



**HPS**  
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

**Derbyshire**

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## **HPS Holiday to Norfolk 2016**

### **Day 1: Narborough Hall and Sea Mere**

We all gathered – some of us still with sleep in our eyes – at the Alfreton Travel Lodge for an 8.30 am start (I did feel for those with long journeys to Alfreton!). However, everyone was in good heart, all the bags met the required measurements and were soon loaded and we were away practically 'on the dot'. The coach was comfortable, there was a toilet and we had an experienced driver (albeit one who was not expecting to see his coach so well laden on return – and that was just the outside!). However, he was a skilful and pleasant driver who took us to all our destinations safely and smoothly.

Our first stop was at Narborough Hall just outside Kings Lynn. This is a building taken on by a retired Cambridge don (a winner of Gold Medals for gardens) who designed and planted the gardens herself, and which has now been developed for Weddings. The lake and the gardens would certainly look good on any bridal photographs. We had our lunch in the wedding reception tent and, although my services were freely available, I was left to enjoy the garden. Owned by Dr Merrison for the past 13 years, it seemed in parts to be still a 'work in progress'. But are not all gardens such?

After lunch, we continued to Great Yarmouth – our base for the whole trip – stopping en route at Sea Mere. This, in the light of some of the other gardens which we were to see, was 'small', being a mere 5 acres, although it is part of a 300 acre farm which came into the family in 1940. The current family member, moved here with her husband in 1999 and found 'the bones' of a garden which needed to be fleshed out. Considerable thought during development has been given to the creation of enticing glimpses of the delights to come as you move through the garden. There is an ancient Mere in the grounds and it and its surrounding woodland are a 'Triple SI'. There is a Gunnera dating from c.1920 which is of significant size, a 'Wetland', a 'Bamboo Glade' in which the Bamboos are stripped of their bottom leaves to expose the attractive stems, an Orchard

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WHY ARE HUSBANDS  
LIKE LAWN MOWERS?  
THEY ARE DIFFICULT  
TO GET STARTED, EMIT  
FOUL SMELLS, AND  
DON'T WORK HALF  
THE TIME.

Cotswold Garden  
Flower catalogue

# HPS Holiday to Norfolk by Graham, Nigel and Stephen



and wildflower meadows. You have to be part of a group and booked to visit this beautiful garden.

We arrived at the Burlington Palm Hotel in the early evening and, after the usual sorting out of rooms and getting cases up stairs or into antiquated lifts, soon settled in. Some of the rooms may have needed bringing up to modern design standards but they were very clean, the beds were comfortable, the service was cheerful and the meals provided us with a good choice and much sustenance. And it was but a short hop across the road to walk on the sand or visit the fallen angels (see Day 2).

## Day 2: Blickling Hall and East Ruston Old Vicarage

These visits followed a familiarisation walk around Great Yarmouth the previous evening. The walk passed the Fallen Angels lap dancing club, and some of the artistes were adorning the doorway, smoking. Their tottering heels, station soles (far too big to be platforms), north-facing hemlines and plunging necklines made my eyes swivel in their sockets and brought on palpitations! I really was in no state to be visiting gardens the next day: I should have been in a darkened room with a cold compress. Thus, you will find my report outlines the highlights and notable features of the gardens in moments of clarity rather than a comprehensive description of them. Please forgive me.

Blickling Hall was owned by the Marquess of Lothian until he donated it to the National Trust in 1940. My immediate impression of its frontage on a bright, sunny morning was of green, mown lawns flanked by well-maintained gravel paths and railings and an ornate building in an excellent state of repair despite dating back to 1616. The first sight of the 55 acre gardens was equally impressive, the immediate view being of the parterre. A parterre is not normally my type of garden as I much prefer an informal style of planting. However, I could make an exception for this one, which had been redesigned by Norah Lindsay in the 1930s. It was an extremely large (square?) lawned area with topiary yews, a large central fountain, and big L-shaped flower beds at each corner, and within these beds the planting was informal with a wide variety of perennials. The plants were obviously healthy, but the slight disappointment was that so many were not yet in flower; primarily, I think, because of the indifferent weather so far this year. Significant exceptions were *potentilla villosa* 'William Rollison' which stood out with bright orange flowers suffused with yellow, and *lychnis chalcedonica*, the Maltese Cross, with its bright red flowers. Also blooming well, though much less showy, was *erigeron* 'Quakeress' with somewhat lax pale blue/mauve flowers.

Running parallel to one side of the parterre is a raised double border

featuring many perennials, shrubs and grasses. Some lovely roses provided welcome colour.

The walled garden is undergoing extensive "regeneration, not restoration" after years of neglect and was looking well, with healthy onions, potatoes, broad beans and tomatoes catching my eye. The project is still underway with glasshouses, irrigation, and paths (with 600 metres of metal edging!) being done. Over 60 varieties of apple, over 20 varieties of pears, plus soft fruit, are all planned. It will be interesting to see the mature garden in due course.

An unusual garden feature was a dry moat which runs alongside three sides of the hall and features shade loving plants, notably hostas, ferns and hydrangeas. It was a good idea to adapt this space to provide further variety to the garden.

Beyond the gardens are a lake, parkland and woods which afford lovely walks. A temple and orangery can be found on these walks, but not (in our case) the fairly new 'sitooterie' with three stained glass features, one each of oak, rowan and maple and a leaf-pattern floor feature. I really should have been a boy scout to improve my navigational skills.

Lunch and a quick, but inevitable, call in the second-hand book shop completed a thoroughly enjoyable visit to a property which can only impress visitors with its grandeur and level of upkeep.

Ian had advised us that the garden at East Ruston Old Vicarage was likely to be the best one of our holiday, and I believe that he was right, with all due respect to the other excellent gardens that we visited. It was a third visit there for Jean and myself and yet was still a source of wonderment. Whilst we could recall some features, many seemed new and the whole garden appeared to be far greater in size than we recalled. This could, in my case, be due to the effect of the Valium I had been taking to counter the effect of the fallen angels.

The 32 acre garden was started from scratch in 1973 by Graham Robeson

# HPS Holiday to Norfolk by Graham, Nigel and Stephen

and Alan Gray. Being just 1.5 miles from the North Sea, they have protected it by planting a shelter belt of *pinus radiata*, the Monterey pine, *alnus cordata*, the Italian alder, and varieties of eucalyptus. This produces an incredible micro-climate evidenced by the riot of colour from countless blooms on display. Even the relatively narrow approach to the main gardens was a delight, with a magnificent pruned circular, tiered *ilex aquifolium argentea marginata* standing guard and beautiful white-flowered *deutzia* overhanging the path.

I just cannot describe the overall garden adequately. It has many themed 'rooms' formed by hedges and seems like a magical, mystery maze, with new plants and images consistently coming to light upon exploration. We chanced upon the arguably most formal 'room', known as the King's Walk, quite quickly. The stepped approach was beautiful with nearby beds of single coloured white and deep red sweet williams and dot-planted *rodgersia* with a lovely shell pink flower. At the side of the steps were pots of stately *cordylines* and *agapanthus*. The main area was lawned with two rows of five topiary yews of good size: very simple but impressive.

The Exotic Garden lived up to its name with *cannas*, banana plants, *sambucus nigra*, *tetrapanax papyrifer*, *alstroemerias* and *dahlias*. At one end was a water lily pond and at the other the splendid, tall fountain designed by Giles Raynor to resemble a waterspout or twister and which minimises water spurted onto visitors on windy days. The Californian Border and Desert Wash had many succulents and cacti demanding closer inspection but the dominant colour in the naturalistic landscape was the orange of the Californian poppies.

Tender plants featured in greenhouses with *pelargoniums* and *begonias* to the fore in many bright colours. There were also *bougainvilleas* in magnificent full bloom.

The design talents of the creators are evident in every part of the garden, and not least in respect of their

borrowing of features from the local landscape. One long, lined walk terminates in a hedge kept deliberately low so that St Mary's Church, Happisburgh can be viewed. Another terminates with a hedge in which a circular hole has been cut to give a 'telescope view' of Happisburgh lighthouse: simple but so effective.

One plant which seemed to feature in several 'rooms' was American pokeweed. A weed it may be in America, but its value to this garden with its large, rigid leaves and its sizeable pink flower spikes are obvious. Beware its toxicity, however. A new plant to me was *acalypha pendula mini red*, which I later found to be known as the dwarf chenille plant. This has fuzzy, bright red spikes and is not unlike a mini version of *amaranthus*. Unfortunately, I have found, it is not frost hardy, explaining perhaps why it was planted in pots rather than open ground. I thought that it was a real eye-catcher, but on reflection, in view of its tenderness, don't think that I will try to grow it.

An extremely large wooden structure was in the process of erection in another area. We could not imagine its purpose and enquired, separately, of both owners, who were assiduously weeding different parts of the garden, what it was for. Graham's response was that we would have to come again and find out after its completion. However, Alan confided that it was Graham's design of a framework for the protection of cherry trees, the fruit of which they hope to sample at its best in years to come. Believe me,

they will be tall cherry trees if they conform to the height of the frame. We were so beguiled by the garden that we barely managed to find time to indulge in tea and cakes, and to scrutinise the plant sales area. It is a garden with so many elements and features and is packed with a tremendous variety of plants. My powers of description (and lack of adequate notes) do not do it justice. There is no wonder that it features in so many garden writers' top ten British gardens. If you haven't yet seen it, do take the opportunity to do so if you can.

## DAY 3: Helmingham Hall and Ravingham Hall

Today we began by crossing the border into Suffolk to view a moated house, Helmingham Hall and its beautiful garden. The house belongs to the Tollemache family and Lady Xa Tollemache actually designed the present gardens, having taken advice from Lady Salisbury, who had transformed Hatfield House gardens.



# HPS Holiday to Norfolk by Graham, Nigel and Stephen

The garden was opened early especially for us so that, not only could we enjoy them before the general public came in, but we could have 'first go' at the lunch menu. The moated house looked not only impressive but also haunted (my wife said) and, indeed, one of the family did confirm the occasional sighting of "the Grey Lady" wandering from house to church. There was some interesting topiary on some Box in the walled garden (also 'moated' like the house) and there was also a beautiful 'Knot Garden'. Lady Xa believes that the soil has been continually manured for over a thousand years. Sadly, this turned out to be the one damp morning of the trip.

After lunch, we moved back into Norfolk to visit a rather special garden, Raveningham Hall. Notwithstanding the fact that he had to be at the AGM of the RHS next morning in London, Sir Nicholas Bacon, RHS President greeted us on our arrival and gave us a brief introductory talk. The very large estate, has been in the Bacon family since 1735 and, while



predominantly an arable farm with some pedigree beef and sheep, it also possesses 500 acres of semi-ancient woodland. Again, this garden is only open to groups and only at weekends. The gardens are set out to an Edwardian plan and was enhanced in the 1960s by Lady Priscilla, a famous plants-woman of her time. Sir Nicholas' wife, is also a Gold Medal winner at Chelsea with her 'Poison Garden' and she has written books on that subject, too. My wife purchased a plant while we were there and I later discovered that it is one of the very poisonous ones. Should I be careful, I ask?

The garden is also influenced by the essays of Francis Bacon and the landscape is given other interest by the sculptures of Susan Bacon. A talented family! The main specialities of the garden are Galanthus and, later, Agapanthus are a feature. The walled kitchen garden has been gradually brought back into use over the past 20 years and now meets the needs of the house. We were given free tea & cake before leaving and Lady Bacon herself came onto the coach to bid us farewell.

## Day 4: West Acre Garden, Peckover House and then home

Day 4 commenced misty and wet but by the time the coach was loaded for the journey home the weather had brightened. We travelled to West Acre Garden near Swaffham and in true hardy plant style it was down narrow lanes not really suited to coaches.

West Acre garden is set in a D-shaped Walled garden of an old Norfolk manor house, the walled garden being divided into display garden and nursery.

The display garden has mixed borders and beds with specimen trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses and bamboos, also there are Mediterranean and Shade gardens. At the time of our visit there was a large Cornus Kousa in full flower – it really caught the eye. The nursery had a large range of plants from large shrubs, small trees to alpines, I think I counted three benches of alpines, all the stock was of good quality and reasonably priced.

The owner John and Sue Tuite were very helpful, to such an extent that,

in my case, on enquiring what was the tall white flower in the border Sue said unfortunately they had not got it in stock. She then dived into the plant and broke off two small cuttings, put them in a pot and labelled them and said "You're a hardy planter, see how you go with them".

Needless to say we left with the coach hold full of plants with the drivers instruction "any more plants bought are on your lap for the journey home".

Our final garden was at Peckover House by the river in Wisbech. This is a Georgian town house with a walled garden, and from the road it's not obvious there is a garden at all. The garden is only two acres but it packs in lawns, ponds, mature trees and winding paths as well as herbaceous and rose borders. The garden was laid out by the Peckover family in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, changing it from a small garden with orchard and threshing barn, now used as a café. It is interesting that the barn is not rectangular but has one end wall at an angle.

The garden is well maintained by the National Trust with the greenhouses and frames being used as working units. Around the greenhouse are beds of colourful annual planting complemented by climbing roses over arches. A clever use of large pale coloured sempervivum around the base of mature trees lightened an otherwise dark space.

After two hours in which to see the gardens, manage some lunch, and some of our members visited the house and bookshop, we departed at 3.30pm and had a trouble free journey back to Alfreton arriving around 6.00 pm. The conclusion of another excellently organised weekend.

Thank you Anne and Ian and others involved.

Graham Smith, Nigel Needham and Stephen Gascoigne.

Note: Although the holiday ended here, read on to the article by Nigel Needham to follow up what happened after the holiday...

## HPS Holiday to Norfolk addendum by Nigel Needham

### Top man, Sir Nicholas...

The Sunday afternoon venue of our Norfolk holiday was Raveningham Hall, home of RHS President, Sir Nicholas Bacon, thanks to the efforts of Ian Evans, our organiser, who managed to arrange the visit to this garden, which is only open at weekends for groups by appointment.

On arrival we were met by Sir Nicholas, and he gave us a friendly and humorous welcome talk and invited us to wander round the garden at will,

saying that he and his wife, Lady Susan, would be around and happy to answer any questions. We duly enjoyed a lovely visit with Lady Susan boarding the coach at the end to wish us bon voyage.

On the following Wednesday, after our return, travellers received an email from Ian stating that someone had asked Sir Nicholas the name of a plant which he could not recall at the time. He had now informed Ian that the plant was *Persicaria alpina*, Ian advised. I was really impressed by Sir Nicholas' action:

he is clearly a busy man, with a business to run and much time taken up by his interests and charitable activities (he said that he had a presentation to make to Jekka McVicar on the day after our visit) so to make this effort on behalf of 'unknown' fellow gardeners spoke volumes for his diligence and humanity. I was left with the impression that the RHS is led by a capable and conscientious man. Thank you, and well done, Sir Nicholas: the RHS has an excellent ambassador at the helm.

## Hodnet Hall Gardens by Anne Evans and Janet Dornan



The coach arrived at Hodnet Hall exactly at opening time – a fine example of Martin's meticulous research and planning. The chilly winter temperature when we arrived didn't seem to match the forecast for a wonderful hot day. The gardeners with their sun cream looked somewhat optimistic and the nursery folk kept cheerful despite not having thought of putting on their thick winter woollies. As we tumbled eagerly off the coach it was interesting to see people's priorities – was it to be plant fair, gardens or café first?

The plant stalls were sited on the drive with a wonderful backdrop of the colourful rhododendron flowers. Plant fairs are a delight, with knowledgeable stallholders usually all too willing to pass on their experience and to do

their best to answer any queries. They are always a good place to pick up hints and tips. We decided our best strategy was to examine the stalls en route to the cafe, walk round the garden, then back to the coach picking up any purchases on our way back. This worked well except for the time element - "how will we spend five hours here" soon changed into "how on earth will we fit it all in? It was like being a child in a sweet shop. There was a good range of nurseries represented with interesting plant selections and some variety amongst the stalls including non-plant sales - vintage hand tools as well as planters, and garden furniture which just had to be tested when a rest was required.

Good to see a herb nursery (and the carrot leaved coriander 'Confetti'

proved to be an interesting purchase - unusual appearance and a rather more subtle flavour than the more usual corianders which adds a 'je ne sais quois' to a salad!). It was an enjoyable slow process assessing some of the plants and discussing them with the nursery people before feeling the call of the coffee shop. The mind and body thawed out somewhat, and functioning again with the aid of a sit down and a hot drink, a further amble round the remaining plant stalls ensued.

Now it was time to make the big decision - how to get the most from the garden. The sun was starting to do what was expected of it and the day was really warming up. A handy map of the garden layout was invaluable but it would have been a challenge to have penetrated every corner. Well, we knew we had to be back at the bus by 15.00 as we had been promised a visit to Wollerton Old Hall after leaving Hodnet. How to prioritise? A bit of good advice from others in the group was to start with the mapped walk round the pools.

The Hall and 63 acres of garden sit in a magnificent setting. Brigadier Heber Percy, forebear of the current family, planned and started the "natural" garden, imaginatively damming the stream in the valley, creating a series of lakes, with the main pool overlooked by the Victorian house at

# Hodnet Hall Gardens by Anne Evans and Janet Dornan



some distance above. The planting round the pools, which were separated by dams and bridges was inspired. There was clever use of colour and texture on the banks. The walk continued round the ponds through the shrubs and their contrasting foliage allowing a close inspection of the *Gunnera* which looked very lush - the sun shone through their leaves which had an interesting opaque appearance. The *Candelabra primulae* gave a punch of colour at the pool side. Conditions were perfect to allow the planting to be mirrored in the water in places, and there were magnificent waterlilies in one of the pools – all the pools had a different character. There was a lovely network of paths taking you through the rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs and trees up to the wildflower meadow where the many flowers included orchids. The Victorian house overlooked the pools, but more immediately in front of it was a very colourful herbaceous border. It was of course on a grand scale, but so was the attack of Lupin aphid. It did reassure us that even the best of gardens sometimes have their problems.

From the pools we continued to the Kitchen garden via two Grade 2 listed buildings - the Tithe Barn and the Dovecote. The Dovecote was a very unusual decorated rectangular build. Dovecotes were built for breeding birds for food as well as to

demonstrate high social status. The walled kitchen garden had box lined paths which appear to have avoided box blight. It contained a herbaceous border as well as vegetables, fruit trees, both free standing and wall trained. A jumble of glasshouses and a protective tunnel appeared to have landed from space in a random fashion but no doubt served the function for which they were intended.

A revisit to the Garden Restaurant was much needed. The building had been the stables of the 16th century mansion which no longer stands. It was a shame that the outside catering wasn't of the same standard as the cheerful and helpful staff. Following a quick drink there was just time to do a last minute bit of plant shopping on our return to the coach. The day was far from over as a change from the original plan meant that we travelled a short distance to our next treat.

The original plan had been altered to allow a visit to **Wollerton Old Hall Garden** which was only a few minutes' drive away. It is a very different garden. Not so much a landscaped area as a tight garden with small "rooms" within the garden and planting appropriate to the small spaces. By now the day had become sizzling hot and having done the shopping for the day it was just a matter of enjoying other people's plant choices and combinations, (not to mention a much needed cup of tea

In the delightful café – a shame there just wasn't room for cake – it looked so inviting)

There were box balls, pots of rose obelisks, *Euphorbias*, large *Salvias*, *Fuchsias* and *Violas* leading to the front door. Walking through to the courtyard at the back of the house we couldn't miss two beautiful climbing roses adorning the black and ochre wall – apricot "Gloire de Dijon" and deep rose pink "Zepherine Drouhan". Like everything else in the garden they were looking very robust and healthy.

The garden is "Arts and Crafts" in design with modern planting. There is a mix of formal clipped hedging and relaxed cottage garden plants. The transverse paths within the garden allow views across as well as forwards. There were tantalising gaps and glimpses. Topiary is very much in evidence. The box balls didn't bob, nor did the topiary yew pyramids dance, but there was plenty else to distract the eye. That distraction included time in welcome shady corners where the colour and shape of the planting could be enjoyed.

Of the many rooms a favourite was the Well Garden, which featured mainly white planting. The scent of the white wisteria was amazing. The simple single colour planting of the *violas* in the large urns was eye-catching. *Libertia*, *Iris*, *Sweet rocket*, and *Rosa Alberic Barbier* completed the theme.

Beyond the formal garden was an area of shrubs and trees which is very different in character. The further from the house the more informal the garden became, culminating in the croft, leading down to the Tern water meadows, a wonderfully peaceful area with relaxed spring flowers. Cow parsley and Red campion floated under a canopy of many specimen trees – Norwegian maple, Dawn redwood, *Katsura* and Paperbark maple to name but a few.

No time to get to the Salad garden as it was back to the coach for the return journey. Thank you to Martin for your careful and thoughtful planning - an excellent outing.

# Donnington le Heath and Kathy Brown's garden by Decie Needham



selection of phlox paniculata. Again I succumbed and bought p.p. Newbird, a striking red, and Amethyst AGM. I noted that Bridge Farm Plants had the beautiful celonophium denudatum. Bob Brown had, as ever, a good mix of unusual plants and the Gobbett Nursery had the lovely cornus florida 'Satomi', with pink bracts. All the shrubs were of a high standard and I again succumbed to chaenomeles 'Moorloosii', with pink, apple blossom flowers.

On we went in the afternoon to Skevington Manor Gardens, where owners Kathy Brown and her husband, Simon have developed the garden from scratch into a splendid affair, based on the Sissinghurst style. The house we originally part of the, Duke of Bedford's Estate, sold in 1918.



We were given a conducted tour by Kathy Brown herself, a charming and knowledgeable gardener. We started out in a courtyard containing raised beds with spring bulbs. Dwarf tulips included T. 'Honky Tonk' (8" pale yellow) T. 'Lady Jane' (4-6" waterlily type, ivory) T. 'Lilac Wonder' (saxatilis group, mauve pink, pink outer and yellow centre, 8") and T. Gavotte (purple with yellow edge and centre). There were also some delightful miniature daffodils, including N. 'Pipit'.

The cottage garden had scented Hesperis matronalis, many old-fashioned aquilegias and camassias, in an informal setting. This opened out into a formal garden, with twelve yews, clipped to resemble twelve jurors, commemorating Fouquet's historic trial, and a central fountain. To one side was the orchard and wild-flower meadow, inter-planted with black and white tulips. The paeony border had herbaceous and tree paeonies and the 'Itoh' paeony group, which were just coming into flower. Many of these were purchased from Will McClewin... of Phedar Nursery in Stockport.

Our tour started promptly from Alfreton service station, arriving at Donnington Manor House museum in good time. We had an interesting talk on the grade II listed house and medieval barn, on land given to the Priory about 1204 and built by 1290 on anglo-saxon foundations. After the Dissolution, the house was modernised by John Digby, whose elder brother was executed for his part in the Gunpowder Plot. From 1690-1720, the house was tenanted and, at one time, used as a piggery! The property was later taken over by Leicester County Council and restored.

There was a striking planting of the white-stemmed Himalayan birch, B. Jacquemontii 'Grayswood Ghost'. Other notable trees were metasequoia glyptostroboides, ginko biloba and several species of eucalyptus. Two art-themed gardens were the Rothko garden, dominated by a "Rothko" mural, with purple beech and berberis, and a Hepworth garden, with circles of grasses.

The gardens are based on the 17th century layout, built by Robert and Isabelle de Harle and consist of an orchard, herb gardens and maze. The barn was added in the 17C. Around the courtyard is a wonderful pleached lime, surrounding a herb collection. The lime was used by herbalists for treating nervous disorders and headaches and it was quoted in A Midsummer Night's Dream Antonio reports 'the Prince and Count Claudio were walking in a thick pleached alley in my orchard.'

The house walls were host to the yellow-flowered Rosa banksiae lutea and white r.b. 'Normalis'. Nearby was a biosphere housing succulents and other tender plants. Other gardens, still to flower, included a rose garden and laburnum and wisteria walks. There was also a garden of edible plants. This provided the basis for Kathy Brown's cookery tutorials and also for some of the scrumptious decorated cakes, which she served to us in the sunken garden.

The plant fair had a very good mix of shrub and herbaceous plants and some pottery, all of excellent standard, with some real gems on offer. Two of my favourite nurseries were there, Edrom and Special Perennials. From Edrom, I bought Trillium gr. roseum, bred by them from Edinburgh B.G. seed; all were a good deep pink, with some variation in petal shape. Special Perennials brought with them a good

The weather was sunny and warm and the rain delayed until we were on the way home. Thank you to Martin Brown and his wife Chris, for researching and arranging such a satisfying visit. We could not have had a better day - food for body and soul, and a plant sale!

Thanks are also due to our good natured driver Alan, who carefully brought our boot full of plant treasures home.

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Location
17 Sept	<b>Late Bloomers</b> by Martin & Janet Blow	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
15 Oct	<b>Clematis through the Seasons</b> by Chris & Suzy - Taylors Clematis	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
19 Nov	<b>Ranunculaceae</b> by Ian Nex	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
10 Dec	<b>Preparing for Christmas</b> by Anthony Norman - Conquest Plants Nursery  <b>Christmas Nibbles</b>	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
21 Jan	<b>Daisy Days, Michaelmas Daisies</b> by Helen Picton	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
18 Feb	<b>The National Collection of Hellebores</b> by Mike Byford	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
18 March	<b>A Tale of Two Gardens: Harlow Carr and Hyde Hall</b> by Matthew Wilson	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
22 April	<b>The Wild Orchids of the Peak District</b> by Byron Machin	Shirland Village Hall 2pm
20 May	<b>Plant fair</b>	Shirland Village Hall 11am to 1pm
16 Sept	<b>Plants for the Shady Garden</b> by Robert Barlow	Shirland Village Hall 2pm

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If you have an article that you would like to see published in the newsletter, please send as a Word document to: [alisonfarnsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonfarnsworth@btinternet.com) or by post to:

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Please send photos (as separate attachments) too if you have them.

**Cancellations:** If a meeting has to be cancelled due to adverse weather, details will be posted on the website [www.HPSderbyshire.co.uk](http://www.HPSderbyshire.co.uk) or please contact Celia Weaver on: 01773 824446 or email: [celia24c@gmail.com](mailto:celia24c@gmail.com)

**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.



## Frozen Floral Roadshow

Winner of 10 medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Mig Kimpton presents his Frozen Floral Roadshow full of flowers, stories and theatrical gossip. Learn how to create wonderful festive designs, all made from scratch in front of your very eyes.

Mig combines anecdotes from his 30 years of working in theatre and his extensive work with all things floral to provide a fun evening full of flowers. An international demonstrator, Mig has a list of prestigious clients and works regularly for the Royal Horticultural Society.

**BUXTON OPERA HOUSE  
& PAVILION ARTS CENTRE**

**Thursday 17 November**  
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