



Newsletter

Nidderdale Hardy
Planters

Issue 8
Autumn 2009

Welcome back to 2009/2010 season.

September starts with an explanation of developments at Harlow Carr. Anyone who has been there recently will agree that many changes are in evidence and, equally obviously, it is clear much remains to be done. Dean Peckett, Garden Manager, will tell us all about these "Exciting times at Harlow Carr". In October—please see Stop Press below about the change of date—Rob Potterton will be talking about "Alpines and Bulbs—Mountain to Market", this is a slightly unusual topic for us but it should be fascinating to hear about Rob's experiences travelling with the AGS seed collection expedition to the mountains of south west China in 1994 as well as his day to day work at his own specialist nursery.

Following on throughout the coming year we will have everything from "Behind the scenes at Chelsea Show", "Vegetables— from Plot to Pot" (again, something quite different for us), the history of "Hackfall Woods" and "Identifying Good Value Plants" - something we all aspire to!

Certainly a varied programme to look forward to thanks to our "speaker hunters" Jean Drummond and Jo Pickering.

Garden visits report 2009

* Once again, the summer programme has proved popular with members. There is no question that these *
* trips provide good value for money and a comfortable, stress-less way of enjoying a day out with like- *
* minded people. We always make sure that we provide a luxury coach, with loo and coffee stops as re- *
* quired. If you've never been on one of our summer visits – think seriously about it in 2010: it is an enjoy- *
* able and friendly way of spending a day. Thanks are due to Maureen Boland who has organised these trips *
* for us this year. *

In June we went to the Yorkshire Wolds.....

Both gardens—Hunmanby Grange and Jacksons Wold— belonged to farmers' wives. However, they could not have been further from the old image of the little patch of land in front of the farmhouse with perhaps a few hens and an apple tree or two! Both of these women were trained horticulturalists and it really showed in the creativity with which they had laid out and planted their gardens.

It has to be said they had taken every advantage of the room to breathe and expand on these rolling Wolds. It was also clear that the abundant supplies of farmyard manure from their husbands' businesses has encouraged the fantastically lush growth to be seen in all areas of the gardens. Both of these gardens—and the nursery at Jacksons Wold—are well worth a visit. The day was punctuated with a break at Yorkshire Wold Art Gallery, where we had a simple quiche and salad lunch surrounded by a very interesting display of original art works.

In July we celebrated our 10th Anniversary with a Garden Party

About 60 members and their guests enjoyed an afternoon at Paddy and Phil Mayes garden in Darley. The weather was fairly typical for this year—slightly windy, overcast but warm—but the garden was looking well in its lovely riverside setting and the food was seriously great! Committee members had been slaving over their ovens and bread boards and produced some great cakes and sandwiches. Ray was looking particularly smart in his pinny and "marigolds" as he took charge of the kitchen sink and Phil was in fine form greeting guests at the wine bar.

In August we go to Barnsdale and Arte de Jardin at Wingwell at the time of writing we have not yet been there.

Lemon Poppyseed traybake

If you didn't get to the Garden Party, console yourself with this delicious cake baked for us by Liz Leatham. It freezes well—if you can resist eating it up immediately.

120g soft margarine
120g caster sugar
175g self raising flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
2 eggs
3 tablespoons milk
Finely grated rind of 1 lemon
25g poppy seeds

Beat all the ingredients together until smooth. Turn into greased and lined roasting tin (12x9 ins) and bake 20-25 mins @ Gas4/180C or 160C fan oven until springy to the touch.

Mix 100g sugar and juice of 1 lemon and brush over the hot cake. Leave in tin until barely warm then lift out onto rack and cut into 12 pieces. Serve warm or cold. Yum, Yum!

Stop press!! Change of date to Monday 12 Oct!!

A new vicar has been appointed at Holy Trinity. She is to be licensed on Tuesday 13th October 2009 and the church will require to use the hall on that night.. In consequence, our October meeting will be held on Monday 12 October. Please make a note of this in your diary—if you come on the usual day, you may find yourself involved in a party!



Your current committee

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Tea Time

Margaret and Hazel are not able to continue to provide us with tea and coffee at our meetings. We want to thank them for their sterling work over the last couple of years—it may seem a bit of a thankless task but I know we do really appreciate a nice cuppa after a talk.

Would you be willing to take over this task at the beginning of our next season? Unfortunately if we cannot find a willing member we will have to consider giving up the tea break altogether—which I am sure you will agree would be a shame.

AGM

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 10 November at 7.00pm before the speaker – Graham Gough—founder of Marchant's Hardy Plants— starts his talk *A miscellany of Plants* at 7.30 pm

- ◇ This year Ray Cooke (Hon Treasurer), Liz Leetham (Secretary) and Paddy Mayes (Chair) reach the end of their terms and so will be retiring.
- ◇ The other current committee members are eligible and willing to continue to serve to the end of their term.
- ◇ There will be vacancies for the three officers—Chair, Treasurer and Secretary— at this year's AGM. Nominations should be given to Paddy Mayes by 12 October.

Getting involved

As you will see, the officers of the Committee will all be retiring this year. It is obviously unfortunate that all of them are due to retire at the same time but that could not be avoided as they were all elected together and have all served for the maximum 3 years allowed by the Constitution. If you want to get involved but you do not feel you can commit for the full term, you may consider standing for election with the intention of serving for a shorter period than the maximum 3 years. In this way the Committee would be in a position to set in train a rolling retirement schedule for the officers.

In order to help us preserve and pass on knowledge to new committee members, we have put together a manual detailing all the activities and day-to-day working of the club. It includes details of constitutional matters, our financial arrangements, premises, the equipment we own and communications. This clarifies the activities of the club as well as the communal tasks and individual responsibilities of committee members. We hope that this will help us avoid constantly re-inventing the wheel.

If you are considering volunteering for any of these positions, you could have a look at this "manual" (ask Paddy for it) and also speak to any of the existing officers, who will be happy to talk you through our activities and responsibilities. It really is essential to have a strong and active committee – without it our club cannot survive.

Christmas meeting Tuesday 8 December.

We've taken on board your suggestion that we should have a lecture at our December meeting.

We will also, of course, have the usual bumper raffle, festive refreshments and a chance to socialise—we had a really good time at the Christmas meeting in 2008 and hope to repeat it this year. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come to this meeting, particularly since it is quite early in December this year and should not clash so much with your Christmas preparations.

If you would like to make any suggestions for improvements or future activities please put them in the blue file on the Treasurer's table—or tell any committee member.

If you have told us that you need a lift to or from meetings look in the blue file for details of members who have offered lifts.



