



Photo: Jo Latimer

Autumn 2015

AGM & Christmas Nibbles

As we are not meeting in January, we will be holding our AGM on Monday 14th December. Apart from the business part of the meeting there will also be festive refreshments. The meeting will start at 8pm.

For information relating to the Meopham Garden Association go to our website at
www.meophamgardeners.co.uk



Forthcoming Association Meetings & Other Events

- 14th December 2015** **AGM and Christmas Nibbles**
11th January 2016 **NO MEETING**
8th February 2016 **Gardener's Forum & Seed Swap**

Recent Events

10th August **Roses**

Local rose grower, Peter Cox told us how he grows roses on farmland in Cliffe. He brought along a selection of beautiful roses with different forms and told us how to prune to get the best display.

11th September **Coach Trip to Bressingham Gardens**

On a beautiful late summer day, Bressingham gardens were a riot of colour and well worth the coach ride to Norfolk.

14th September **The Tradescant Family**

Local historian John Trethewey gave a fascinating talk about the Tradescant plant hunters and their connection to Meopham.

19th September **Autumn Show**

Despite concerns caused by weather, we had a good range of flowers, much fruit and some vegetables on display in the Village Hall. I am sorry that so many members were away, but want to thank the 18 adults who put in 164 entries. There were also 18 decorated pots in the junior entry and a winning pot of radish grown for the 11-16 class 49.

The Autumn Show award winners were as follows:

Stevens Cup	Barbara Macknish
Championship Cup	Barbara Macknish
Townsend Vase & Coronation Cup	Enid Lander
National Vegetable Society Medal	Marion Johnson
Douglas Nicholson Award	Moya Church
Top Tray Award	Moya Church
Hill Cup	Rosemary Divall
Harvel Floral Bowl	Janet Oxford
Bill Roberts Cup	Anne Nicholson and Enid Lander
Garden News Shield & Goodwin Cup	Barbara Macknish
Everard Bowl	Marian Rolt

Thanks also to Janet Oxford, Connie Smith, Jo Latimer and their partners and Fred Pepper who helped set up on Friday night. It was noticed again that fewer of our members and members of the public attended this show and this had an impact on the takings in the tearoom and raffle. As one of our main fundraising events, we hope that more members will attend both shows in the future.



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Next Years' Shows

Please plan to come to our shows on March 19th and September 17th 2016. Claire and I will be working on the new schedule to go to the printers in early 2016. All suggestions for classes and comments are welcome.

The bulbs for the Spring Show are **Carnegie** (Hyacinth for Class 1) and **Mount Hood** (Daffodil for Class 2).

Sharon Sperling

12th October Harvest Supper

Our second Harvest Supper was just as enjoyable as the first. Long may they continue!

How to take part in the Seed Swap

Bring along any saved or surplus bought seeds of any kind to the AGM. Tokens will be issued for donated seed. Donated seed packets may be purchased or exchanged for tokens. 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.

In The News

Bees: Bayer, BASF and Syngenta are suing the European Commission to overturn a ban on the pesticides that are killing millions of bees around the world. The link is to a petition to tell Bayer, BASF and Syngenta to drop their aggressive lawsuits. However, November Gardening Which? reports that Bayer is replacing neonicotinoids in Provado bug killer with deltamethrin, which has been in use since 1970 but must be used with care.

<http://act.sumofus.org/go/2311?t=2&akid=14829.10059193.wemhAW>

What to expect in the EU if the TTIP is passed: The hearing by the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry on GMO labeling was stacked with pro-GMO witnesses. How is this even fair?

<http://www.nationofchange.org/2015/10/23/pro-gmo-witnesses-participate-in-senate-hearing-on-gmo-labeling/>

Poland becomes the 14th European Nation to officially ban GMO's in their food production. Let's hope the remainder of the countries in the EU follow suit.

www.nationofchange.org/2015/10/04/poland-becomes-the-14th-european-nation-to-officially-ban-gmos/

University Scientists Caught Conspiring with Monsanto to Manipulate Public Opinion on GMOs. Monsanto is using tactics that cigarette companies once used by getting public university scientists to back them up. Taxpayers fund these universities that spew misinformation to protect such a corrupt company.

<http://www.nationofchange.org/2015/09/13/university-scientists-caught-conspiring-with-monsanto-to-manipulate-public-opinion-on-gmos/>

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Glyphosate: In 2011, a comprehensive review by Earth Open Source said that official approval of glyphosate had been rash, problematic and deeply flawed suggesting that regulators in Europe had long known that glyphosate causes birth defects in the embryos of laboratory animals and questioned the role of agro-industry rigging data pertaining to product safety and its undue influence on regulatory bodies.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/08/24/the-case-of-glyphosate-product-promoters-masquerading-as-regulators/>

GMO Industry Set to Flood U.S. Food Supply with Toxic Chemicals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently approved GMOs resistant to new herbicides which will, as always increase herbicide use, because farmers feel free to spray poison in higher concentrations to kill off more weeds. Weeds develop resistance (within a few generations) so herbicide doses needed to kill them begin to increase. Inevitably, residue from these herbicides makes its way into the food supply.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/gmo-industry-set-to-flood-u-s-food-supply-with-toxic-chemicals/5470351>

In his second encyclical on Mar. 13, 2013 Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio criticizes the social, economic and agricultural impacts of GMOs and calls for a broad scientific debate.

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/08/12/pope-francis-joins-battle-against-transgenic-crops>

According to the 2014 Wind Technologies Market Report, wind saw the most growth of any power source in the U.S. last year with total installed wind power capacity reaching a total of 65.9 gigawatts (GW) in 2014—enough capacity to power over 17.5 million homes. Further, the cost of wind energy reached an all-time low last year, making it competitive with so-called traditional power sources across much of the U.S.

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/08/11/wind-prices-record-low-clean-energy-revolution-upon-us/>

GM mustard in India: Prominent campaigner Aruna Rodrigues argues that official regulators have hidden all data about GM mustard from the public and the independent scientific community, which is against constitutional provisions and the orders of the Supreme Court. The secrecy and regulatory delinquency that Rodrigues talks of is integral to the speeding up of the wider agenda of restructuring Indian agriculture for the benefit of an increasingly impatient Western agribusiness cartel.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/11/02/seeds-of-corruption-unneeded-unwanted-and-unsafe-the-case-of-genetically-modified-mustard-in-india/>

Last year the British Journal of Nutrition showed that organic crops and foods are between 18 to 69 percent higher in antioxidants, which are linked to reduced risks of cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases and cancers, than conventionally-grown crops. The findings contradict a 2009 UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) study, based on only 46 publications, which found no substantial differences or significant nutritional benefits. Organic crops have significantly lower levels of toxic heavy metals, lower concentrations of total nitrogen, nitrate and nitrite compared to conventional crops and pesticide residues were four times more likely to be found in conventional crops. Besides decimating important pollinating insects chemical herbicides and pesticides are also stripping the soil of nutrients. As a result, for example, there has been a 41 to 100 percent decrease in vitamin A in 6 foods: apple, banana, broccoli, onion, potato and tomato. Both onion and potato suffered a major loss of vitamin A between 1951 and 1999.

Journalist Arthur Nelson reports that up to 31 pesticides could have been banned in the EU because of potential health risks, if a blocked EU paper on hormone-mimicking chemicals had been acted upon.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/11/03/poisoned-food-poisoned-agriculture-getting-off-the-chemical-treadmill/>

Maddy Harland co-founder and editor of Permaculture Magazine tells how she germinated a peach from a stone, grew it on and trained it as an espalier in her greenhouse. Despite it having no fancy rootstock, it now produces plenty of fruit. Enough for some of it to be turned into jam. It has also proved to have suffered very little from the fungus that causes peach leaf curl.

<http://www.permaculture.co.uk/articles/peach-jam-own-root-stock-peaches>

Mark Boyle is well known for living without money for three years. Here Mark explores how money has been hijacked by the corporates, and how the use of money distances us from an understanding of where our food, clothes and appliances come from and the impact their manufacture has on the world. He also points out that we humans must be somewhere on the endangered species list and that our ecological impact is speeding our demise along with all the rest of life on earth.

<http://www.permaculture.co.uk/videos/mark-boyle-talks-hijacked-money-political-rewilding>

Feeding garden birds is so vital for some of our endangered bird species. It is expensive to buy seed and nuts so why not plant a few more shrubs to provide winter forage to save money and help balance pest and predators as well.

<http://www.permaculture.co.uk/articles/planting-winter-bird-forage>

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Bressingham Gardens 11th September 2015



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