

MEOPHAM GARDEN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Photo: Jo Latimer

Spring 2009

Summer Show 8th June 2009

Our summer social event will be a small show with the winners voted for by those present. There will be a quiz and a raffle and refreshments will be provided. There is no charge to members but for a mere £2 non-members will also be welcome to come along and take part. The three classes are as follows:

1. A rose selected for fragrance
2. A flowering pot plant (pot no larger than 20cm (8"))
3. A vase of garden flowers (Association vases will be provided)

There is no need to pre-book your entries just bring them along on the evening and exhibit.

Forthcoming Association Meetings & Other Events

May 11th Care of Roses Paul Twyman

June 8th Summer Social as detailed above

June 27th Nurstead Fete 12:30 – 16:00

We have booked a double stall for this event so please sow a few extra seeds or pot-on a few extra seedlings so we can have a plant stall fit for a garden association. Please ensure that any plant donations (and plant trays if you would like them returned) are labelled and deliver them to Nurstead between 8.00am and 10.30am on the morning of the fete. If you are able to help on the stall for a period during the day, then please speak to a committee member.

July 13th Growing Soft Fruits for the Garden Russell Williams

August 10th Cacti David Godden

August 12th Coach trip to Cambridge Botanical Gardens

The cost of this outing will be £12 (cost of the coach hire) plus £4 entry to the garden. (or £3.50 concessions). Hazel will be collecting for this during the May and July meetings. Details of timings will be announced once finalised.

Cobham Gardeners Society

For further details of these events please contact Chris or Di Spree.

May 13th Hanging Baskets Liz Jardine

June 7th Open Garden at Haydown, Great Buckland

June 13th Summer Show at the Meadow Rooms starting at 3:15pm

July 13th Outing to Titsey House & Garden. The cost of this trip is £8.50.
Please contact Chris Shipway for details.

Istead Rise Gardeners Club

For further details of these events please contact Arthur Hills

June 4th Secrets of a Walled Garden Derek March

July 2nd History of Gardening Janet Bryant

July 11th Summer Show from 2:30pm at the Memorial Hall.

August 6th Social Evening

Meetings start at 8pm at the Memorial Hall, Lewis Road, Istead Rise

Recent Events

February 9th The Vegetable Garden Mr G. Francis

Mr Francis provided a wealth of useful information whilst illustrating his talk with some good quality slides.

February 15th Snowdrops & Hellebores at Meadow View, Hodsall Street

Once again Barbara Macknish opened her garden to the public to view her magnificent snowdrops and hellebores and raised about £400 for the Eleanor Foundation.

March 9th Britain in Bloom Jim Buttress

Those present enjoyed a lively and entertaining presentation of Mr Buttress's work on the judging panel for the 'Britain in Bloom' competition.

March 21th Spring Show

230 entries from 30 members which included 5 new exhibitors and 7 juniors; all except one being under 8 yrs and that one being 13yrs. The Association classes and most of the narcissi classes were well supported with the exceptions being doubles and split-corona due no doubt to the long cold winter.

Entries in the Domestic classes have increased over the past few years and are now of such a high standard it is difficult for the judge to pick the winners.

This year we had the best entry in the Floral Art section since I have been a member of the Association, both in number and quality. Dot Richards, our judge, was quite overwhelmed and again found difficulty in picking the winners as they were all so good.



The prizes were awarded as follows:

Elizabeth Thomas	Chairman's Cup	Best in Class 1
Elizabeth Thomas	Melliker Cup	Best in Class 2
Barbara Macknish	Hasler Vase	Best in Classes 3-11
Barbara Macknish	Certificate of Merit	Best Bloom in Show
Gail King	Oldham Goblet	Best in Classes 44-45
Barbara Macknish	Harvel Spring Challenge	Most Points in Classes 12-38

Plants for sale: If you wish to take advantage of the plant stall, please prepare a list, with prices, of the all the plants you bring for sale. Please also ensure that you write your name on the list. Give the list to the members running the stall when you deliver the plants to the hall. You will receive 50% of the takings for any of your plants that are sold.

Many thanks to all the committee for their support on setting up and hard work on Saturday which, without doubt, made the day such an enjoyable one for members, friends and visitors.

Barbara Macknish (Show Secretary)



Photos: Jo Latimer

Historical Snippet

CHRYSANTHEMUM

Common Names: Chrysanth, Mum, Tansy.
Botanical Names: Chrysanthemum,
Dendranthema.
Family: Compositae.

By Chrysanthemums we usually mean the popular autumn-blooming perennial or hothouse plants originating in China. Actually several flowers we call daisies, such as the ox-eye daisy, the Painted daisy, and the Shasta, are technically chrysanthemums.

The name "chrysanthemum" comes from the Greek *chrysos* (gold) and *anthos* (flower). The Mediterranean *Chrysanthemum coronarium*, from the Latin *coronarius* (used for garlands), was a golden-yellow flower from which garlands were made to protect against demons. It was also called *Dios ophrya* (God's eyebrow). The European feverfew or featherfew (the medieval *Tanacetum*, or "tansie", now *Chrysanthemum parthenium*) was widely used as an antipyretic.

The Chinese chrysanthemum, originally a daisy-like wild plant, had been cultivated in Chinese gardens for more than twenty-five hundred years before it came to the West. The fourth-century poet T'ao Yuan-Ming had a famous chrysanthemum garden to which he retired after refusing a high government post. He preferred to "pick chrysanthemums from the hedges", entertain his friends and get drunk.

Chysanthemums symbolized a scholar in retirement, though not necessarily a recluse. Infusions of the petals and leaves made wine and medicine, and the dew collected from them was supposed to promote longevity. They were considered one of the four "noble-plants" (the other three being bamboo, plum, and orchid). About 400AD, Zen Buddhist monks took chrysanthemums to Japan, where they eventually became the symbol of the Mikado, represented by an insignia that looked like the Rising Sun but was in fact a sixteen-petaled chrysanthemum.

The first "garden" chrysanthemum (*C. X morifolium*) was exhibited in England in 1795. In the nineteenth century, John Reeves, tea inspector for the East India Company in China, sent home chrysanthemums and botanical drawings by Chinese artists. Robert Fortune sent home the Chusan daisy, which became the pompom chrysanthemum, so called because in France, where it was first grown, it looked like pompoms on sailors' hats.

Since chrysanthemums are short-day flowers, they are well adapted to greenhouse cultivation and can be hoodwinked into blooming at any time of year by decreasing the amount of light they receive. Outdoors they bloom in autumn. One ardent chrysanthemum grower is said to have sued his township because a streetlight shining onto the flowers at night prevented them from blooming. They are used freely in houses in England and America, but in Italy, perhaps because of the time of year they bloom, they are associated with the dead and are unacceptable in any other context.

(Adapted from *100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names* by Diana Wells)

Poetry Corner

What the Robin Told

The wind told the grasses,
And the grasses told the trees.
The trees told the bushes,
And the bushes told the bees.
The bees told the robin,
And the robin sang out clear:
Wake up! Wake up!
Spring is here!

April's Charms

When April scatters charms of primrose gold
Among the copper leaves in thickets old,
And singing skylarks from the meadows rise,
To twinkle like black stars in sunny skies;

When I can hear the small woodpecker ring
Time on a tree for all the birds that sing;
And hear the pleasant cuckoo, loud and long --
The simple bird that thinks two notes a song.

William Henry Davies

May Night

The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew.

Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing --
My heart is fresh and fearless
And over-brimmed with spring.

Sara Teasdale, 1920

MGA Outing to RHS Wisley 6th May 2009



Photos Jo Latimer