



Photo: Jo Latimer

## Autumn 2013

### Christmas Social, AGM & Seed Swap

As we are not meeting in January, we will be holding our AGM on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Apart from the business part of the meeting there will also be refreshments. Our seed swap will also begin.



## **Forthcoming Association Meetings & Other Events**

<b>9<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>	<b>Christmas Social, AGM &amp; Seed Swap</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> January 2014</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>	<b>Garden Forum &amp; Seed Swap</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>	<b>Snowdrops &amp; Hellebores at Meadow View, Hodsoll Street</b>

Once again Barbara Macknish will be opening her garden to the public between 11am – 3:30pm to view her magnificent display in aid of the Eleanor Lions Hospices. There will be a plant stall and teas will also be available. Entry is £1. Please park at Woodlands Farm.

<b>10<sup>th</sup> March 2014</b>	<b>Coast To Coast – Two American Gardens Sharon Sperling</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014</b>	<b>Spring Show</b>

## **How to take part in the Seed Swap**

Members are asked to bring along to the AGM any saved seed or bought seeds that are not required. Any types of seeds are welcome. Tokens will be issued for donated seed but can also be purchased. These can then be exchanged for any of the donated seed packets. Please follow the instructions below to donate seed:

- 1 Provide 'sensible' quantities of seed in paper packets/envelopes. If supplying old seed, increase the quantity to offset any reduced viability.
- 2 Packets must be clearly marked with name (common/botanical) and month/year collected.
- 3 Include as much cultural information as possible (perhaps on separate sheet). This should include approximate height and spread, preferred soil type and conditions (if significant), and whether Perennial, Biennial, Hardy, Annual, or Half-hardy annual.
- 4 Seed saved from F1 hybrids will not come true to 'type', but could be offered if clearly marked, for anybody not unduly bothered
- 5 For vegetable seeds, state whether organic although this is difficult to prove especially if other similar plants in vicinity may have cross pollinated
- 6 Excess purchased seed may be offered as can seeds which perhaps were not to your requirements.

## **Recent Events**

### **12<sup>th</sup> August Summer Social and Mini Show**

Our meeting began with a couple of presentations; one from the Gravesham Adult Education and the other from the National Gardens Scheme. Those present then attempted to answer questions posed in quizzes on various topics whilst enjoying some light refreshments. The mini show consisted of three classes and the winners were voted for by those present:

A rose for fragrance	Moya Church
A vase of garden flowers	Moya Church
A flowering pot plant	Elizabeth Thomas



# Meopham Garden Association

**9<sup>th</sup> September**

**50 Greys of Shade**

Colin Moat showed us many slides of plants that do well in shady conditions. Some of those were quite surprising. His plant list is available on the website in the Articles section.

**21<sup>st</sup> September**

**Autumn Show**

We had a successful Autumn Show in spite of the lack of entries in some classes notably the Top Tray. In total there were 171 entries from 22 entrants including some from new exhibitors. There was a good entry from the Rainbows in the Junior Class.

The Autumn Show award winners were as follows:

Stevens Cup	Barbara Macknish
Championship Cup	Barbara Macknish
Townsend Vase	Pauline Beach
Coronation Cup	Pauline Beach
National Vegetable Society Medal	Barbara Macknish
Douglas Nicholson Award	Barbara Macknish
Hill Cup	Gail King
Harvel Floral Bowl	Marion Johnson
Bill Roberts Cup	Jo Latimer
Garden News Shield	Barbara Macknish
Goodwin Cup	Barbara Macknish
Top Tray Award	Not awarded
Everard Bowl	Pauline Beech

Thanks also are due to all the helpers from setting up on Friday night to the tea room, plant stall and raffle to the clearing away on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to all the exhibitors who made the effort to enter the show. Many thanks to Claire Williams and Sharon Sperling for running the show.

The show dates for next year are 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> September. The bulbs for the Spring Show are **John Boss** (Hyacinth for Class 1) and **Unsurpassable** (Daffodil for Class 2).

**14<sup>th</sup> October**

**Wildflowers, Fruits & Fungi**

We welcomed back botanist Sue Buckingham who shared some of her extensive knowledge of wildflowers, fruits and fungi whilst showing us some of her excellent pictures.

## In The News

### Huge GMO News

Mexico has banned genetically engineered corn on environmental grounds. Kauai requires farms to disclose pesticide use and the presence of genetically modified crops. Hawaii is considering prohibition of open air cultivation, propagation, development or testing of GE crops or plants and would also prohibit biotech companies from operating on the Big Island. Washington state's Initiative 522 would mandate the labelling of genetically modified organisms. Washington state Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the Grocery Manufacturers Association (who oppose labelling) for illegally collecting and spending more than \$7 million while shielding the identity of its donors.

<http://www.theyucatantimes.com/2013/10/mexico-bans-gmo-corn/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/16/us-usa-gmo-labeling-idUSBRE99F19B20131016>

### Gardening

Researchers in Sweden found that older people who performed "non-exercise physical activity" (NEPA), like cutting the hedge, home repairs and even car maintenance, were 27 per cent less likely to suffer a major cardiovascular problem.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/green-fingers-or-light-diy-cut-riskof-stroke-for-over60s-8909569.html>

For information relating to the Meopham Garden Association go to our website at

[www.meophamgardeners.co.uk](http://www.meophamgardeners.co.uk)



# Meopham Garden Association

## **Golden Rice**

In reply to Owen Paterson's claims that opponents of third world GM crops are 'wicked', John Sauven explains that there is undeniable risk in producing the GM rice that Mr. Paterson is proposing. You can't just genetically modify your way out of poverty. "Golden" rice has yet to cure a single case of vitamin A deficiency and it is an indictment that GM PR is always about its hopes for the future, never its achievements. The fact is that opposition to "golden" rice in the Philippines is being led by local farmers and church leaders.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/opponents-of-third-world-gm-crops-are-wicked-says-environment-secretary-owen-paterson-8877634.html?origin=internalSearch>

## **Unauthorized GM Rice Threatens World Supply**

GM rice in US exports to over 30 countries thus threatening 'widespread contamination' to the world's rice supply. This follows the recent discovery of a strain of non-approved GM wheat on a farm in Oregon.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2013/07/08-7C>

## **March Against Monsanto**

Worldwide demonstrations on October 12 called for the permanent boycott of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and harmful agro-chemicals. The first march last spring drew two million people from over 436 cities in 52 countries. MAM founder, Tami Monroe Canal, stated, "Monsanto's predatory business and corporate agricultural practices threatens their generation's health, fertility and longevity. MAM supports a sustainable food production system. We must act now to stop GMOs and harmful pesticides.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2013/10/11-4>

## **The 2013 World Food Prize: Monopolizing the War on Hunger?**

The biotech industry has awarded itself the \$250,000 World Food Prize for "feeding a growing global population." GMO seeds produce animal feed and fuel, not food, and have yet to feed any of the planet's poor or hungry. Indeed, the world produces enough food for 10 billion people, so increasing production won't end hunger. The WFP ignores the success of agroecological methods with farm-scale resiliency that ensures productive, sustainable yields.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eric-holt-gimenez/the-2013-world-food-prize\\_b\\_3469222.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eric-holt-gimenez/the-2013-world-food-prize_b_3469222.html)

## **GM potato, 'Fortuna', from BASF resists late blight and is being put forward for EU approval**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/gm-potatoes-heading-to-a-store-near-you-6255950.html>

## **Plan to crossbreed crops with their wild cousins to help boost resistance to climate change**

Crossing staple crops (wheat, potatoes and rice) with their wild cousins offers a natural, safe alternative to genetic modification, say experts at Kew. But global stocks of crop wild relatives are woefully low and many species are close to extinction, with aubergine, potato, apple, sunflower and carrot varieties most at risk.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-living/kews-growth-strategy-hybrid-crops-without-the-genetic-modification-8735533.html>

## **Corn belt shifting north with climate change**

Joe Waldman is saying goodbye to corn on his drought blighted farm near Dodge City, Kansas. Instead, he will expand sorghum, which requires less rain. Changes such as these reflect a view among food producers that it isn't a random disaster. It's a glimpse of a future altered by climate change that will affect worldwide production.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2013/07/09-6>

## **British scientists awarded £6.4m GM crop grant**

British scientists have won a £6.4 million grant by the Gates Foundation to develop corn, wheat and rice that need little or no fertiliser, instead the plants will fix nitrogen like peas and beans. The work at the John Innes Centre in Norwich is intended to benefit struggling maize farmers in sub-Saharan Africa who cannot afford to treat their crops.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/british-scientists-awarded-64m-gm-crop-grant-7945138.html>

**From the USA:** <http://www.foodrenegade.com/your-honey-isnt-honey/>

## **Ash Dieback**

Scientists are sequencing the genomes of Ash and the fungus Chalara fraxinea in an effort to find why some trees are not dying from the disease. There is another threat to our Ash trees - the emerald ash borer - which is currently found west of Moscow and is heading towards us. It already infested Ash in North America and has left a trail of destruction behind it. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03bg4vh>

## **Global temperature still likely to "carry on increasing"**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01ftr40>

## **Diabetes**

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/10/31http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-08-29/choose-blueberries-or-apples-over-juice-to-reduce-diabetes-risk>

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