



AGM in November 2018

Chairman's Report: Keith Shatwell welcomed members to the 45th AGM and reported on another successful year with 25 new members joining the Society. Membership now totals 235 including life members.

He thanked everyone who helped to make the Show such a success mentioning the committee, plant growers, cake makers, stewards and all helpers without whom the Show could not take place.

A special vote of thanks was given to Pat and Geoffrey Whalley for their work as entry stewards, a position they have held for many years and from which they are stepping down. Everyone bringing entries to the Show will have handed in their entry forms and money near the door to the hall, in



return receiving yellow or red numbered tickets. This was the visible and easy part of the job! Behind the scenes there was much preparation. In the afternoon we all admired the exhibits but they beavered away on hundreds of 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes to work out the trophy winners in time for the 4:30pm presentations (no pressure!). Pat will remain a committee member and continue as Events Secretary.

Special thanks also went to Tony Murphy for his work as Show Secretary; to Phil & Jean for the 2018 4-day holiday and the next in 2019 to Hampshire; to Carol Murphy and Sue Matthews who 'man' the door at our meetings; to Pat Whalley for an excellent and varied programme for the monthly meetings in 2018 and to the Barlow facilities volunteers who have made our life so much easier in helping set out chairs, tables etc..

Financial report: John Sharp had reviewed and signed off the accounts and offered to continue in 2019. The treasurer, Phil Broughton missed the meeting so Jean Turner ably stepped in to give the report:

- The Annual Show raised £31.93 - a healthy result because we paid out £346.48 on a replacement gazebo which will be used for many years. £482 was raised from entries on Saturday afternoon, with 378 people visiting. The cafe, plant stall and Schedule advertisers again made massive contributions to the Shows financial viability. The raffle raised £310 and was donated to Urban Outreach (Bolton).
- There was an overall loss for year of £349 but a good year was masked by this

The Bequest of £46,136.44 from Geoffrey Nuttall, was announced at the AGM in 2016.

- In March 2018, the sum of £46,136.44 was invested in 'Old Mutual Wealth'. As promised Haworth's of Accrington (Accountants) made no charge despite their Financial Advisor spending a lot of time finding a suitable investment (not easy to do for a Society)., Old Mutual charged £60.
- A little money has been spent from the Bequest: The Tebay Memorial bed and the Barlow bed previously maintained by Society members had become very untidy so gardeners were employed for 2 man-hours / month on each bed, to keep both beds in order at a cost of £468 per annum.
- A plan to fund "Flowers in Edgworth" foundered in 2018 due to an impasse with Blackburn-with-Darwen. Both the Parish Council and local businesses are in favour of the project and negotiations continue. (see later in this news-letter for what is planned).

Elections: The officers remained unchanged, none had completed their 3-year term: Chairman Keith Shatwell, Treasurer Phil Broughton, Secretary Irene Spencer. We also welcomed Angela Swallow to the committee

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2019 (Local-ish!) Flower Shows

Tottington Spring Show	March 30
Harrogate Spring Show	April 25-28
RHS Malvern Spring Festival	May 9-12
RHS Chatsworth	June 5-9
RHS Harlow Carr	June 21-23
RHS Tatton Park Show	July 17-21
Shrewsbury Flower Show	August 9-10
Southport Flower Show	August 15-18

Dandelion Data

How well do you know this humble weed? Is it friend or foe? Here are some interesting facts.



- The name comes from the French 'dents-de-lion' meaning lion's teeth, referring to the golden petals.
- Its Latin name is *Taraxacum officinale* agg.
- The genus name is derived from the Greek 'taraxos' meaning disorder and 'akos' meaning remedy.
- The species name, *officinale*, is from the Latin *officina*, which means "laboratory", referring to its medicinal properties
- Britain alone has more than 200 'micro species'.
- Every part of the dandelion is useful: root, leaves, flower. It has been used for food, medicine and dye for colouring.
- The leaves are a rich vitamin source, including A, C, E, K and some B vitamins. They also produce good amounts of iron and other minerals.
- Prior to the 20th century, vitamin deficiencies were the cause of many deaths so dandelions were used as traditional home remedies. People would pull grass from their lawns to make room for dandelions!
- They are thought to originate from China and India and are now seen as native to Europe and Asia, carried here before written history. They were introduced in America, possibly on the Mayflower as a reminder of home and for their nutritional and medicinal value,
- The common dandelion is a biennial or perennial plant and in a cottage garden some individuals can live for 25 years or more.
- Dandelion prefers loose, rich, healthy soil, but it grows as readily in compacted, rocky, and dry soils.
- It is the epitome of hardy. It grows at altitudes ranging from sea level to 10,500 feet, in meadows, in pavements - and even 'thumbs its nose' at lawn mowers and herbicides!
- The dandelion flower opens in the morning and closes in the evening.
- Dandelions are one of the most vital early spring nectar sources for a host of pollinators and have one of the longest flowering seasons of any plant.
- Mitas, a Czech Republic-based manufacturer has been researching ways to turn the white latex sap of the dandelion into rubber. A prototype is close.
- It has 100 to 300 ray flowers and within each floret of five tiny petals sits a tube filled with an abundance of nectar.
- The taproot can reach a depth of 1m (3ft). This deep root loosens compacted soil, creating a micro-climate for earthworms, who change and rejuvenate the soil.

- Seeds are produced without pollination. Young plants are thus identical to the parent plant
- Its seeds spread further in hot weather because they float higher in the air. Some have been known to travel 1km ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile)
- All dandelions are edible and have been used for culinary purposes for thousands of years
- St George's Day (23rd April) was the traditional day in Britain to harvest the leaves when they are more tender and less bitter.
- The French still widely cultivate dandelions as a green vegetable and the leaves can be found for sale on market stalls
- Leaves are tasty in salads, with cold meat and in sandwiches, but can be too bitter for some tastes!
- The dandelion is the only flower that represents the sun, the moon and the stars. The yellow flower is the sun, the seed head resembles the moon and the dispersing seeds are the stars!



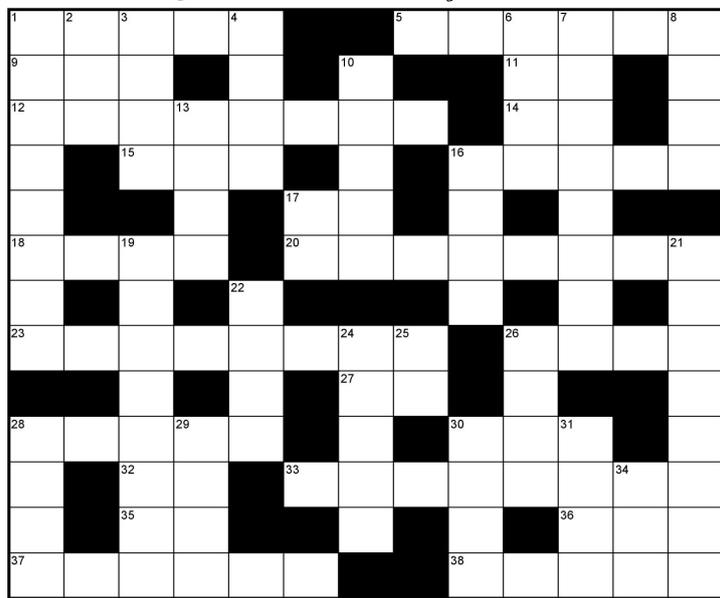
Autumn Trip in October 2018

Once again a full coach braved what initially promised to be a wet mid-October day, to make a visit which turned out to offer both some summer and autumn colour ... and decent weather!

The first stop was at Abbeywood Garden in Cheshire where they had reserved the large conservatory for our use and welcomed us with tea and coffee. The estate is privately owned and the gardens are extensive, including landscaped grounds; a small walled garden with a tropical feel; a cut flower garden with fruit and vegetable sections and a young, but interesting, arboretum. The owner greeted us and helped with tea, coffee and food. His by no means small house, is surrounded by the gardens. Everyone was impressed, many people thinking of a return visit.

After an excellent lunch served in the conservatory, we headed south to visit Holly Farm Nursery where some of us ventured into the field of pumpkins to "pick our own" whilst others stocked up on other plants - delaying our departure by overwhelming the payment desk manned by the pleased owners!

Our final stop was at Cholmondeley Castle Gardens where the head gardener, Barry Grain, led us on a tour of the gardens. His enthusiasm was evident and he spoke very well so we could all hear him. The gardens are landscaped with lakes and statues which are revealed as you pass from one part to another and were enhanced by a autumn colour.. Barry pointed out recent developments around the herbaceous border and talked of other changes he wanted to make. Return visits would be warranted.



Clues across *Clues are cryptic mainly with a gardening theme*

- 1 Syrupy tree (5)
- 5 Eye parts pictured by Van Gogh (6)
- 9 Drink hidden in a leafy part of the garden (3)
- 11 Short and holy road ? (2)
- 12 Gift from Dame Edna? (8)
- 14 A letter that comes after 'queue' ? (2)
- 15 Poor service that sounds as if it is allowed (3)
- 16 Golf movement to relax on in garden (5)
- 17 Either ___ (2)
- 18 ___ the pink ? (4)
- 20 Organized sounding weedkiller (8)
- 23 Fruity concoction to S.Capri (8)
- 25 Tasty larva ? (4)
- 27 Half a garden pipe - the sound of Santa ? (2)
- 28 Spawns lacking point create stingers! (5)
- 30 Concealed in fourth identity (2)
- 32 Dad is half in past (2)
- 33 Sort of statement made by garden brush (8)
- 35 We are not much use! (2)
- 36 What sleeping dogs might do in the garden (3)
- 37 Sound of Wise man's gift introduces flowering shrub (6)
- 38 Do these illuminate the garden ? (5)

Clues down

- 1 Can mixture of loam gain produce a shrub ? (8)
- 2 Sphere initially losing head is for everyone (3)
- 3 Bells and laughter sound like rind (4)
- 4 Is this garden way out ? (4)
- 6 ___ Esau sitting on a ...! (1,3)
- 7 Mr Mister turns out to be useful in long grass! (8)
- 8 Liquor in gulp is garden pest (4)
- 10 With added morning becomes blue climber (5)
- 13 How eyes and the lawn may be first thing! (4)
- 16 Are onions arranged in these ? (4)
- 17 Middle of most is bony (2)
- 19 Birds with feline sound produce tall bloomer (8)
- 21 Greens sound like taxi taking a while (8)
- 22 Woodlice seem to contain refreshments (4)
- 24 What one of 22D does in hot sun ? (2)
- 25 Sounds like what we do with a seed (2)
- 26 Complaint loses point to form tool handle (4)
- 28 Helpful earth caster ! (4)
- 29 Taps rotates into history
- 30 Tasty plant found in sherbet (4)
- 31 Sick and ill people have swallowed a 30D ! (4)
- 34 Pen's end (3)

Answer on Page 4

Join us on the 4-day Holiday 2019

Our 2019 holiday from July 27th to 30th still has vacancies. We have planned an itinerary that visits wonderful gardens, small and large, famous and less-so.



Perhaps the most famous is the large **Sir Harold Hillier** garden. Though some members have been before they are keen to revisit.

We aim to enjoy a variety of gardens: **Exbury Gardens** has a 1¼ mile miniature steam railway in a circular route around the gardens; **Apple Court Garden** is a plant lover's paradise with many unusual and mature flowers, shrubs and trees from around the world; **Longstock Water Garden and Nursery** has a great diversity of water-loving plants and single species. It also has some very rare specimens and a National Collection of over 100 different varieties of Buddleia. **Aviemore**, in the New Forest is small but richly planted and **Little Court** is a 3-acre walled country garden.

Of course we plan for lunch and drinks each day and also on our journey to and from Hampshire. We break the journey at **Witley Court** with its amazing church and at **Birmingham Botanic Gardens** on our way home.

This year's coach will be a smaller 49 seater. Last year it was difficult to get close enough to some gardens.

Look on the web site for more detail or call Phil (300541) or Jean (07792 761368). Non-members are welcome, and singles who are happy to share to avoid the single room supplement can be put in touch.

Flowers in Edgworth



Our idea is to brighten up the centre of Edgworth by sponsoring (and organising!) quite a lot of planters. The Parish Council are very keen on this and are working with us. We planned to do this last year but had difficulty getting the permission of BwD Council. In December their Streetworks Manager visited the proposed planter sites with us and advised a few changes. We are very hopeful that we can go ahead.

We want to have enough planters to have a real impact this year and to focus on Edgworth. We hope to put them at the crossroads and along Bolton Road on both sides to beyond the Barlow (where regularly parked cars might make them inconspicuous). If successful, in future we may consider other areas in the district.

Famous Plants People - 6

In the sixth of our mini-series, Martin Cox writes about **Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932**.

Twentieth century garden designs owe a great deal to the remarkable Miss Jekyll. Gardens today have developed a more simple and less formal air than their Victorian counterparts.

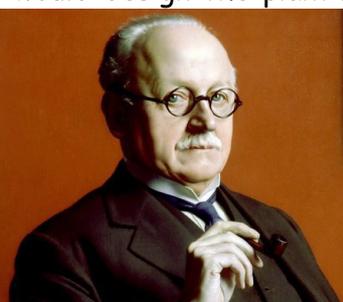
Gertrude Jekyll was born into a cultivated and artistic family, growing up in rural Surrey where she learnt to identify flowers, trees and birds. She grew to love the cottage gardens with their jumble of flowers. At 17 she went to the Kensington School of Art where she proved to be a talented painter and craftswoman.



Two pivotal events possibly allowed her to become the first lady of gardening. Firstly she met William Robinson, a fiery Irishman who ranted against formal garden styles in his magazine 'The Garden'. Gertrude was greatly influenced by him and she contributed articles in 1885 and was, as a result, able to meet and exchange ideas with leading horticulturalists of the day. Secondly her father's death meant that the family returned to Surrey, and here she was involved in the design of the house and garden at Munstead.

By the time Gertrude was 50 her eyesight was failing. Because of this she was compelled to give up embroidery and painting. So she decided to paint with flowers in a garden instead of on canvas.

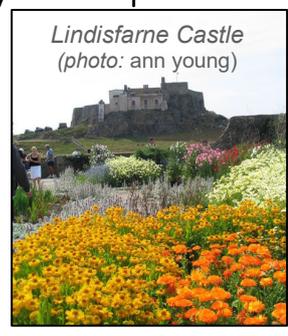
Around this time Gertrude met a young (22 year old) Edwin Lutyens who was just setting out on his architectural career. Together they formed an unlikely professional partnership. He designed the houses and hard landscape of the gardens and she would design the planting arrangements. They worked



together for more than 30 years with huge success. During this time Jekyll was involved in the design of 300 gardens ranging from small plots to huge estates.

Lutyens' garden plans were very formal, allowing Gertrude to clothe these geometrical features with plants. She aimed for the homeliness and informality of the cottage gardens of her childhood. She used many old favourite plants, but her designs were not random. She carefully blended colours and shapes to create her own magic. Some features developed by her were the single-

coloured border, the use of grey-leaved plants and sequential planting giving all year interest, right from spring bulbs to autumn foliage. She had quite firm ideas about herbaceous borders, carefully blending colours and shapes which rose from the front of the sequential planting giving all year interest, from spring bulbs to autumn foliage. She had quite firm ideas about herbaceous borders, carefully blending colours and shapes, rising from the front to the back of the border



Lindisfarne Castle (photo: ann young)

In 1897 the first 60 Victoria Medals of Honours were awarded by the RHS to mark Victoria's Jubilee. She was one of only two women among those honoured.

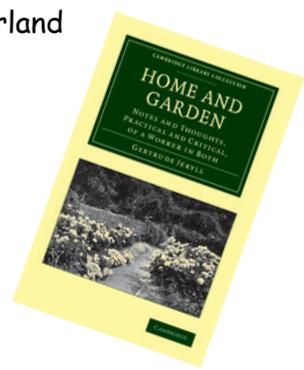
Gertrude produced many books including her first: 'Wood and Garden' in 1899, which was very popular. This was followed by 'Home and Garden' which included stories from her Munstead Wood home (designed by Lutyens, fitting it into the garden she had already created). In 1907 she also produced a book on flower arranging entitled 'Flower Decoration in the Home'.

Miss Jekyll's life was a full and long one. She died in 1932. Lutyens' churchyard memorial was not a flowery verse. It simply read:

GERTRUDE JEKYL
ARTIST GARDENER CRAFTSWOMAN

Gertrude Jekyll Gardens in National Trust care

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Lindisfarne Castle | Northumberland |
| Barrington Court | Somerset |
| Lytes Cary Manor | Somerset |
| Blickling Hall | Norfolk |
| Castle Drago | Devon |
| Coleton Fishacre | Devon |
| Killerton | Devon |
| Hatchlands Park | Surrey |
| Winkworth Arboretum | Surrey |
| Hidcote Manor | Gloucestershire |
| Mount Stewart | Co. Down |



Late Winter Tips - Sue Brohi

- Birds rely on us in winter. Move the feeders around to prevent food being dropped on the same ground
- Clear leaves out of greenhouse gutters & water butts.
- Cover vegetable beds to warm them
- Compost shredded paper 50:50 with green waste.
- Prune autumn-fruiting raspberries to the ground
- Raised outdoor bulb pots on stones to prevent waterlogging

Crossword Answers

