 **Epsom Garden Society: October 2022**

**Se**

Newsletter: Margaret Haslam 01372 724138, 3 Elm Grove Epsom KT18 7LZ

 Membership Secretary and Newsletter Distribution: Steve Roebuck 0208 394 2168

 Show Secretary: Cathy Flitter 07821 277708

*Dear Member, if you have any news or garden related small ads that you would like to be included in the Newsletter, please phone me, 01372 724138, or email me,* *margarethaslam6@gmail.com*

**On the 21st November we will have our AGM at 8pm,** at St Barnabas Church Hall, Temple Road, Epsom. The business part to discuss is:

1. Chairman's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Membership Secretary's Report
4. Show and meeting secretary’s report
5. Open Garden Society Report
6. Election of Officers and Committee, please send all nominations for the Committee to our Hon. Chairman **Isabella Glanville-Taylor,** email wgt@gmx.co.uk by 1st November.
7. Any other Business, including membership fees.

Please don't bring any raffle prizes for this: we will finish with our usual fancy cheese and wine refreshments and enjoy a sociable time.

**Cathy Flitter** wonders if anyone has photos of the flower arrangements at the Show as she was too busy to take any? We are planning perhaps more than one Show next year. **Kim Shrosbee** is doing great work with our Facebook page, welcome to the new lady who came to our talk because of it.

On the 22nd August **Cherrill Sands** gave us a lovely talk about 'Gardens of Surrey.' She concentrated on the 'Arts and Crafts' gardens rather than the big National Trust blockbusters, as we probably know them very well already.

***Albury*** was linked with **John Evelyn** who lived nearby in the 1640s, and it benefited from ideas he had seen on his trips abroad to avoid the civil war. The plans were based on an Italian garden, with terraces, each half a mile long. He imagined that people would stroll along each level while talking about philosophical things. The garden is open in Spring for bulbs and again in Autumn for leaf colour. The house and top garden are privately owned, but there is an excellent Saxon Church nearby with frescos of St. Christopher.

***Painshill Park*** was designed as a landscape park by **Charles Hamilton.** It had originally been his brickworks, so the ruined abbey neatly covered the kiln, and the lake filled the clay excavations. As you follow the route round you see various architectural features. Mostly originally made of wood as he wasn't rich enough to build in stone. The gardeners try to only include plants that were grown in England before 1760. The centrepiece is the spectacular grotto. The gardens are closed on Mondays when the maintenance team stick back any stalactites that have fallen off. A hermit was employed to add something to the atmosphere, but the rules were rather strict. He was not supposed to talk to anyone for seven years, but had a bible for company. After two weeks he was found in the pub and got the sack.

***Gatton Park*** is now a school, but the garden can be visited. There is a walk around the serpentine lake, **Capability Brown** had a hand in constructing it, and **Mr Colman** of mustard fame added a water garden and a Japanese garden. During the war the water garden and lake were filled in as they might have been a bomber navigation aid. After the war they were patiently dug out again, and the staff even found the original plant labels, so they knew what to replant.

***Titsey Place*** near Oxted had been owned by the same family since Tudor times until 1992. Famous for its lovely walled garden, and beautifully maintained. Check the yellow book for opening times.

***Munstead Wood*** was the artist **Gertrude Jekyll'**s home, bought for her when her eyesight started to fail in her thirties. At first there was no house, but **Gertrude** became friends with young **Edwin Lutyens** and asked him to design it for her. This was the start of a great relationship, **Cherrill** showed us a little sketch from **Edwin'**s notebook of a stout **Gertrude** with angelic wings, flying. I think I read that he affectionately called her 'Bumps'. **Marian** **Oliver** arranged a visit early in September because the house and garden are about to be sold and there might be no more access.The house and garden are set in a wood, up an unmade lane. He head gardener guided the fourteen of them around while giving them a very interesting talk about **Gertrude Jekyll,** her friendship with **Edwin Lutyens** and the history of the garden. It is a wild garden, with interesting plants but not much colour now. There are some short videos of it in Spring on the website.

***Vann*** at Hambledon is a lovely Spring garden before the leaves open on the trees, but beware, they only accept cash and are proud of only having a single toilet.

***Virginia Water*** next to ***Savill Gardens*** used to be a long dull circular walk [for children], but they now have lots of new plants that have been donated from their neighbour, and some features to celebrate royal occasions.

***Roof Garden*** on Harvey’s, House of Fraser in Guildford. Inspired by space travel, and has water reflecting the sky, and stepping stones, although you are not allowed to step on them nowadays.

***Guildford Castle Gardens*** has a low path along brightly planted raised beds, the carpet bedding celebrates **John Tenniel'**s illustrations for Alice in Wonderland. **Lewis Carroll** is buried in Guildford.

***Great Fosters*** is now a hotel. Worth pre-booking a cream tea to be allowed to look at their lovely garden, or just wander in looking official? There was a sad time when the M25 was newly built and caused a lot of noise, but a clever adviser suggested they should construct an amphitheatre to block that view and cut down on the sound, and it works so well that you would not guess that the road is just the other side.

***Ramster*** near Chiddingfold has masses of unusual rhododendrons and camellias, brought in by the grand -daughter of Bodnant gardens when she married into the family. Some still cannot be identified.

***Wisley,*** we all know about, but even then there are surprises. **Cherrill** had a slide of a row of glasshouses standing where the canal is nowadays.

This was a very interesting, well attended talk and gave us lots of ideas of gardens to visit. Do check opening times before you set off though. Try [www.surrreygardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.surrreygardenstrust.org.uk/).

On October 17th **Jim Arbury** will give us a master class on ***'Pruning Fruit.'*** At 8pm, St Barnabas Hall.

***Ewell Horticultural Society*** invite us to their talk on 11th October at 8pm at Bourne Hall. **Geoff Peach** will be telling us about ***'Growing Vegetables for the Kitchen and Show Bench',*** visitors £4 to include refreshments and a raffle ticket.

**Gunboat Botany:** three hundred years ago **Linnaeus** in Sweden was famous for standardising all plant names with two Latin words, one the plant family name and the second a descriptive one. To stabilize Linnaeus' names for plants, specimens were deposited in recognised and properly curated herbaria.

Many of these type sheets used **Linnaeus'** herbarium sheets, but surprisingly they are not all in Uppsala, **Linnaeus**' home university in Sweden, but in Piccadilly, opposite Fortnum and Masons.

There is a modest entrance to the left labelled ***'The Linnean Society'*** as you enter Burlington House. In the basement there is a well-protected and air-conditioned store. The collection has ended up here because in 1783 **Sir James Edward** **Smith** thought it would be a good idea to preserve the sheets and so asked **Linnaeus' widow** if he could buy some. The Swedish government, either because of inefficiency or indecision, did not make up their mind quickly enough to purchase the collection of its most famous son, so sent a man o'war to try to overtake the collection as it sailed on its way to England. Luckily for our ***Linnean Society*** the sheets reached here first. They spell the name without the extra 'a' because they use the Swedish version rather than the latinized one.

The **President of The Linnean Society** presides from what is probably the most uncomfortable chair in the world. It is made of crocodile hide and members have enjoyed watching successive chairmen wriggle about on it in the lecture room. [I have been reading a book about ***The Natural History Museum*** by its trilobite man **Richard Fortey**. Very amusing writer – he tells us his name badge at a prestigious conference was accidentally printed as Fartey.]

Apologies to **Jill**, The line '**Jill Farnham-Doubble** took the ***Peter Grimshaw trophy*** for all classes except roses..' was missing from the paper versions last time.

*Best wishes Margaret*