

April 13th: Visit to 'Woodwards'

By Sheila Hilton

On Monday 13th April a large group of about 35 Club members set off for Coddendam for a return visit to the beautiful garden at Woodward's, a delightful house almost submerged in the delights of the garden which surround it.

We were welcomed by a marching line of wheelbarrows overflowing with daffodils and leading us through the gateway to the most wonderful barrage of colour provided by tubs, pots and baskets of every hue of polyanthus.

As we made our way down the gently sloping paths we enjoyed wave after wave of daffodils - tall bold ones, pale scented ones, tiny tête-à-tête, some sharing their beds with little dog violets, others with Euphorbia and Doronicum. There were arching trees sheltering tastefully draped ladies, who hid away in leafy alcoves, and winding paths which weave in and out around colourful flower beds.

The garden sweeps down through pools of daffodils, and flowering trees - just coming into bloom - to a strategically placed garden seat where you can fully appreciate the beauty of the surroundings.

Daffodils also provide a golden boundary back up to the top of the garden where a shelter had been provided with table and chairs and most welcome cups of tea and wonderful home made cakes.

What a heavenly evening!

Sheila



Photos of the Club's visit to 'Woodwards' by [Michael Warren](#) who is also the subject of our 'A Gardener's Question Time' feature on the back page.

Coming Events

Monday 18th May: Trip to Walled Garden, MEAL

A trip to see the recently restored Walled Garden at Abbots Hall, Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket. Meet there for 7.00 pm. Cost = £6. Please note that this is the third Monday of the month.

Monday 1st June: Speaker Alan Seager

The much anticipated talk on "Bees", as requested by members, will be delivered by Alan Seager, Chairman of the Suffolk Beekeepers' Association. 7:30 Battsford Community Centre.

Monday 15th June: Visit to the Collings' Garden

An opportunity to see the garden of members Jackie and Stuart Collings. 6:30 pm Woodstock, Park Rd, Combs, IP14 2JS.

Saturday 4th July: The Annual Show

The Club's Annual Show will once again be a major attraction at the Combs Village Fete. *Exhibit, visit or both!*

Oaks Meadow, Fenn's Farm, Bildeston, Combs. Show opens at 2:00pm with setting up 10:30-12:15.

See page 2 for a message from the Show Committee.

Monday 6th July: Speaker Matthew Tanton-Brown

Another opportunity to hear from Matthew Tanton-Brown (formerly 'Place for Plants' now at 'The Walled Garden', Benhall near Saxmundham). On this occasion Matthew will be talking on 'Plants for autumn and winter'. 7:30 pm Battsford Community Centre.

Sunday 16th August: Club BBQ from 3:00 pm

An annual favourite, this year the Club BBQ will be at The Neathouse, Moats Tye - courtesy of Jo and Ian Pepper.

BDGC members go free - 'plus ones' £3. If you're planning to be at the BBQ please let Daphne, Caroline or Jo know as we will need an idea as to likely numbers.

Your Newsletter Needs You



This will be my penultimate edition of the newsletter as I shall be stepping down after the August issue. I have enjoyed my time as Editor immensely, but I'm sure the time has come for a new direction and a new 'voice'.

If you would like to join the new editorial team please let Bill or Anthea know. If you want to know what's involved in producing a newsletter, drop me an e-mail and I'll try to elucidate.

George (bethell.george@gmail.com)

Monday 7th September: Speaker Janet Buist

Janet Buist runs Pennycross Plants in Colne (near Huntingdon) and is widely recognised as a 'Salvia guru'. She will, unsurprisingly, talk to us about 'Salvias' - a huge genera which include culinary and decorative sages.

7:30 Battsford Community Centre.

Monday 5th October: Annual General Meeting

Formal business will be preceded by a talk by Judith and Steve Thompson about their smallholding on the edge of Stowmarket and their charitable activities. The AGM will also include a 'Mini Show' for later fruit and veg. including classes for Apples, Pears, Runner Beans, French Beans, Marrows, Cabbages, and the Biggest Marrow! More details in the August newsletter.

A Gardener's Question Time #3: Gardener and Photographer of all things botanical - Michael Warren

Q1: *What is your favourite plant to grow and why?*

"Clematis, the 'Queen of Climbers' (quote by Jim Fisk of Westleton). It is possible to have clematis flowering every month of the year, they are hardy (most) and growing vertical take up little room, there's always room for another. The British Clematis Society (BCS) & International Clematis Society (ICS) have excellent meetings and tours & the members are the friendliest of any society."

Q2: *What plants would you like to grow but which, in the past, have defeated you?*

"Celeriac! It has always defeated me - annoying to see such large roots for sale when mine are tiny (but organic!)"

Q3: *Of all the gardens you have visited in your various 'professional' capacities, which one made the most lasting impression? Why?*

"Favourite Garden? I am often asked this! They change each decade. My choices are influenced by my photography instincts & demands: 1970's Bressingham Gardens; 1980's Beth Chatto Gardens; 1990's Red Gables, Evesham (Derek & Rowlett Cook); 2000 John's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries; and throughout these decades: Harlow Carr Gardens, Harrogate, (now an RHS garden); The Savill Garden, Windsor; Hilliers Arboretum; and good old RHS Wisley! Abroad, in my early days, the Parc de la Source at Olivet, Orleans, France, later favourites Mainau, Lake Constance & Helga and Norbert Ricks garden, N of Hamburg, Germany."

Q4: *You photograph gardens and plants, any thoughts of retiring?*

"NO, I enjoy it too much - the travel, the new plant introductions, and the exciting technological improvements in cameras and lenses which keep me poor!"

Thanks Michael for your great answers. I'm somewhat surprised that BDGC is not at the top of your list of friendly societies but perhaps some of us are just too envious of your glamorous lifestyle? Ed.

Brain Teasels Answers

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