



May 2024

Newsletter

PRESIDENT: Edward Cotterrell

CHAIR: Wendy Jenkinson 02476 421607

SECRETARY: Angela Shaw 01676 534562

TREASURER: Helen Jones 01564 772645

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ann Fenton

Web site: www.bdhs.club

Dear Members,

Welcome to our May Newsletter.

So far May has been a month of extremes weatherwise, clear blue skies and the next minute torrential rain (a whole month's worth in one day) and a 15-degree swing in the daytime temperatures – a bit of a challenge for us gardeners!

The Plant Sale on 11th May proved that we were up to the task though and we had a fantastic selection of plants and seedlings on display for people to choose from. We also had an impressive collection of plants and pots donated by Gill Westlake's family who wanted to make sure that these went to a good home where they would be appreciated and enjoyed. Gill got so much pleasure herself from her garden, especially since her husband's passing. The stall with Gill's donations on raised £164, bringing the total raised on the day to £808. Thank you to everyone who supported us both by providing plants and helping with the sale on the morning.

Of course the plant sale isn't the only event we are all busy preparing for, our Annual Show on 20th July is now just 8 weeks away. You will find a copy of the schedule attached to the e-mail that this Newsletter is in, so you can start thinking about which classes you might enter. You will notice that a typo has been corrected – the Apple Tart is just one, not 6 on a plate as in the previous version (TY to the eagle-eyed Ken Shaw for spotting this).

As in previous years we will need your help to make this event a success and the great showcase for our society that it usually is. We will be circulating some forms at our next meeting on 30th May to ask for your assistance in setting up, clearing away, baking cakes and helping on the day. At the plant sale on 11th May we were repeatedly asked if we could do more of these, and we do have a plant sale at the Annual Show, so please remind your friends and family of this and encourage them to come along. Plus, there will be the usual raffle and refreshments available alongside the beautiful display of the show itself.

Before then we have our trip to Miserden and Painswick gardens on 6th June and we do still have some tickets available. These will be on hand at our next meeting or you can secure yours by contacting Helen Jones directly. Friends and family are very welcome.

Our next meeting is on 30th May and we are looking forward to welcoming Mike King who is coming to talk to us on "My Obsession with Sarracenias". We look forward to seeing you there.

Ann

Visiting Gardens in Norfolk

By Wendy Jenkinson

I recently spent 4 very memorable days on and near the north Norfolk coast enjoying the sunshine, the seaside and four impressive gardens.

My three friends and I get together every year to holiday in a part of the country where we can visit gardens. This year we hired a cottage in Sheringham (near Cromer) which is a great base. I was impressed with the traditional town centre with a wide variety of local shops and local produce, cafes, a long promenade and views across the sea and the spectacular rolling countryside.

Our first stop on the way to Sheringham was Bressingham Gardens near Diss. The founder was Alan Bloom whose profession of nurseryman and gardener and hobby of a steam powered collection of trains and traction engines led to the formation of the gardens and Steam Museum. (www.thebressinghamgardens.com)

There are six linked gardens over 17 acres so plenty to see. There is also a small steam train that runs around part of the gardens which is a different way to see different areas ranging from the island beds to "Foggy Bottom Garden" which was completed in 1967 devoted to a very wide range of conifers, heathers, trees and shrubs. It was very easy to spend a whole day at Bressingham to see all the gardens, visit the café, large garden centre, museum and ride on the steam train.

The second garden we visited was Sheringham Park which was at its best as the Park is famous for the vast collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. Owned by the National Trust, visitors can explore the 1000 acres of woodland, parkland and walk down to the North Norfolk coast. The Park was landscaped by Humphry Repton in 1812 so has many mature trees giving structure and beauty.

Felbrigg Hall and Gardens (National Trust) was a beautiful place to visit and only 5 miles from Sheringham. The large walled garden was full of spring colour with double flower borders, vegetable beds, many varieties of fruit trees and glass houses. If we had more time, we could have walked some of the footpaths across the 520 acres estate and visited a spectacular 17th century hall.



Sherringham Park



East Rushden

On our way home we stopped at East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens (www.eastrustonvicarage.co.uk) which was the highlight of our trip. Tucked away near the north Norfolk coast, this garden contains many gardens within the whole, just when you think that you have seen it all, another surprise awaits around the next corner. From Exotic and Mediterranean Gardens to the Desert Wash now containing large specimens of trees, shrubs, herbaceous borders, gravel gardens, sub-tropical gardens and many woodland gardens, some with long vistas down to the sea lined with a wide variety of hedging include beach and fruit trees.

Visiting Gardens in Norfolk cont.

The Old Vicarage was bought in 1973 and, at that time, had no garden at all. Over the years the gardens were designed and formed and still continue to change and evolve. There were many highlights including the vegetable and cutting garden, a very ornate structure of wood and netting built around the cherry trees and fruits bushes and the glasshouses full of exotic plants. It is well worth a visit if you are going that way but allow plenty of time to look around.

Recipe of the Month

Courgette and Broad Bean Risotto with Pesto

Ingredients:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp butter
- 2 medium courgettes (about 350g), cut into 1-2cm dice
- pinch of chilli flakes
- pinch of grated nutmeg
- 2 spring onions, finely sliced
- ½ lemon, zested
- 150g risotto rice
- 75ml dry white wine or vermouth
- 20g parmesan or vegetarian alternative, grated, plus extra to serve
- 80g broad beans, blanched and peeled
- 750g warm vegetable or chicken stock
- 2 tbsp basil pesto

Method:

1. Heat the oil and butter in a large non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Add the courgettes, sprinkle in the chilli flakes and nutmeg, and season with salt and pepper. Sauté for 3-5 mins until the courgettes are golden and softened. Add the spring onions and lemon zest, stir for a minute or two. Tip in the rice and stir to coat in the oil until translucent (about 2 mins).
2. Pour in the wine, then cook for a couple of minutes until it's mostly evaporated. Add a ladleful of the stock and stir for a few minutes until it's absorbed. Continue adding a ladleful at a time for 20-30 mins, stirring continually, until all of the stock is absorbed. (a glass of wine for the cook helps this process along...)
3. Stir in the blanched broad beans and warm through for 2 mins. Remove from the heat and stir through the parmesan. Allow to sit for about 5 mins, then swirl through 2 tbsp of pesto (you can add more if you like).
4. Divide the risotto between bowls and scatter with the extra basil leaves, extra cheese and another spoonful of pesto, if you like.

Serves 2 as a main course.

Monthly Flower Spike and Pot Plant Competition

Points are awarded for first, second and third positions (First – 5 points, Second – 3 points and Third – 2 points).

Prizes are awarded for the highest aggregate points at the end of the year. Multiple entries are allowed in the “Flower Spike” class, though only one award will be made per entrant.

Pot Plant

- 1st Jonquils – Alison Watson
- 2nd Succulent – Angela Shaw
- 3rd Auricula – Edward Cotterrell



1st Jonquils
Alison Watson



2nd Succulent
Angela Shaw



3rd Auricula
Edward Cotterrell

Flower Spike

- 1st Deutzia – Felicity Hill
- 2nd Davidia – Derek Hill
- 3rd Lilac – Maggie Smith



1st Deutzia
Felicity Hill



2nd Davidia
Derek Hill



3rd Lilac
Maggie Smith

The competition was judged by our guest speaker, Richard Rallings, who had an impressive selection to choose from. Thank you to everyone who entered - the photos of the winners are also on our website.

It's lovely to see what we are all growing in our gardens and is a great source of inspiration, so please think about entering your plants and flowers for our next meeting on May 30th.

NOTICE BOARD

BDHS Meetings:

2024 Monthly Meeting Dates

7:30pm Tea & Coffee. Please remember to bring a mug with you if possible, it helps the environment and the clearing up after the meeting. Speaker starts at 8pm

Guests are welcome - there is a small charge of £3 for entry which includes refreshments.

30 th May	Mike King	My obsession with Sarracenias
27 th June	Josh Egan (Pershore College)	Classic plants for classy people
26 th September	Catrina Fenton (Garden Organic – Ryton)	Seed saving & The Heritage Seed Library
31 st October	Nigel Hopes (Hopes Garden Plants)	A year in the life of John's garden

Other BDHS dates:

6 th June	Garden Visit to Miserden and Painswick Gardens. Coach leaves at 8:30am from the Co Op car park in Balsall Common. Tickets are £35 and include entrance to both gardens. There are still some tickets left, so please contact Helen Jones if you would like one.
20 th July	Annual Show - St Peters Hall, Balsall Common
25 th July	Social Evening - 6:30pm (Venue tbc)
28 th Nov 2024	AGM & Buffet – 7:30pm. Village Hall, Balsall Common
20 th March 2025	Annual Dinner – Village Hall, Balsall Common

Further events/details will be announced once they are finalised

Other Dates for your diary

23 rd June	Berkswell Open Gardens (part of the NGS scheme) –11am to 6pm_ Tickets £7 available online or at the gardens on the day
7 th July	Open day at Manor Farm, B93 0AS, 2-5:30pm
14 th July	Scones in the Garden at Sue Dalby's Garden*
28 th July	Garden Party (to raise funds for the Christmas Lights) at Sue Dalby's Garden*

* Times and cost to be confirmed. Address is 95 High St, Henley in Arden, B95 5AT

Some jobs for the next few weeks...

After a very variable start to May, let's hope for some consistent warm weather so that we can get out in our gardens and allotments and bring order before summer is here...

- Prune spring shrubs, such as forsythia and chaenomeles, after flowering to keep them compact
- Tie in the new shoots of climbing plants, including clematis, wisteria and honeysuckle, to their supports
- Apply liquid feed to tulips, daffodils and other spring bulbs to encourage a good display next year. Lift and divide any overcrowded clumps before you feed them
- Plant out dahlia tubers, cannas and summer bedding at the end of the month but watch out for late frosts and protect tender plants
- Continue sowing annuals, such as California poppies, into gaps in borders for colour from August into autumn
- Plant up hanging baskets, but keep in a greenhouse or porch for a few weeks to establish, before putting outside
- Harden off tender plants raised indoors, but bring them back in at night to protect from late frosts
- Pinch out the shoot tips of bedding plants and young annuals, such as fuchsias, to encourage bushier growth
- Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs, check carefully on the underside of leaves and pick them off by hand if you find any
- Earth up potatoes
- Sow sweetcorn in deep pots, so the young plants are ready to transplant into the garden in June
- Thin out seedlings, such as carrots, from earlier sowings to ensure you get healthy, strong-growing plants
- Remove all strawberry runners, so plants put their full energy into fruiting
- Collect water – make the most of the rainy days by collecting the rainwater which is better for your plants than tap water
- Scoop out pondweed, blanketweed and algae from ponds and water features
- Add interest to shady borders by planting a selection of hostas and ferns
- Keep the hoe moving in your garden and allotment beds – the weeds love the warmer wet weather and grow much faster than our seedlings!