



HPS
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Derbyshire

Issue 28

Autumn 2014



Logan Botanic Garden

The Derbyshire Hardy Plant Society Scottish Trip, May 2014 by Gillian Hill

We set off from the Alfreton Travelodge in a Tim Draper Coach on a grey morning en route for the North. We were entertained on the way by a quiz. This was a very good way of passing the time as we were woefully lacking in the proper answers and enjoyed a good guessing game.

Stopping off in Richmond for a short break we found a good Costa and woke ourselves up and not long afterwards arrived at Hutton in the Forest to look round the lovely gardens surrounding this castellated house. The flag flying from the mast was a rectangle in white with a simple V cut out of it. I wondered whether this was a V for victory, or an invitation for us to retire rapidly, but it turned out to be V for Vane – Lord Inglewood`s family name!

“The old yew trees around the house were amazing and the walled garden was populated with pretty herbaceous plants in a formal outline”

The over 100 year old yew trees around the house were amazing and the walled garden was populated with pretty herbaceous plants in a formal outline. Further from the house are ancient trees some of which are still going strong from the 1740`s alongside which are Rhododendrons and a very pretty candelabra primula underplanting. Beyond this was a very damp meadow area and we enjoyed walking through it seeing some lovely wild flowers which suited the conditions. There were lots of buttercups, ragged robin and milk maids but the ox eye Daisies were not quite out. It was a very good start to the holiday.

Continued in the centre pages...

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Join the Committee...

Anyone interested in serving on the Committee from 2015 onwards would be most welcome to be co-opted onto the Committee at the October meeting.

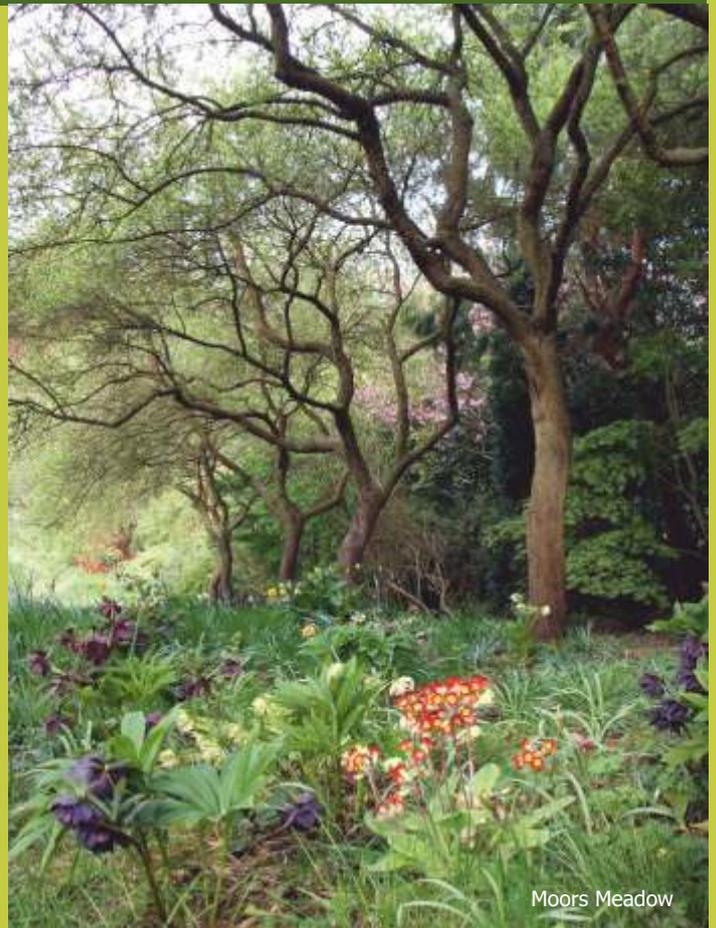
Moors Meadow and Ivy Croft - by Robert Hawkesworth

I remember a year or two ago beginning my article with the words, "Isn't it lovely, just like spring, you can't believe it's only February", well this time it was July, but the rain made it more like February! What a shame, but we are the Hardy Planters and are not lightly deterred by a few spots of rain, well to be more accurate, more like a downpour! Now, to put you in the picture, Moors Meadow is in the middle of nowhere, we parked the coach at a Motorcycle Garage about half a mile away from it and were conveyed onwards in a number of cars. It didn't take very long and on arrival we were greeted with cups of tea and slices of home-made cake, wonderful! Before long we had to tear ourselves away from this cosiness and out into the rain.

“We are the Hardy Planters and are not lightly deterred by a few spots of rain, well to be more accurate, more like a downpour!”

You enter the garden through a metal gate, beautifully crafted by the owner's husband, who passed away before he could complete it. Once through, the path descends, gradually at first, but also with some steeper sections later on. You are descending through a woodland of very varied planting, the informative pamphlet gives you an idea mentioning Japanese Lantern Trees, Foxglove Trees, Indian Bean Trees, even Giant Redwoods, though because of the muddy conditions we did not quite reach these, there are Handkerchief Trees and a mature New Zealand Kowhai. There were a number of native marsh orchids alongside the path; I noted Southern Marsh and Common Spotted and some which seemed to have "hybrid vigour". The path eventually runs down to a large pond/small lake and here we discovered a number of unusual shrubs as well as more seats and sculptures fashioned from a variety of sources. From the end of the lake the path became, on our visit, rather too muddy for sensible further exploration and somewhat reluctantly we had to make our return. It is all very natural looking and Barbara and I saw a hare as we approached the more wooded area again, then a youngster, a leveret. I was pleased that whilst they moved quickly away, they did not "fly in terror"! A good sign of caring owners I would say.

Although the conditions did not allow it, I am sure that the garden would be very good for butterflies, dragonflies, bees, beetles, and other insects as well as lots of birds and mammals. Back up in front of the house is a kitchen garden, which looked very productive! The conditions, unfortunately did not allow us to take in the fernery, the rhododendron glade or the herb garden. The site covers seven acres and we are quite sure that given a fine day you could enjoy a wonderful day here.



Moors Meadow

Our next destination was Ivy Croft, a few miles west of Leominster and once again congratulations to John, our coach driver, on his negotiation of the narrow lanes along which we passed before arriving at Ivington Green. Roger and Sue Norman welcomed us at the gate, in the sunshine! They allowed us full rein of their garden, which it was hard to realise had only been formed in 1997; I felt it had a very mature feel to it. There were some good pebble and slate beds as well as a pleached lime hedge around the car park. The problem was that they had a very good display of self-raised plants for sale and despite our good intentions, "we must NOT buy any more plants, we have no more room!", they had some very fine hostas, a good selection of alpines and some unusual ferns. Oh dear! I have just finished planting the four we bought! Roger and Sue were most hospitable and offered us tea and cakes, which we enjoyed sitting in the garden.

“We must NOT buy any more plants, we have no more room!”

Despite the unkind weather at Moors Meadow this was a very successful trip and our thanks are due to Ruth for arranging it. Providing labels for us to attach to our plant bags is a splendid idea. Our outings are very happy occasions with such a happy and friendly air to them. It is no wonder that they 'sell out' so quickly! The next one is Bridgmere and Wollerton Old Hall on 26th July. Now we really must be firm this time. No more plants!

'The Good Old Days' by Janet Norman

When you next nip into the garden centre for something to deal with your aphids, leather jackets, sawfly, mildew or onion rot and view the ever decreasing applications available, you might consider how our grandfather's generation dealt with their pests. According to my oldest reference book, re-printed in 1939, numerous substances could be obtained...

Arsenate of lead was used to treat caterpillars on fruit trees, sawfly and beetles. The method is interesting, 1 oz arsenate of soda, 2 1/2 oz of sugar of lead dissolved in 14 gallons of rainwater (at least there would no shortage of that ingredient now) when thoroughly stirred add 1 1/2 lbs of black treacle. This was apparently harmless to the foliage - so that's all right then.

Carbolic emulsion was applied for bean and pea weevils, eelworms and leather jackets. Lime wash, using slaked quick lime, well stirred for aphids, lichens and mosses on trees.

Probably one of the more hair raising remedies for white fly in the greenhouse involved fumigation. This involved hydrocyanic acid gas and tetrachlorethane and was considered most effective, the last being less poisonous than hydrocyanic gas. Sodium cyanide or calcium cyanide were more generally used. All were deadly poisonous!

“Probably one of the more hair raising remedies involved fumigation”

Strangely at the end of this entry they mention the use of encarsia wasps, the organic alternative thought to be a modern idea. Many of the treatments appear to be for pests I have never hear of, maybe modern pesticides have finished them off. All these substances were available before the period of DDT, which caused havoc to wildlife.

So, I Googled the insecticides I use, Rose Clear and Provado ultimate bug

killer, both contained neo-nicotinoids, so it's back to the soapy water unless someone knows of an effective alternative which doesn't involve boiling garlic or mashing nettles and comfrey for several weeks. By the way, can you start a sentence with a proposition? That doesn't sound quite right. Happy gardening!



Plant of Interest: Bletilla Striata (Orchidaceae) by Janet Crooks

We were lucky to win our Bletilla Striata in a raffle at a Garden club meeting. I had not heard of this plant before and so looked forward to it coming into flower.

I have now grown it for six years in a well drained soil, it flowers best with humus soil in the sun. The flowers have an exotic appearance, rose-lavender, with the lip a darker shade and frilled with white. It has slender shoots with five or more flowers per shoot, opening in succession from late spring to early summer. This orchid seems easy to grow and is very pretty, and also seems hardy having survived the last few winters with no special treatment in our garden. I find it well worth growing. There is a white form, but I have not managed to locate one so far.



Grassmoor Primary School and East Midlands in Bloom 2014

This is the first time that Grassmoor Primary School has entered the East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden award. This year 30 schools entered and judges visited all of them in June or July. Marks are awarded out of 20 for:

- Gardening Activities, Skills and the Knowledge
- The Garden's contribution to Education and the Curriculum
- Value in sustaining the Environment and Wildlife
- Growing Fruit and Vegetables and Healthy Eating
- Design, management and maintenance.

The total overall score is then converted into an award:

85%+	Gold
75-84%	Silver Gilt
60-74%	Silver
50-59%	Bronze
0-49%	Certificate of Achievement

Besides the award of Best Overall Garden awarded to the school with the highest score there are three other awards - Best Fruit and Vegetable Garden, Best Gardening for Wildlife and Best Ornamental Gardening.

Schools can choose to enter one of these awards and Grassmoor chose fruit and vegetable growing. The children hoped the improvements they planned to make to their allotment would impress the judge.

In January the children started by learning what would be involved in entering the competition and the two groups of gardeners walked around the school site and allotment to come up with ideas for improvement. They also did lots of research to find out which plants would attract bees and butterflies to their show garden.

As the weather was quite mild in February, the children were able to get up to the allotment and start seed



sowing in the poly tunnels. This continued in to March which was a very busy month and included setting out the six new beds for soft fruit and potting up the successful rosemary cuttings taken last year.

The gardening groups also worked on clearing the lower half of the allotment to put in ten new raised beds as well as a wild flower area. All the school from the Nursery to Year 6 were sowing seeds for a wide range of vegetable crops.

In the summer term the key focus was the ornamental planting around the playground area. Old planters were repaired and painted together with some new planters. The children were busy filling the planters and then putting in all the plants to make colourful displays. They set out the shade garden and prepared the show garden area and backboard.

Along side this the gardeners continued seed sowing and potted on lots of tomatoes, peppers, chillies and aubergines as well as planting out vegetables and weeding and watering the allotment.

In July all the work came together as final preparations were made for the judging and also a visit from some

members of the DHPS. Mr. Atkinson, the Judge, spent an hour meeting the gardeners and being shown the gardens and allotment. He told the children that the raised beds and the way the allotment was set up was really excellent. He also liked the hot-coloured planters and the show garden.

The children now have to be very patient, as the results of East Midlands on Bloom competition will not be known until 17th September. The school would like to record how much it has appreciated the support of the DHPS and how much the children enjoyed showing Anne, Ian and Celia around all their school grounds.

HPS visit to Grassmoor Primary School's Garden Project

In July a few HPS members visited Grassmoor to look at the work they had done in their garden.

We were amazed by all the hard work the children had done. It was obvious that they thoroughly enjoyed their garden projects and were very proud of what they had created. They were keen to talk to us and answer questions. It is certainly a project worth supporting.

Hotbins by Maggie Duguid - HPS North East Group

My initial thoughts are that I love it!! Got it for Christmas and couldn't wait to get it started, but it was impossible to place in the most suitable position in the garden, as this was already occupied by my last plastic "darlek" bin. So it fitted nicely, just outside the back door, alongside the household bins – exactly the same size as a wheelie bin.

Come the beginning of February, it was moved into position, as my other plastic bin was removed. All the rubbish from this bin was then transferred to the hotbin, as it still hadn't rotted down.

My peelie bin is emptied twice/thrice a week, but you can add all sorts of waste to the Hotbin, not just vegetable waste but all food waste. They even say that you can add chicken carcasses, but I haven't tried that. Left overs, yes, bread etc are all fine I even add the torn up insides of toilet rolls and cardboard egg boxes, plus paper shredding and newspaper. One of the main principles being not to let your bin get too wet, therefore you need to add bulk in the form of bark chippings or paper.

The waste seems to shrink down very quickly and temperatures have remained at 60 degrees even through this cold weather. Temperatures, now that it, at long last, is heating up a bit is averaging 70 degrees.

"I am delighted so far, can't wait to get some real compost and feel that it was money well spent"

For anyone interested in purchasing a Hotbin, I would advise against buying the starter kit as you could easily put those bits and pieces together yourself much more cheaply.

The Hotbin is highly insulated, so when you lift the lid you can feel the heat, but there is a temperature gauge in the lid which saves you losing heat by lifting the lid.

Having said all of that, and bearing in mind that I just love this bin. I also have a garden waste wheelie bin, which is emptied by the council every other week and I really couldn't do without that either, as I seem to produce lots of garden waste. So, in my opinion, you would still need to run the two side by side to cope with an average amount of garden and kitchen waste.

"A Dahlia's first duty is to flaunt and swagger."

Gertrude Jekyll



Moles by Ruby Greasley



Moles. The new year started sadly. They had become too much of a nuisance, nothing deterred them. We tried everything anyone recommended, but to no avail.

There comes a limit to the uses for the freshly turned fine soil. Spreading it over the grass was not an option - the small stones caught in the mower blades. We bought sleepers and built a raised bed - 24ft x 4ft x 2ft 6ins high, - filled it - spread soil on the borders, bought more sleepers and made another enclosure - filled it.

The average weekly collection of molehills was fifteen plus, although during one two week break 154 hills appeared and on another break 86. And these were molehills - five filled the barrow.

Unfortunately, it had to stop. A mole catcher was employed and much to my sadness and guilt the little creatures were trapped and killed.

Ed: If anyone has any tried and tested methods of seeing moles off without calling the mole catcher, let us know...

Website

The DHPS Website is up and running! Don't forget to log on and take a look...

www.hpsderbyshire.co.uk

The DHPS Scottish Trip, May 2014 by Gillian Hill



Motoring on up into Scotland was a delight. The countryside through North Yorkshire is unsurpassable (naturally I speak as a Yorkshire-woman!) but once in Scotland I loved seeing the belted Galloway cattle in the fields with their waists outlined in a broad white stripe - thank goodness fashion doesn't dictate a similar design for me! Arriving at the hotel we were met by Hassan who explained all the do's and don'ts and we went to our rooms and met up again at dinner. The hotel was welcoming, the rooms good and the meals enjoyable. The family who run the hotel organised things extremely well.

Our first day proper, was taken up with a trip to Logan Botanic garden at the southern foot of a peninsula on the south west tip of Scotland; it's further south than Carlisle! We travelled a long way north to come all the way down again to reach the gardens. Once again this was a beautiful drive and once on the peninsula the sea on one side was only a few feet away and lovely green countryside on the other. On arrival we found the shop and small nursery followed quickly by the cafe situated in the walled garden which like the rest of the garden at Logan is seriously affected by the Gulf Stream. This is why so many beautiful plants from the warm temperate regions of the world can be grown here. The walled area comprised lawns, island beds, water and all of it full of fabulous plants such as huge tree ferns, palms and spectacular Echium! These were at their best, fully out in flower for us to ooh and aah over, the

red one being the object of particular scrutiny. A walk in the woodland garden proved very rewarding seeing *Embothrium* in full fig and *Crinodendron* and handkerchief trees all at their amazing best.

Our return journey took in Castle Kennedy towards the top of the peninsula, which has amazing views over lochs and really feels as though it is on an island; from the coach park we went over a straight canal one side of which was lined with mature *Cordylines*. One side of the garden is bounded by The White Loch and the other the Black Loch. Again this garden is heavily influenced by the Gulf stream and consequently we found many of the same plants. However it is always exciting to see *Embothrium* and the ruined Castle had the most amazingly huge wisteria growing on it. A candidate for one of the largest single plants ever for our next quiz perhaps!

At the end of our second day we were pleasantly tired and having enjoyed our meal retired for the next day's onslaught which included trips to Threave, Cally garden and Mrs McGregor's nursery.

Threave, a National Trust of Scotland house and garden was beautifully kept and maintained - it should be - this is where the training of gardeners of the future takes place at the School of Heritage Gardening! They had done a great job. Once again we found acid loving subjects with some evocatively scented Azaleas, lovely rhododendrons,



a splendid Handkerchief Tree in full hanky, and some great blue poppies. It was a super place to walk round and admire. The water garden, cascade and glasshouse were all interesting places to visit, though the sculpture garden was perhaps rather disappointing.

Moving on after an excellent lunch in the cafe at Threave we travelled to Cally Garden. This visit certainly kept us all talking for the remainder of our holiday, although not always for the reasons you would expect! Cally Garden. Famous, fabulous, featured often on TV and in the press, its owner Michael Wickenden is also well known. He has a particular dislike of Plant Breeders' Rights being attached to any plants and vociferously proclaims his point of view.

We personally had been before and were full of delightful anticipation at visiting again. It is very very difficult to approach this garden by Coach on tiny roads overgrown with trees touching the roof



ordinary, but here you can never say 'ordinary'. A very double orange welsh poppy for instance instantly took my fancy. We walked on until we got to the end of the buildings and came to the garden itself. The garden is made up of many long straight beds with paths in between - looking down these beds was an education - so many beautifully grown plants of unusual descent, many unknown, was breathtaking. An Aladdin's cave. Our first exploration took us past the long glass houses and the small area outside set aside for sales. A temptation few could have resisted. Aladdin was missing, but a terse message inside the first glass house suggested we get ourselves a box and knock at the house door to pay - not unusual I suppose, but our coach tour had pre-arranged and our time of arrival was known. This was to be our first experience of customer relations being compared to those of Basil Fawlty!

Boxes were collected (we are an obedient lot) and plants put in them. During this first session someone appeared at the desk - Aladdin had finished his lunch! Unfortunately Mr Wickenden took considerable and noisy exception to us collecting plants in the boxes before we had looked around the garden. We were told to put the plants down and go round instead of just buying anything we saw in flower. If anything in the garden takes your fancy, we were told, take a photograph return to the desk and he would see if he had the plants for sale. This was not a particularly bad way of organising things in fact, as long as everyone had a smart phone to take photos, but we were time constrained and this was a time consuming method of purchase and could perhaps have been explained in advance or in a slightly more friendly manner. One of our intrepid band had the temerity to show him a fallen leaf off a plant and ask for an identification... I wouldn't have known about this, being at the bottom of a nearby bed, had it not been for the verbal fire-works which ensued until he was told the leaf had not been removed from the plant merely found on the floor!

We did look right round the garden and all credit to Mr Wickenden, it was no disappointment - the place is filled with beautiful unusual plants - the double welsh poppy mentioned earlier which comes true from seed, blue poppies, orchids of amazing colour and all sorts of plants of distinctly different looks to the norm. I bought a *Trachelospermum* which looked a bit like a cactus!

When we had looked round, taken the required photos, presented ourselves back

at the pay desk, formed an orderly queue, and had various pithy remarks directed at us, in an unguarded moment I asked if a yellow Iris I had photographed was available, only to be told in no uncertain terms that it was not an Iris! Other people were treated to Mr Wickenden's imaginative and unusual sales techniques and although these jollities were at times alleviated by the fact that he said he was grateful for us coming to Cally (indeed a couple of people on the trip got away entirely unscathed) it was certainly an unusual visit. I think it not unreasonable to note that he would make a considerable amount of money from our 2 hours on the nursery.

On arrival at our next stop Elizabeth McGregor's fascinating nursery, we could not help breathing a sigh of relief at our welcome but we soon found solace in the most delicious home made cakes kindly made by the McGregor's daughter in law and son and got on with examining all the superb plants on offer in the nursery. The McGregors grow a wide range of plants but I suppose are best known for their Violas, Echinacea and more recently for finding the lovely Anemone 'Wild Swan'. Coming from a chance seedling on the nursery this has taken many years to develop and was well worth the effort in our view! It probably needs a dampish spot in our garden in South Nottinghamshire which gets very dry in the summer on a rich but heavy clay. It was a pleasurable end to the day and the bus was filled with many plants.

On our final day we stopped off in the Lake District to visit the Garden of the Year in 2013, Dalemain. This garden is very near to Ullswater in lovely countryside. The house has developed over centuries but has stood mainly unchanged for 250 years and is magnificent. I think it was here that I found the best planting of the wonderful Himalayan blue poppy... we had seen it in various gardens on the tour, but here there was a real breadth and depth of planting right under a gorgeous *Davidia* just beginning to drop little hankies on the ground! Lovely.

Finally reaching our destination thanks to Tim's excellent driving in very heavy traffic towards the end, we removed our cases from the coach and of course our plants and made our way home.

Another superb HPS tour completed with many thanks to Ian and everyone else who had a hand in the organisation. Well done to you all, you gave us a wonderful enjoyable holiday and we are all grateful.

of the Coach and ferns and other fronds licking at the sides as we made our way up the road... what a good job no-one decided to come the other way; Tim did a fantastic job in getting us to the entrance - even he however could not get us into the car park, and indeed the Coach Fairy had to turn the coach round for us to return! Very clever.

Mr Wickenden bought Cally in 1987 to develop his specialist nursery. He is a modern day plant hunter and collects many extraordinary plants from round the world then propagates and sells them. Walking up the short drive, passing a small unloved looking stone house on the right we soon made it to the bed running along on the left stuffed full of his finds and the high brick wall surrounding the garden, which houses some massive climbers. The entrance to the garden proper is reached through this wall and yet another bed on the left contains many unusual plants - Paeonies, Geraniums, poppies all sound

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Location
20 Sep	Carpets, Mats and Cushions in Svalbard and New Zealand by David Charlton	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
18 Oct	Plantsman's Choice by Colin Ward AGM follows this meeting	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
15 Nov	What Have Plants Ever Done For Us? by Timothy Walker	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
13 Dec	Winter Into Spring at Coton Manor by Caroline Tait Christmas Nibbles	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
17 Jan	In the Footsteps of Frank Kingdom-Ward by Paul Barney (Edulis Nursery)	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
21 Feb	Plants of the Season by Paul Green with live plant material?	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
21 March	Downsizing Without Tears Helen Yemm	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
18 April	Flowers of the Cascades: Plant Hunting in America's Pacific North-West by Chris Chadwell	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
16 May	Plant Fair	11 am - 1pm
June & July	Derbyshire HPS trips	Please contact the Secretary for more information

Unless stated, all Derbyshire Hardy Plant Society meetings are held in Shirland Village Hall, two miles north of Alfreton off the A61.

A Derbyshire Delight / A Plant of Interest

Do you have a favourite garden, walk, venue or even tree in Derbyshire that you would like to share with DHPS members? If so, please consider writing a short article for our 'Derbyshire Delight' feature. Please also consider sharing with us a favourite (or not so favourite!) plant for the 'Plant of Interest' feature.



About this newsletter:

The opinions expressed by the authors are their personal views and not specifically endorsed by the HPS Derbyshire Group. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions as necessary.

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The personal data that you provide to the Group will be stored as paper and/or computer records by the HPS Derbyshire Group for the Group's administrative use only. It will not be disclosed to anyone outside the HPS without your permission. If you are concerned about the methods used to store your data, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Editor's Note:

If you have an article that you would like to see published in the newsletter, I would be delighted to receive them either at a meeting, by email to: alisonfarnsworth@btinternet.com or by post to:

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Cancellations: If a meeting has to be cancelled due to adverse weather, details will be posted on the website www.HPSderbyshire.co.uk or please contact Celia Weaver on 01773 824446 or email cmw@gotadsl.co.uk

Reminder: If you would like to receive your copy of the HPS Derbyshire newsletter by email, please let me have your name, address and e-mail address so that I can add you to the list.

Thanks once again to Emma Oaks for designing the newsletter.