



Photo: Mike Hughes

Spring 2019

Monday 10th June 2019
Members' Mini-Show and Social Evening

Our Summer Mini Show is on a smaller scale than the Spring and Autumn Shows, with the winners voted for by those present. There is no charge to members, but for just £2.50 non-members are also welcome to come along and take part in the show and social evening. There is no need to pre-book your entries, just bring them on the evening to exhibit. The classes are as follows:

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

This year's Social will be a series of short quizzes and games, with small teams circulating around the hall until all the members and visitors have played each other and everyone knows everyone else a bit better! There will be prizes to be won, so bring your clever friends/grandchildren/neighbours!

There will also be a raffle, plant stall and refreshments.



Forthcoming Events

June 10: Summer Social Evening

July 8: Visit to Member's Garden (TBA)

August 12: Alpines for Beginners - John Hughes

Recent Events

February 11 We held the annual Seed Swap and Gardeners' Forum, which was well attended. The plant stall was well-stocked with snowdrops, hellebores etc at very affordable prices. We had a steady flow of members renewing their membership for the year and paying the £20 subscription. Among the benefits of joining, members can exhibit in shows, admission to meetings and the cost of speakers is all covered, and members receive discounts at Millbrook's and other nurseries.

March 11 Our speaker, Stephen Harmer, gave an amusing and informative talk on 'Arts and Crafts Gardens'. In the late 19th century, the A&C Movement, including William Morris and John Ruskin, returned to traditional craftsmanship and attention to detail. Their gardens reverted from formal beds to more naturalised, fluid plantings, using old varieties of flowers, trees etc in 'garden rooms', to be viewed from all sides of the house.

April 8 We welcomed back Min Keating, Pharmacist, Teacher and Garden Guide for the NT gave an informative talk on 'Modern Medicines and their Plant Origins'. It was interesting to discover where many of the common medicines come from and how they were developed.

Saturday 16th March – Spring Show

The show was well supported and we actually broke even.

The judge was very complimentary about the standard and number of entries and it was felt that more members had put in greater effort this time with the presentation of entries

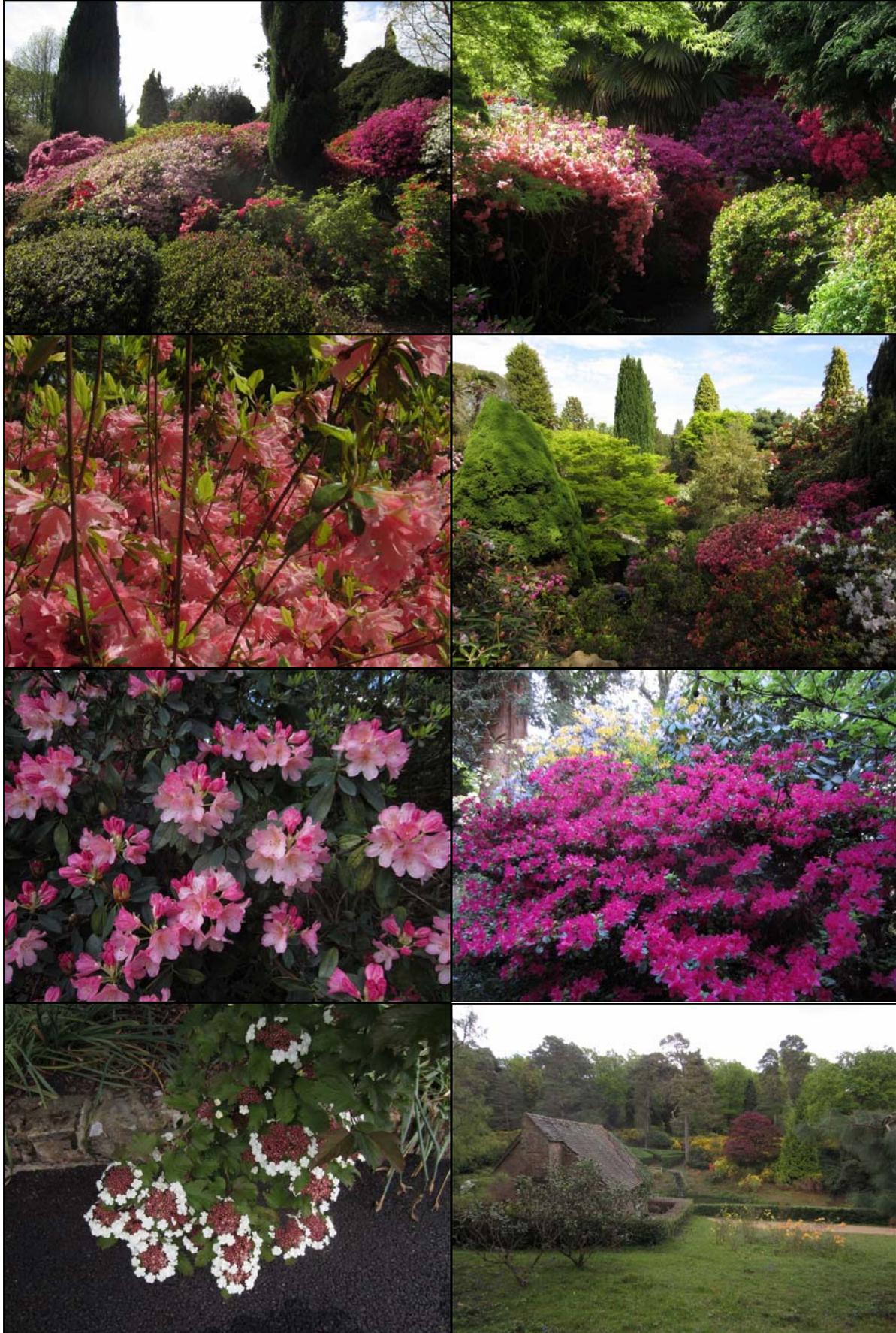
However, there were fewer entries than usual in the Domestic classes.

Congratulations to everyone with winning entries and to the following cup winners

Chairman's Cup	Elizabeth Thomas
Melliker Cup	Anne Nicholson
Hasler Vase	Barbara Macknish
Oldham Coblet	Elizabeth Thomas
Diploma	Barbara Macknish
Harvel Spring Challenge	Barbara Macknish
Meryl Burgess Salver	Barbara Macknish

We wish to express our thanks to all exhibitors and attendees and to all who helped set up the hall, ran the tearoom, tombola, plant stall and raffle. Thanks also to those who cleared away, swept up, printed our newly styled certificates and to the Judges and Stewards.

Friday 10th May – Coach trip to Leonardslee



Photos: Joanne Latimer



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In the News

Gardening Which Tips

In the April issue there was an article on 'Potatoes for Roasting'. Some 20 varieties were tested and rated for a number of features including yield, disease resistance, roasting quality and taste.

Charles Dowding has long been an advocate of no-dig gardening and explains that digging disrupts delicate networks of mycorrhizal fungi that connect with plant roots and assist them to access nutrients and moisture. Instead an annual application of compost 5 or 6mm in depth to the surface feeds the soil which remains undisturbed and maintains a firm structure yet is accessible to plant roots.

Glyphosate and GMOs

A post-Brexit deal US threatens to introduce GM crops into UK. But we should take heed of Dr Caius Rommens former researcher of potatoes and team leader at Monsanto. He points out the conflict of interest where GMO companies provide data for deregulation and acknowledges that genetic engineers had limited insight into the effects of their experiments. Since most GMO varieties of potatoes that he helped to develop were stunted, chlorotic, mutated or sterile, and many of them died quickly, Rommens renounced his genetic engineering career and wrote a book about his experiences, 'Pandora's Potatoes: The Worst GMOs'. But the US, Canada and Japan approved them because regulatory tests are meant to confirm the safety of a GM crop, not to question its safety. Post Brexit the industry hopes to pry the UK from the EU and its precautionary principle-based regulation of GMOs.

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/10/15/from-gm-potatoes-to-glyphosate-regulatory-delinquency-and-toxic-agriculture/>

Web links can be activated by going to www.meophamgardeners.co.uk and viewing the newsletters.

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

www.meophamgardeners.co.uk