



### Late News! *Phil Broughton*

We usually get the Summer Newsletter complete and printed in time to deliver with the schedules. This year we missed this deadline by several weeks leaving us with the problem of how to get it to you. Every year the Committee posts schedules through every member's letter box----but we can't go round again with Newsletters.

Printed copies of this Newsletter will be available at the July, September and October meetings and at the Show. You can also read it on the website. If you know of any member who may miss out please help them and us by taking a copy for them.

**Why So Late?** The words and pictures are largely provided by our newsletter team. Fitting these onto the pages takes time and uses computer tools such as Word, LibreOffice, a picture editor and even a spreadsheet. As the Show approaches there are lots of other similar jobs, not least the schedule but also posters, fliers, prize cards, keeping the website current etc etc. Whilst a few committee members are able to help, we are worryingly reliant on our Treasurer Phil for much of the fiddly stuff – and his treasurer job gets more demanding at the same time! Also the GDPR (computer data privacy) and a bit of an “outage” by Phil himself made us very late.

Do you know of anyone who is computer literate and would be willing to help us with computing tasks – eg early retired, young person, student, housebound? We will of course, work with them. **Please help us to find help!!!**

*Until then Phil mustn't "fall under a bus" (or more likely off a mountain)!*

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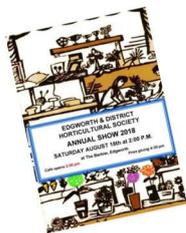
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### Annual Show on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018 *Phil Broughton*

You should now have the Schedule for our Show and all the details you need are in there. Most of the usual categories are there – not just horticultural classes, but cookery, art, photography, floral art, and all manner of crafts. An exception is eggs which having had very few exhibits for several years have been left out of the Schedule.



We make an extra effort to offer interesting classes specifically for children and produce a special Junior Schedule with just these classes. We give this to local schools and youth groups. This year we hope that “Design a Family Garden” for the 6-11 and 12-15 age groups will attract lots of entries. It's a hand or computer plan of a 6x8m garden and the rest is up to your imagination. Once again

the Show and cafe are open to the public at 2pm and like last year there is extended time to prepare exhibits on both Friday and Saturday though you need to have your exhibits in place on Saturday (by 11:20am). This allows judging to complete before the public come to look around.

We are grateful to the many local businesses who support the Show by advertising in the Schedule and who make it affordable for us to create a booklet which EHS can be proud of but which is free to everyone. So please check out their adverts. There is a list on page 42. Please tell them where you heard about their services when you contact them.

Another great feature of the Show is the Plant Stall held in the gazebo outside the Barlow. We need a lot of good quality plants to sell, so please help by dividing perennials, nurturing cuttings or growing on surplus plants that you have after doing your own garden. Please label the plants with as much information as you can – name, hardiness and whether perennial or biennial. The name is the most important item!!

The Cafe (drinks and cake!) is a popular destination. Can you help, please, by providing home-made cakes or biscuits? Gluten free and diabetic recipe produce is welcome to cater for our visitors with dietary requirements. Contact Jean on 852272 or [cafe@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:cafe@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk).

Our “village show” is months in preparation but on the day success relies heavily on lots of help from members and friends. To help on the day contact Tony Murphy on 01204 307364 or [show@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:show@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk).

The Show is the highlight of the Society's year and we hope that you will be exhibiting with us and also coming on the day to see all the lovely items displayed. If you have not been before we think you will be impressed and if you are an 'old hand' you know what fun it is.

**Schedule errata** Time pressure meant that gremlins crept into our schedule: **Class 149** should be Frangipane Flan; **Class 205** should be 1 item; **Class 207** Fruit Scones ~~Cheese and Onion Pastie~~; **Trophies** will be presented by John Catterall as on page iii and not as stated in the Message from the Chairman. Apologies to you all

# Spring outing to Cheshire *Martin Cox*

On 12 May the Society had a very successful visit to two gardens and a nursery in Cheshire. All three destinations were located near Kelsall and conveniently near to each other.

The weather for the day was very kind and we reached **Mount Pleasant** – the first garden – in good time. Mount Pleasant is a beautifully laid out garden set in ten acres. It has been tended and landscaped by just two people – the owners. The diverse planting has been thought out carefully to give continued interest throughout the year.

When we visited, flowering shrubs such as azaleas and rhododendrons were at their very best.

Adjoining the main garden there is a large area where sculptures are exhibited by quite a number of artists working in a range of materials. These are available to buy.



We moved on after mid day to **Stonyford Cottage Gardens** – the second garden – where everyone had lunch before going on a guided tour of the garden with various members of the

owner's family. This garden was pleasantly informal with an emphasis on shade and moisture loving plants. The various sections of the garden were linked by bridges and paths joining up the pools and ponds that give the garden its special character. One plant that obviously enjoyed the growing conditions in the garden was the candelabra primula, which was flowering profusely in a range of lovely colours. The owners explained how the garden had been developed from its original, quite challenging and boggy state.



After some time purchasing plants and enjoying the refreshments on offer we moved on to **Morrey's Nursery**, the last stop on the trip. This is a traditional long established nursery that grows a large proportion of its excellent stock of herbaceous plants and shrubs. After only about 45 minutes, everyone had managed to buy sufficient plants to fill the majority of the boot space on the coach.



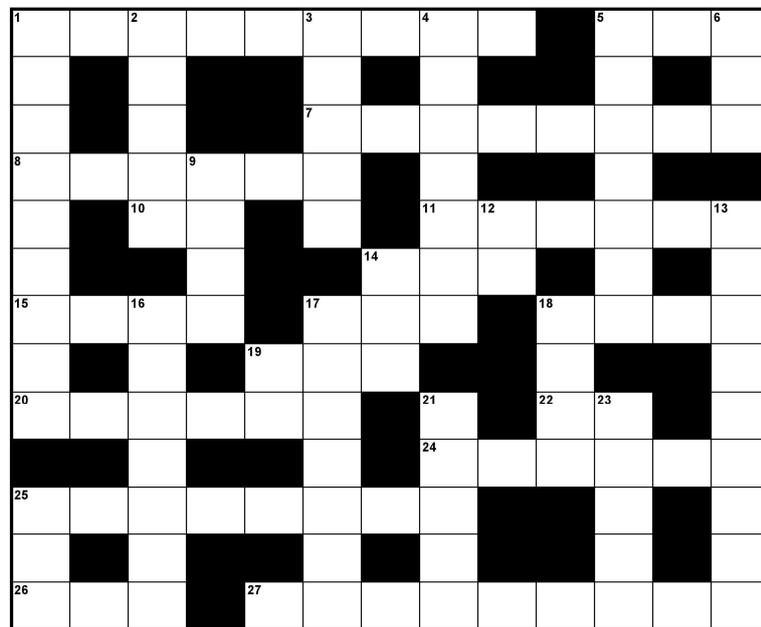
I think that judging from members' feedback about the visit, everyone had a very interesting and enjoyable day out. What more can anyone want - beautiful gardens to look at and beautiful plants to buy and take home!

**Plants** – we hope to have an attractive, well-stocked plant stall again at the Annual Show. The help of members is invaluable. Please bring nice looking plants along on the morning of the Show or on Friday Evening (grown for the stall or surplus / divided perennials from your garden).



## Crossword

Have a go at solving this crossword. The clues are cryptic and mostly with a gardening theme. *Martin Cox*



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Does Manc Paula resemble a flower? (9)
- 5 Pond creature loses tail to become young and fresh. (3)
- 7 A cab begs mixed greens (8)
- 8 A plot but not always in the garden? (6)
- 10 To plant seeds sounds thus (2)
- 11 Movement a rabbit is bound to make! (6)
- 14 Garden string holder held in quarantine. (3)
- 15 Makes money for planters? (4)
- 17 A panama hat contains a cry of surprise (3)
- 18 Fine linen and usually green? (4)
- 19 Lincoln short (3 abbr)
- 20 Stir braise and produce a state (6)
- 22 Currant current currant current (1,1,abbr)
- 24 E Garbo concocted a herb (6)
- 25 Male and male duck produce a mythical growth (8)
- 26 Male deer lose street to make air?
- 27 Country of blooming pink motorists (9)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 Stale jokes dropped from a tree? (9)
- 2 Mothers lose queen and turn into insects (5)
- 3 Place on the French Riviera becomes more pleasant (5)
- 4 Bit of ear partly liable to become bedding? (7)
- 5 Is Love-in-a-mist cooking? (7)
- 6 Wind and snow initially in the past (3)
- 9 Ages in the onset of time. (4)
- 12 Negative turnaround shows garden tap is flowing (2)
- 13 Tense mop N squeezed into colourful border plant (9)
- 14 Article definitely found in heather (3)
- 16 Rennies dissolve into Guernsey bloomers (7)
- 17 `Skinny' yellow slapstick fruit (1,6)
- 18 Is the distorted rail untruthful? (4)
- 19 A robot gardener may have this in the future (1,1 abbr)
- 21 A pulse that could be a `sprinter' (1,4)
- 23 Prickly customers in the greenhouse? (5)
- 24 Eucalyptus grows up for tea? (3)

Answers on  
page 4

# Famous Plants People 5

In the fifth of our series Martin Cox writes about

## Robert Fortune 1812-1880

Robert Fortune was an enigmatic, though notoriously surly, botanist and plant hunter. Our gardens would be much poorer if it weren't for his brave exploits.



During several visits – mainly to China, but also to Indonesia, Japan, Hong Kong and the Philippines – Fortune brought back more than 200 ornamental plants. These were mainly

trees and shrubs, but they also included climbers and herbaceous perennials.

Fortune was born in Kelloe in what is now County Durham. He was first employed in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and then later in the garden of the Horticultural Society of London (later renamed the RHS). He then became the Society's collector in China.



He was sent on his first journey in 1843 with a request to collect seeds and plants not cultivated in Britain and to obtain information on Chinese gardening. He was asked particularly to find blue-flowered peonies and to investigate the peaches growing in the Emperor's private garden.

Each trip enriched Britain's gardens. He brought back Abelia, Wisteria, Chrysanthemums Camellia, and various Daphne species. Deutzia, Jasminium officinalis, Primula japonica and several Rhododendron species.

Despite the introduction of all these exotic plants to Europe his most famous accomplishment was the successful transporting of tea plants from China to the Darjeeling region of India in 1848. This was on behalf of the British East India Company. He used the latest invention to transport these plants – the 'Wardian Case'.



Sadly most of the 20,000 plants and seedlings perished, but a group of trained Chinese tea workers who travelled with him used their skill and knowledge and

were instrumental in setting up India's tea industry.

Though generally well received on his travels, he sometimes faced hostility. An angry mob threatened him at knifepoint, and he survived killer storms in the Yellow Sea and pirate attacks on the Yangtse River.

Fortune spoke Mandarin and by adopting local dress, shaving his head and growing a pony tail, he was able

to move among the Chinese largely unnoticed



He published accounts of his travels in a succession of books, such as - 'A Journey to the Tea Countries of China' (1852).

Robert Fortune died in London in 1880. Numerous plants were named after him including Euonymus fortunei, Mahonia fortunei and Rhododendron fortunei.

## Eat Your Weeds *Irene Spencer*

Foraging is a hot topic at the moment. We spend hours weeding our gardens or using herbicides and worry about the weeds taking over our precious plants. No need. Instead of filling your recycling bin with things like dandelions, roast the roots and use the leaves in salads.

**Nettles:** can be steamed for a few minutes to negate the sting for a delicious soup.

**Himalayan Balsam:** toast the seeds for a healthy snack.

**Chickweed:** makes a tasty garnish.

**Campanula:** Add the leaves to salads.

**Goosegrass:** Known as Cleavers or Ladies' Bed Straw.

Slow-roasted ripe seeds, when ground, make a good coffee substitute without caffeine.

The dried, matted foliage of the plant was once used to stuff mattresses. Several of the bedstraws were used for this purpose because the clinging hairs cause the branches to stick together, which enables the mattress filling to maintain a uniform thickness.

The roots can be used to make a permanent red dye.

**Sweet Woodruff:** The scent increases on wilting, which persists on drying, then used in pot-pouri and as a moth deterrent. It is also used as a sweet flavouring for juice punch, beer jellies and ice cream. A way of cutting back on refined sugar intake?

Finally, the dreaded **Japanese Knotweed:** Stew with orange juice and make a delicious crumble or chutney.

So grow to love all your weeds and encourage them to grow and you will have spare time to enjoy your garden whilst partaking in a glass of pink Dandelion Wine made from all those leftover dandelion flowers. Enjoy.

## Gardening Tips *Sue Broft*

- Wash pots for reuse – do regularly so it isn't a big chore. Clean pots mean healthy plants. Throw out broken ones.
- Put out water for birds and other animals all year.
- At the end of the season tidy up tatty areas where pests lurk, and make dedicated places for wildlife to overwinter.
- List what needs renewing and check end-of-season deals
- Bargain buys – check supermarkets' reduced price plants that often just need water. 50% is the deal to look for!
- Turn the compost heap – it will rot down more quickly.
- Take photos and note plants that have done well – not every year will have the same weather as this year!
- Power wash paths and patios so they look good, and are not slippery over winter

## Evening visit, Woodstock Barn *Sue Broffi*

On Wednesday 20 June about 30 members visited the garden of John and Pat Bean in Mawdsley. This is a ¾ acre garden made from scratch over the last 30 years. In contrast, the field next door is still pastureland.



This well established garden has mature conifers, a large eucalyptus and many large shrubs. A lovely, unusually shaped pond has a cascade and water plants. The material dug out to make the pond has been used to make a large raised shrub bed adding contours to the garden. Pat explained that she wanted all the paths to be curved so that the garden reveals itself gradually around the mature shrubs and trees.

As the views within the garden are so attractive there are seats placed around the whole area so you can sit and enjoy the differing vistas. There is a vegetable area with raised beds and a good variety of produce.

We finished the visit with tea or coffee and could see the craft work that Pat also produces to sell.

## GDPR *Phil Broughton*

It may sound a bit like a railway company but it's the reason we've been railed by messages asking us to confirm that companies can contact us. The *General Data Protection Regulation* came into force in May. We collect and securely store details used for the sole purpose of contacting you and not for marketing so the *Information Commissioner's Office* advised us that EHS didn't need to message all our members.

However, we now have to be rigorous about deleting the details of members who have not re-joined by the end of March (as in our Constitution). **So each year, in early April anyone who has not paid their subscription will lose all contact from EHS.**

To conform with the regulation we have written a *Privacy Policy* which tells you what we store; how and where it is kept; how we use it and how you can ask to see / change your details. To find this on the web site: click on "Constitution" on the "About us" menu.

## Pumpkins & Pleasure Gardens *Phil B*

On Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> Our Autumn outing will be to Abbeywood Garden and is hopefully timed to see the famed autumn colours at Chomondeley Castle. Holly Farm Nursery is a chance to buy winter bedding and to pick your own pumpkins!

There are about 5 places spare.

Contact Phil on 300541 or [outing@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk](mailto:outing@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk)

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## Local Gardens and Events to Visit *Phil B*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July** 11:00 - 16:00 £4.00 Child: Free

**Moss Park Allotments** is a stunning, award winning site in Stretford, Manchester. Wide grass paths flanked by pretty flower borders give way to a large variety of well-tended plots bursting with ideas to try at home, from insect hotels to unusual fruits and vegetables. Tea and cake on the lawn

The site was awarded Best Site in Trafford 2017 and in the North West 2017 by the NWCAA. It is a working allotment of 54 plots separated by two grass runways. Plots bordering these all have stunning herbaceous borders. Some plot holders will be available to answer questions.

Moss Park Allotments, Lesley Road, Stretford, M32 9EE

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August** 11:30 - 15:30 £3.50 Child: Free

**The Growth Project** The Project has over an acre of organic, unusual vegetable varieties, a wildlife pond, insect hotels, formal flower and wild flower borders, and potager. Guides will give horticultural advice. Visit the Elizabethan straw bale house, stroll down the pergola walk and under the handcrafted arches to the wild flower meadow and orchard. Everything on site has been designed, built and grown by the volunteers themselves.

Afternoon tea is served in the Victorian style ornate 'Woodland Green' woodworking station. Buy cut flowers; fresh organic vegetables; jams; cakes; homemade lunches; cut flowers and vegetables.

Kellett Street Allotments, Rochdale, OL16 2JU

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August** 12:00 - 17:00: £5.00 Child: Free

**Bretherton Gardens, Leyland** Four contrasting gardens spaced across attractive village with conservation area.

**Glynwood House** has ¾ acre mixed borders, pond with drystone-wall water feature, woodland walk, patio garden with pergola and raised beds. **Pear Tree Cottage** garden blends into its rural setting with informal displays of ornamental and edible crops, water and mature trees, against a backdrop of the West Pennine Moors. **Owl Barn** has herbaceous borders with cottage garden and hardy plants, a productive kitchen garden providing fruit, vegetables and cut flowers, and two ponds with fountains.

**Hazel Cottage** garden has evolved from a Victorian subsistence plot to encompass themed spaces packed with plants to engage the senses.

Home-made teas at Bretherton Congregational Church.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> August** 10:00-18:00 **Southport Show**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August** 14:00-16:30 **EHS Show !!!**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September** 14:15-16:15 **Tottington Show**

**Sat/Sun 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September** 13:00-17:00 £4.00 Child: Free

**39 Osborne Street, Stockport** This dahliaholic's garden contains over 350 dahlias in 150+ varieties, many of exhibition standard. Shapely lawns are surrounded by deep flower beds that are crammed with dahlias of all shapes, sizes and colours, and complemented by climbers, soft perennials and bedding plants. An absolute riot of early autumn colour.

The garden comprises two separate areas, both packed with very colourful flowers. The dahlias range in height from 18 inches to 8 feet tall, and are in a wide variety of shapes and colours. They are interspersed with salvias, fuchsias, argyranthemums, and bedding plants

Light refreshments. Teas, coffees, and cakes.