

# MEOPHAM GARDEN ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER



RHS Gardens Wisley Photo Jo Latimer

### Autumn 2007

Christmas Social Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 7 for 7:30pm

Tickets priced at £17 each will be on sale for our Christmas supper until the end of November. Please make your choice of main course and dessert from the menu on the next page. Again this year we ask that you bring you own 'wine' but water and glasses will be provided. Our entertainment this year will be provided by Margaret Davies who will be talking about 'A Way With Words'.

## Christmas Menu

### Starter

Leek & Potato Soup

### Main Course

Roast Turkey with trimmings, seasonal vegetables & roast potatoes  
or  
Pithivers (French Sealed Individual Pie) with chillies & seasonal vegetables  
(V)

### Dessert

Chocolate & Cointreau Mousse  
or  
Hazelnut & Meringue Roulade with Mango Sauce  
or  
Mincemeat, Apple and Marzipan strudel  
or  
Cheese & Biscuits

Coffee

### Forthcoming Association Meetings & Other Events

21<sup>st</sup> November 2007

**Meopham Village Hall Management AGM**

All are welcome to attend the meeting which starts at 8pm.

10<sup>th</sup> December 2007

**Christmas Supper**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2008

**AGM with Cheese & Wine**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Low Maintenance Gardening**

**David Fitton MBE**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**Guerilla Gardeners**

**Richard Reynolds**

If you have any plants to donate to the Guerilla Gardeners, please bring them along to the meeting.

### Summer Garden Visit:

A date to put into your new diary!

We are proposing to visit the RHS gardens at Hyde Hall and then go on to see Beth Chatto's garden on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

### Recent Events

13<sup>th</sup> August

**Fruit Collections at the Brogdale Horticultural Trust**

Mike Austen, a local farmer who also acts as a guide at Brogdale, spoke to us about the history and current set up of the trust. Thomas Knight started fruit trials at Wisley in the 1920s. DEFRA funding was withdrawn in 1989 but the trust continued with loans on 10 year payback. There are currently 5 bidders for new DEFRA contracts so the future is uncertain. The land has recently been bought by a developer and the only income the trust now receives is from giving guided tours so please if you visit do take the guided tour which is the only way you will get access to the fruit collections. They currently have 200 gooseberries, 550 pears, 350 plums and approx 2300 apples in the collection. He brought along samples of the fruit he grows, 3 apples and 3 plums, for us all to taste.

**10<sup>th</sup> September**

**Gardener's Question Time**

When our speaker failed to show up those present held an informal question and answer session. After refreshments our Show Secretary, Barbara Macknish, gave some hints on exhibiting in our forthcoming show.

**15<sup>th</sup> September**

**Autumn Show**

There were 177 entries to the show (196 in last year's Autumn Show) from 17 entrants (17 last year). The trophies were awarded as follows:

Championship Cup	Douglas Nicholson
Townsend Vase	Claire Williams
Goodwin Cup (best exhibit classes 1-3)	Barbara Macknish
Stevens Cup (best exhibit classes 4-17)	Ann Nicholson
Hill Cup	Jo Latimer
Coronation Cup	Claire Williams
Harvel Floral Bowl	Di Spree
Garden News Shield	Doug Nicholson
National Vegetable Society Medal	Chris Spree
Garden News Top Tray Gold Award	Douglas Nicholson
Everard Bowl	Gail King

Thanks to everyone who helped set up and dismantle the show, those who baked wonderful cakes to sell and who ran the refreshments, to Vera for running the raffle and to those who helped on the plant stall.

The show dates for next year are 29<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> September. The specified bulbs for Classes 1 & 2 of the Spring Show are **Woodstock** (Hyacinth) and **Camelot** (Narcissus).  
**Barbara Macknish (Show Secretary)**

**8<sup>th</sup> October**

**Trees & Shrubs for a Small Garden**

**Paul Twyman**

Mr Twyman brought along a large selection of some of the many trees and shrubs that would be suitable in a small garden and explained how he uses them to best advantage and included tips on pruning.

**17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Coach Trip to Wisley**



This trip was very well supported and the weather did not disappoint. The new glasshouse proved to be a must see and many of us could have spent the whole day in there.

Thank you to Hazel for organizing the outing.

## Historical Snippets

### Plant Hunters

David Douglas (1798 – 1834) was born in Scone, Scotland, became a gardener and by 1820 was working at the Glasgow Botanic Garden. Recruited by the Horticultural Society as a plant collector, in 1824 he left for the west coast of North America, sailing around Cape Horn and via the Galapagos Islands up to the Columbia River in Oregon. Over the next 10 years he brought many plants back to Britain, including penstemons, camassias and *Eschscholzia californica*, but he is best known for the conifers he introduced as seeds, including the Douglas fir, Monterey pine and Sitka spruce. Plants named after him include *Iris Douglasiana*, *Limnanthes douglasii* and *Phlox douglasii*. Douglas died in Hawaii, aged only 35, killed by a bull in a terrible accident.

Sir Joseph Hooker (1817 – 1911) was the son of the eminent British botanist, Sir William Hooker (1798 – 1865). Joseph Dalton Hooker was a keen explorer, collecting plants in India, the Himalayas, the Middle East, North Africa and the Rocky Mountains of North America. A friend of Charles Darwin and a prolific botanical author, he eventually succeeded his father as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for 20 Years. Plants commemorating the Hookers include *Sarcococca hookeriana*, *Crinodendron hookerianum* and *Polygonatum hookerii*.

Mary Anne Robb (1829-1912) is reputed to have brought *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae* back from Turkey in her hat-box: hence its nickname, Mrs Robb's bonnet.

George Forrest (1873 – 1932) was born in Falkirk, Scotland. He traveled to Australia as a young man, returning to work in the Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. This proved to be a good grounding for his later career: his first trip, to China in 1904 was followed by six more expeditions. A courageous and prolific plant collector, he braved many dangers in order to send back carefully classified specimens and seeds of thousands of plants, aided by teams of Chinese villagers. Rhododendrons, including *Rhododendron forrestii*, were his speciality, but other discoveries included the very special *Gentiana sino-oderata*. Perhaps the most familiar of the plants named for Forrest is *Pieris Formosa* var. *forrestii*; others include *Primula forrestii*, *Iris forrestii* and *Hypericum forrestii*.

Frank Kingdon Ward (1885 – 1958) carried the tradition of the great plant hunters into the 1950s and was the last in a 300-year line. Beginning when he was a schoolmaster in Shanghai, he explored the remoter reaches of the Far East for nearly 50 years, introducing many rhododendrons, lilies, gentians, primulas and the beautiful Tibetan blue poppy, *Meconopsis betonicifolia*. Plants commemorating him include *Cotoneaster wardii* and *Rhododendron wardii*. *Primula florindae* and *Lilium mackliniae* are named for his first and second wives respectively.

*Adapted from 'Plant Names Explained' by Andrew McIndoe*



Elephant Hawkmoths on fuchsias – Photos – Jo Latimer

Bardown Oast, 7<sup>th</sup> June



World Garden, Lullingstone Castle 11<sup>th</sup> July



RHS Gardens Wisley, 17<sup>th</sup> October

