowd from the National Trust took us on a tour of some of the National Trust's properties with emphasis on their gardens. The first house was acquired in Alfriston in 1896 and another property was the birthplace of Thomas Hardy in Dorset. The 16th century garden at Powys Castle is one of the oldest. The garden at Ham House is 18th century. The garden at Hidcote Manor was the work of a wealthy man; Lawrence Johnstone. His work there influenced Vita Sackville-West's design of the garden at Sissinghurst where the garden was constructed on the remains of the castle. A wealthy merchant banker financed the magnificent gardens at Stourhead.

December

Sixty two members and friends enjoyed another excellent Christmas supper which, once more, was of very high quality. The Village Hall looked very festive as members and their guests enjoyed a delicious hot meal and we are extremely grateful to Mrs Elizabeth Thomas for overseeing and liaising with the caterers. The speaker for the occasion was Mr Bob Ogle, who gave an entertaining talk, telling how his life changed after the October 1987 storm.

January (AGM)

Some 27 members enjoyed a social evening with cheese and wine and heard Jackie Fullalove's story of her exotic travels. The formal proceedings were conducted by our president, Mr Bill Roberts.

Prizes for the Members' Show were awarded as follows:

Selected Items :	Tony Thomas
Members' Choice :	Barbara Macknish

February

Hilary Newman from Hadlow College entertained us on the subject of 'Pests & Diseases'. As ever his talk was full of useful advice and information on the control of some of our more common pests. He also gave a few examples of diseases to look out for.

FUND RAISING

Members and friends were invited to visit 'Meadowview', the garden of club member Barbara Macknish on 22nd February. At this time of year the garden is full of spring bulbs (as seen on the front cover of this newsletter). Barbara very kindly opened her garden to help raise funds for the club.

WANTED

Member's garden to visit. By allowing club members and their friends to visit your garden you can help with our fund raising efforts. Please tell a committee member if you would be willing to open your garden one Saturday (or Sunday) during the year.

TRIBUTE

It is with great sadness we mark the death of Julie Goodwin on 15th February aged just 59 years. Although not members of our Garden Association, Julie and her husband, Eric, made us welcome at their home, 'Brewers Wood', in Shorne for our summer social 2001. The proceeds from this visit were donated to the lions hospice where Julie spent much time visiting and talking with the very ill.

Julie was a superb flower arranger and exhibited at flower festivals in churches, cathedrals, palaces and castles all over Kent and beyond. One of her achievements jointly with Brenda Waters was to be awarded the Silver Gilt at Chelsea Flower Show one year for their exhibit.

She endured her last few weeks with much courage and dignity supported by her devoted family and passed away peacefully in her own home surrounded by beautiful bouquets from her many friends.

Forthcoming Events

Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
14 th April	Mr L Hodgkiss	Aspects of Fuschias
12 th May	Mr L Manser	Bulbs Corms & Rhizomes
9 th June	Summer Social	Visit to Meopham Valley Vineyard Tickets (£6) on sale from April meeting
28 th June	Nurstead Church Fete, Nurstead Court. The club will have a plant stall and will be running a tombola.	

Proposed Outings

The committee are investigating the possibility of a trip to the HDRA Organic Garden at Yalding later this year. This may be an evening trip.

We are also enquiring about being allowed access to Prince Charles's Highgrove garden in Spring 2004. Because of the distance involved this trip would take a couple of days and could be combined with a visit to the nearby Westonbirt Aboretum.

Please tell a committee member if you are interested in either or both of these outings so that we can gauge interest before proceeding.

Spring Show Saturday 22nd March

Both the sale of plants and provision of teas help to subsidise the cost of running the shows, so your assistance with either (or both) would be most appreciated.

We need volunteers to assist in the tea room on the day and with making cakes to be sold with the teas. Any cakes that are left after the show will be sold whole. Bring along any surplus plants you may have, label and price them for sale on the plant stall. You will receive 50% of the takings from the sale of your plants. Please also provide the plant stall with a list of your plants showing the asking price and the quantity of each. You receive a higher percentage from gardening equipment that you may wish to sell. You may even wish to advertise on the noticeboard without charge, but a donation to the Association would be appreciated if you do manage to sell something this way. We would also be grateful for donations of raffle prizes of general interest.

Spring Show Dates for local societies

March 29

Ash	Village Hall	2.00pm
Oxford	Oxford Village Memorial Hall	2.15pm
Paddock Wood	Day Centre, Commercial Road	2.00pm

April 5

Bexhill	Bexhill High School, Downs Road	1.30pm
Charing	Parish Hall	2.00pm
Cobham	Meadow Room	3.15pm
Farningham	Village Hall	3.00pm
Ightham	Village Hall	2.30pm
Maidstone	Baptist Church Hall, Knightrider St	1.30pm
North Tonbridge	St Peter's Church Hall, Salisbury Rd	2.00pm
Swanley Village	Swanley Village Nursery	2.30pm

