

November 2012

Issue no. 25



# Battisford & District Gardening Club

## OCTOBER: A Good Meeting

The Club's 5<sup>th</sup> AGM was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. The evening started with a talk by Judith Metcalfe, Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Community and Education Officer based at Bradfield Woods. Judith gave an overview of the wood's history from its C13<sup>th</sup> use by medieval monks right up to the Trust's recent purchase of the last remaining 16 acres of this ancient woodland. She explained the never ending cycle of coppicing that keeps the woodland alive and enthused about the flora and fauna that warrant the wood's designation not only as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but also as a National Nature Reserve (NNR).



*Ash coppice stools in Bradfield Woods may be 1000 years old making them candidates for the title 'oldest living things in Suffolk.'*

Judith's enthusiasm was clear to all. If you want to know more about Bradfield Woods try [www.suffolkwildlife.org/reserves-and-visitor-centres/bradfield-woods/](http://www.suffolkwildlife.org/reserves-and-visitor-centres/bradfield-woods/) or, better still, make a visit. The woods have three, clearly marked trails: the green trail takes about 30 minutes, the black trail about an hour, and the blue trail requires about two hours. Dogs are welcome but need to be kept on a lead.

Map reference TL935581, postcode IP30 0AQ



*Following the controlled release of dormice a few years ago, Bradfield Woods now has a thriving dormouse population.*

After a break for food – generously provided by Mary Gregory – and drinks, the 30 members present got down to the business part of the AGM. The Club's Officers were all duly re-elected: Bill Baldry as Chairman, Daphne Baldry as Secretary and Debbie McDowall as Treasurer. Seven other members of the Committee, being willing to continue, were re-elected unanimously. (See list below.)

After serving on the Committee since its inception, Val Gould has decided to step down. Val was responsible for our website – a great source of information which continues to get regular 'hits' – and the Club's fantastic newsletter. She'll be a hard act to follow. Indeed, it is a testament to Val's energy and productivity that it will take *two* men to replace her! Denis Wicking is to develop and maintain the website and George Bethell will take over editorship of the newsletter.



*The meeting was unanimous in offering its thanks to Val for all she has done in communicating the work of the Club to members and beyond.*

### Committee Members as at 1st October 2012

- ◆ Bill Baldry (Chairman)
- ◆ Daphne Baldry (Secretary)
- ◆ Debbie McDowall (Treasurer)
- ◆ Linda Clark
- ◆ Mary Gregory
- ◆ Paul Hansord
- ◆ Jim Henson
- ◆ Sandra Henson
- ◆ Chris Sansom
- ◆ Caroline Wicking

### Contact us...

Website: [www.battisfordgardeningclub.org.uk](http://www.battisfordgardeningclub.org.uk)

Email: through the website's 'Contact Us' enquiry form or to the Secretary: [daphne@baldry47.freemove.co.uk](mailto:daphne@baldry47.freemove.co.uk)

Phone: Bill Baldry 01449 672168

Newsletter submissions: [bethell.george@gmail.com](mailto:bethell.george@gmail.com)

## SEPTEMBER: Show Time!

By Bill Baldry

Despite what was generally regarded as a poor summer, the number of entries in the vegetable and flower sections were both up on last year. Fruit entries were down markedly as, surprisingly, were entries in the craft and photography sections. Overall 412 exhibits from BDGC members, and villagers in Combs and Battsford, produced an excellent display for the many visitors to Combs Fete. Thank you to all who took part and helped in any way.



We had a new trophy for the under 13's and also, thanks to money given to us by the BARCLIF Jubilee Committee, a new silver plate – the BARCLIF 2012 Jubilee Trophy – was bought for presentation to the entrant with the most points overall. This year that was Mike Warren. (See photo below.)



Mike Warren (right) collecting silverware from Paul Hansord.

The Show would not be the same without the tremendous support from Thompson and Morgan. They supply us with potatoes and plants for various classes, pay for the printing of the show schedule and they provide the garden vouchers for prize winners. Thank you very much to them.

Finally, if you have any comments or suggestions about classes or the way the Show is organised please let me know.

**Bill**

## Battsford and District Garden Show 2012 Prize Winners

- BDGC Cup - heaviest weight of new potatoes  
*Gwynneth Hogger*
- Webb Cup - for vegetables  
*Mike Warren*
- Win and Bob Rolfe Cup - for fruit  
*Jeanne Lynch-Aird*
- Portway Cup - for flowers  
*Jackie Collings*
- B.C.LF.R. Community Council Challenge Cup  
*Mike Warren*
- B.C.LF.R. Community Council Cup  
*Mike Warren*
- BDGC Salver – most points for flower arrangements  
*Pat Durrant*
- BDHS Miscellaneous Cup - most novelty section points  
*Mike Warren*
- BDHS Craft Cup  
*Jackie Collings*
- BDGC Treasurer's Cup - for art and photography  
*Lizzy Nay*
- Edna Green Challenge Trophy - for cookery  
*Denise Crozier*
- BDGC Children's Cup - under 13 years  
*Jemima Savage*
- BARCLIF 2012 Jubilee Tray - most points overall  
*Michael Warren*



More 2012 show photos  
on the BDGC website  
Galleries.



## August: BDGC Goes Exotic

By Val Gould

Having enjoyed Andrew Brogan's talk when he visited the club in April, a trip was promptly organised for us to visit the unusual *Henstead Exotic Garden* in the furthest reaches of north-east Suffolk. Having suffered the incessant rain of the summer, we were really fortunate on the day in that the weather was truly glorious. Twenty-five or so members started the tour by hearing Andrew explain that his was an all year round green garden and that nearly all the plants stayed outside permanently. "This," he said, "is not a 'girl's blouse' garden".



The garden is merely 10 years old, having been created from a plot of rough grass. The site is a sheltered, south-facing plot with large hedges to keep the wind from the Urals at bay. Tropical plants such as palms, bamboos, banana plants, gunnera and tree ferns are seamlessly interspersed with more usual British garden plants to provide year round greenery. We passed through the tiered wooden walkway and a shady 'valley' taking in the rock pools and waterfalls, and rock and gravel beds.

Andrew has gradually increased the size of the garden over the years by buying extra bits of land from his neighbour. One of his largest bamboos is in great demand with a waiting list and he grows it on to sell for surprising large sums of cash.

Along the way we saw little collections of pottery and other artefacts that had been uncovered during construction. We also enjoyed a wooden Thai-style covered viewing platform on stilts and Andrew's music room.

The tour ended with tea and cakes from the tea shop where we could also browse and buy plants and avail ourselves of the unusual 'facilities', i.e. the compost toilet!

Val's partner, a non-gardener, came along initially under sufferance as her chauffeur and surprised himself by thoroughly enjoying the visit. He said that this was, "a garden with guts", and promptly bought a banana plant and a papyrus which Val now has the responsibility of keeping alive.

Just as we decided to wend our way home the heavens opened and the rain came down.....



*Kathy in the Henstead rain forest.*



*Tea and cake*



*Navigating the bamboo.*

### Further information...

**The garden has regular open days throughout the year.**

**Details on [www.hensteadexoticgarden.co.uk](http://www.hensteadexoticgarden.co.uk)**

**More fantastic photos of the trip on the BDGC website Galleries.**

## COMING EVENTS

### Monday 5th November

Steve Western, Weatherquest and Radio Suffolk forecaster, will speak on 'Weather and Climate Change' followed by a lively question and answer session.

7:30 pm at Battsford Community Centre, IP14 2HP.

### Friday 23rd November

Battsford and District Gardening Club, in association with Thompson and Morgan, is proud to present: 'An Evening with Bob Flowerdew'.

Author, broadcaster and Britain's best known organic



gardener, Bob will talk on 'No Work Gardening'

Tickets £8 (BDGC members) and £10 (non-members) from Bill or Daphne Baldry on 01449 672168

7.30 pm at Ringshall Village Hall, Lower Farm Road, IP14 2JB.

### Monday 3rd December

George Bethell will be quiz master at the annual 'Fun Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper'.

Teams of up to six competing for glory. Names in advance please for catering purposes.

7:00 pm at Battsford Community Centre, Straight Road, IP14 2HP. (Please note early start.)

### Saturday 8th December

Wreath and Decoration Making Workshop.

10 am to 2 pm. Strictly limited to just 30 places.

Tickets £12 - but going fast.

Please contact: Linda Clark on 01449 775193

### Friday 11th January 2013

New Year Meal at the Barn Café, Alder Carr Farm

7 for 7:30 pm.



Prepare for the annual Fun Quiz with these questions. (Answers at the bottom of the page.)

1: In which Shakespeare play do we find, 'That which we call a rose would by any other name smell as sweet.'?

- A Twelfth Night
- B A Midsummer's Night Dream
- C Romeo and Juliet

2: Who wrote 'The Name of the Rose'?

- A Salman Rushdie
- B Umberto Eco
- C Gabriel Garcia Marquez

3: Who played the title role in the 1979 film 'The Rose' about a self-destructive rock star?

- A Bette Midler
- B Barbra Streisand
- C Dolly Parton

4: Which of the following correctly describes the Tudor Rose first adopted by Henry VII ?

- A Red petals only
- B White petals only
- C Red and white petals

5: Whose signature song was 'La vie en rose'?

- A Edith Piaf
- B Petula Clark
- C Françoise Hardy

6: With which sport is Englishman Justin Rose associated?

- A snooker
- B cricket
- C golf

### Calling for contributions to the Newsletter

Would you be willing to write about club events e.g. invited speakers, club trips, etc. for the newsletter?

Will you take photos at club events for publication in the newsletter and/or via the website gallery?

Do you have a special interest related to gardening or rural pursuits that you'd be willing to write about?

Have you had a good experience buying plants, garden tools etc. over the internet that you'd like to share with other club members?

Offers and/or submissions to George Bethell either by e-mail to [bethell.george@gmail.com](mailto:bethell.george@gmail.com) or by snail-mail to: Stone Croft, Valley Road, Stowmarket, IP14 2HH.

### Brain Teasels Answers

1: C  
2: B  
3: A  
4: C  
5: A  
6: C