



## Epsom Garden Society: July 2024

Newsletter: Margaret Haslam 07761 976764, 3 Elm Grove Epsom KT18 7LZ  
Membership Secretary and Newsletter Distribution: Steve Roebuck 0208 394 2168

*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, 07761 976764, or email me, [margarethaslam6@gmail.com](mailto:margarethaslam6@gmail.com)*

If you usually receive a paper copy of the newsletter and would like a paper copy of the Show Schedule, please let **Steve** know and he will print one for you, 0208 394 2168. That will save printing lots of them if they are not needed. It is also on our website. <https://e-voice.org.uk/epsomgardensociety/>

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm **Margaret Arnott** will open her garden specially for us, **Heathside**, 10 Links Green Way, Cobham KT11 2QH.

Terraced, plants persons garden, designed for year round interest. Gorgeous planting set off by harmonious landscaping. Many urns and pots give seasonal displays. Several water features give tranquil sound. Stunning colour combinations excite. Dahlias and Begonias are favourites. Beautiful Griffin Glasshouse for exotics.

1½ miles East of Cobham. Through Cobham A245, 4<sup>th</sup> Left after Esso Garage into Fairmile Lane. straight on into Water Lane. Links Green Way 3<sup>rd</sup> turning on Left. £25, to include a glass of wine and canapes.

**Margaret** and her husband **Terry** gave us a lovely talk last October about her adventures opening her garden for the Yellow book. If you would like to come, please let **Sue Glover** know, and she will tell **Margaret** how many of us to expect. Sue.192@live.co.uk, 07810117140.

Lots of events at Wisley in July:

**Jazz** every Saturday from 1 – 4pm on Seven Acres Lawn in the Butterfly Lovers Pavilion, free, with garden admission.

**Exhibition** in the Old Laboratory about '**William Robinson – The Wild Gardener.**' 10 - 4.30, why do modern gardens look so different to the neat formal ones we see in Victorian photos and paintings? In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century **William Robinson** championed and popularised a more naturalistic gardening style using hardy plants to create landscapes that mimic wild spaces. You can see his written works and ideas in this display, free with garden admission.

**Early morning photography** from 8am on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Ferns and Carnivorous Plants Show** on 20/21<sup>st</sup> July, Free with garden entry, 10 – 5, with 11.30 a talk about growing carnivorous plants, 12.30 a tour of the ferns and at 2pm a talk about growing ferns, on both days.

**Hampton Court Flower Show** is taking place from 10 – 6.30, [5.30 on Sunday], from 2/ 7<sup>th</sup> July.

On July 24<sup>th</sup> we will have our **Summer Display and Plant Sale** at the Sports Club. This will be an opportunity to display your gorgeous summer blooms – sweet peas to roses and more. Do bring along something for your fellow members to enjoy as well as anything for the plant sale table. No raffle this time.

**Sue Glover** writes: Last month the Open Garden Group visited **Westways Farm** at Chobham. This was a pleasant 6 acre garden, part of which was an old woodland area which had some unusual and beautiful rhododendrons and azaleas in flower. **Nicki**, the owner, gave us a guided walk through the wood and then left us to wander around the rest of the garden at our leisure. We then sat outside in the sun around a large table and enjoyed some lovely carrot cake and coffee. The dogs had a wonderful time making friends with the family dogs.

**Nicki** was plagued this year by that plant that looks like a geum but has really small and scrappy yellow flowers. Strong roots though. We told her it was a weed!

**Kim Shrosbree** asks if you could please add her name to your computer list of trusted email senders, as some people missed their newsletter last month as they went to Spam when **Steve** was away and **Kim**

forwarded it instead. **Kim's** email is [kimshros@gmail.com](mailto:kimshros@gmail.com).

Also, please contact **Kim** if you would like to hear the zoom talks organised by the **Tender Shoots** online gardening club who offer gardening talks and events during the autumn and winter. We are affiliate members, but you need to know a password for some of the talks and **Kim** will tell you what it is.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May **Louise Camby** came to talk to us about '*Aloe Vera – Healing.*' Aloe Vera sap has lots of minerals, and anti-biotic properties, and is very soothing to burnt skin, also bites and stings, and works as deodorant too. Often provided in bucket loads in Barbados to paste onto burnt tourists! There are three hundred and ninety varieties, only ten useful to us. One other one is bitter Aloes, sometimes painted on finger nails to prevent people biting them.

Cleopatra was said to have bathed in it, **Ghandi** fasted just by eating it, and drinking water, and **Alexander the Great** fought battles to gain control of the Aloe fields as it was so useful to treat his injured soldiers.

It is a succulent, part of the Liliacea family which includes garlic and lily, and can be absorbed by the skin, **Louise** told us about a man who had eaten no garlic for three months and then as an experiment rubbed some on the soles of his feet before sleeping. In the morning he could taste garlic!

**Louise** is an agent for '*Forever Living*' products that use preserved Aloe Vera, and are rather expensive, so sold directly to customers rather than being sold in shops.

I did begin to feel that **Louise** could give an old-fashioned medicine man a few sales tips as she expanded on how wonderful the product was, and wondered if I should report on this talk at all as it wasn't what she had told **Cathy** it would be about when it was booked.

If you do want to buy anything **Louise's** email is [aloehealing.co.uk](mailto:aloehealing.co.uk).

However several people told me how much they had enjoyed the talk, so I have reported what happened.

It was also a rather stressful morning as workmen were installing a new boiler in the kitchen and we couldn't use it for preparation of our refreshments.

I have been reading a wonderful book, '*Entangled Life*' by **Merlin Sheldrake**, about how fungi make our world. The colour photos of close up fungi are amazing, only added to by the unusual colour combinations chosen. If you order it from the library get the hard-back one, don't think the paperback version has the coloured photos.

**Lynne Boddy**, Professor of microbial ecology at Cardiff University, has spent decades studying the foraging behaviour of mycelium.

She was amazed at one experiment – she arranged soil into the shape of Britain, and marked the cities with blocks of wood in proportion to the population of the cities they represented. The blocks of wood were already colonised with sulphur tuft fungus, *Hypholoma fasciculare*. This grows by sending out threads like feelers to explore their surroundings, when they find something useful they concentrate mycelium in that direction and withdraw the ones that haven't found anything, even though they have no central nervous system.

When she came back to see what was happening a few days later she was amazed to see that the fungus had grown out of the 'cities' and linked up to make what looked like the motorway network. 'You could see the M3, M4, M1 and M6 in exactly the right places!'

Researchers have begun to use network based organisms like slime moulds and fungi to design urban transportation networks, and efficient fire evacuation routes from buildings.

One researcher thought he would give the slime mould a really good test. He frequently got lost in IKEA stores and would take many minutes trying to find the exit. He decided to challenge his slime moulds with the same problem and built a maze based on the floor plan of his local IKEA. Sure enough, with no benefit of signs or staff to direct them, *Physarum polycephalum* soon found the shortest path to the exit!

This book was a Sunday Times best seller, I am not surprised!

**Small Ad.:** Lots of plants for sale for charity behind the hedge in the front garden of 22 Manor Green Road, please put money through the letter box.

Best wishes Margaret