

West Yorkshire Group Newsletter



*Some of the beauties seen on this year's Group Holiday to Kent, as photographed by Ruth Baumberg. *Loasa triphylla* var. *volcanica* (top left), seen at both West Silchester Hall and Stone House Cottage Garden; *Lonicera involucrata* bracts (middle left) and *Styrax japonica* 'Pink Chimes' (right) both seen at Bluebell Arboretum; and an unknown acer (bottom left) spotted in the woodland at MacPenny's Nursery.*

Autumn 2014

Welcome to the Autumn 2014 Newsletter

How many times have you said recently ‘I can’t believe it’s November – where has the year gone?’ Whether we can believe it or not, 2014 is fast slipping by; Christmas and 2015 just around the corner.

So, what does this mean for the West Yorkshire Group? Firstly it means a most enjoyable evening in prospect on December 11 when we have our Christmas Social – a relaxed evening with a quiz and supper. It is also the opportunity for members to acquire packets of seed at the giveaway price of 20p a packet, so if you have been collecting seed from your garden please bring some to add to the exchange.

Moving on in to the New Year we have that meeting that everyone looks forward to – the AGM. In recent years these have been well attended, so thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to it again in January.

May I remind you that all the Officers are elected annually so, if you would like to put forward yourself or another member of the group, please let me or Pat know by the end of the year. We will be looking to fill one vacancy on the committee so do, please, think whether you would like to become more involved in the running of the Group. After the business part of the evening we will have chance to relive some of the events and visits of 2014 with a photographic record of the year.

I look forward to seeing you at both our Christmas Social and AGM.

Best wishes,

Sue Gray

Chairman, West Yorkshire Group HPS

*All photos in this issue courtesy of
Ruth Baumberg, Sue Gray, Pat Inman,
Diane Rawnsley and the editor.*

More Great Work by the WY HPS Group Show Team



Work begins.

The Harrogate Autumn Flower Show judges' walk round was the culmination of months of cossetting plants, begging and buying hardy perennial specimens, days of hard work building and designing the display.



Keeping track of the plants.

Was it worth it? Well a Gold Medal was the result, so well done to the team of WY HPS members who were involved. Visitors to the stand were keen to read the display boards ('What is a Hardy Plant') as well as study the planting in detail. There are many knowledgeable gardeners who regularly visit the HPS stand at the Flower Shows – many are specialist growers of their own favourites and, like all good gardeners, they are all happy to share their knowledge. So stewarding can be a two-way street. It was good also to meet many keen young gardeners on the hunt for tips and ideas.



It takes ages to get the positioning of each plant just right.



The effort is worth it.

Summer Evening Garden Visits: Part 2

by Pat Inman

July found us at **Ben Rhydding** where we had a super evening wandering around a true plantsman's plot. **David Barnes** has some really choice, unusual plants which resulted in many questions of 'What is that plant?'



To the front of the house, not a square of lawn in sight.



To the rear of the house.



A variety of deianthe was much admired..



A beautifully contrasting combination, eryngium and Morina longifolia.

In August after an extremely wet day the clouds cleared just in time for us to enjoy **William and John's garden at Cow Close**, Hartwith. Created over the past 5 years but still evolving with such enthusiastic owners. The lovely plantings reflected their many visits to Dove Cottage and a few of us have already been in touch with Kim and Stephen as we saw new varieties at Cow Close that we lusted after!



The circular bed is an elegant planting scheme to disguise a manhole cover.

Day Trip to Cumbria, 12 July 2014 by Pat Inman



We made good time to our first stop at **Summerdale Garden & Nursery near Lupton** (*left*), which is owned by David and Gail Sheals, the parents of Abi (of Abi and Tom of Halecat Nursery.) Several areas linked by attractive cobbled pathways with a specialist nursery which attracted many of us with its good selection of plants including lots of unusual primulas. The only disappointment was the

refreshments, not a biscuit or cake in sight! Then to **Pear Tree Cottage at Burton-in-Kendal** (*below right*) where we enjoyed our lunch in this very attractive garden which has a lovely ambience and which contains over 70 different types of fern.

Many self-seeded plants of francoa were much admired for their differences in colour as was a large bush of the hardy Fuchsia 'Lady Bacon'. On to Cath's Garden Plants for a brief sojourn amongst the tempting sales area there then to **Pudding Poke Barn near Kirkby Lonsdale** owned by Gilly Newbury and into the charming cottage for refreshments where we admired a surprising and interesting interior. Down the steps into the lovely garden which meandered down the slope. Here we discovered the



Is this the poshest potting shed in Britain?

most attractive, poshest, immaculately ordered potting shed we'd ever seen. Gilly, as well as being a keen gardener is a craftswoman and we ended up admiring items for sale in her small outlet there. The forecast rain for the afternoon luckily didn't arrive and we made it back to Paxton still enjoying the fine weather.

Summer Holiday Garden & Nursery Reviews: Part 1

Bluebell Arboretum and Nursery by Gill Evans

This was our first visit of the trip, and what a marvellous start. After a short talk and a visit to the plant sales area, we wandered into the arboretum. It was a glorious morning and the dappled light through the tree canopy was beautiful. The arboretum has been well planned and there were glades and avenues through the trees. The first thing I noticed was the under planting. For instance so many of the geraniums are too rampant for the average garden, but here under the trees they could romp away happily. *Geranium* 'Claridge Druce' was looking particularly good.



Tilia henryana leaves with geranium.

But it was the trees – an amazing variety – which took centre stage. I saw an unusual lime tree, *Tilia henryana*, with quite toothed leaves and some rare oaks. But it was the flowering shrubs that took the eye. A huge *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabolo' was absolutely covered with flowers, and a hawthorn, a variety of the ordinary hedgerow shrub had such white leaves that it didn't seem

possible it could survive with so little chlorophyll. But underneath the branches had the usual green leaves.

Perhaps the most striking of all were the flowering *Cornus kousa* sprinkled all over with large pink flowers. According to the blurb, how well it flowered depended on the conditions the previous July. In the lap of the gods then!

When I expressed my appreciation to the owner of the arboretum, he seemed surprised. He thought it was a bad time, between the spring blossom and the autumn turning of the leaves.



Pink-flowered Cornus kousa.

Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Freefolk Priors, Whitchurch by Judith Ladley

Having been a fan of Hardy's Plants for many years I was particularly pleased to find them on our holiday itinerary. Hardy's never fail to stage a superb display at Harrogate and an even larger one at Chelsea. They are very sympathetic towards us 'hardy planters' and during our staging of the 2010 Chelsea exhibit we were most grateful for the use of their electric supply, without which we would have been minus hot drinks when working into the night.

However, back to our visit: The nursery lies down a very narrow, winding lane, which our driver negotiated extremely skilfully, lopping a few overhanging branches on the way. On arrival we were greeted by the colourful sight of a large display area and, after Rosy Hardy and her colleague had provided tea and biscuits, members were let loose to trek along the rows with their baskets.

The nursery is a highly efficient concern and an enquiry about a certain plant produced a quick answer from Rosy's assistant with the aid of the computer system, after which it was brought from the stock area.

My own pleasing find was the double *Lychnis coronaria* 'Gardener's World' a plant I had thought lost – only to find a few weeks later it was flowering in my garden – but never mind, double the pleasure!



A beautiful crisp sky over a well-ordered nursery.

21 Chestnut Road, Brockenhurst by Margaret Hayton

The first full day and our first private garden – and what a garden! So much was crammed into a regular suburban plot and not a weed to be seen.



There was all you could wish for; a sunny terrace for morning coffee, beautifully kept lawns, statues tucked in amongst clematis and sumptuous scented roses, which climbed up pergolas or hung from ropes; wonderful deep deep blue delphiniums set off against the most

vivid purple lupins I have ever seen – really jewel-like colours.

The borders were exuberantly planted with American iris and bright red lilies, which stood out from the lush growth of other perennials. There was a pond, summerhouse, greenhouse, vegetable plot and even a small wild flower meadow where (one) deer “safely graze” – another piece of art work.

Growing through a tree nearby was a white rose, not unlike *R. ‘Rambling Rector’* or ‘Kiftsgate’ but Mary [garden owner] said that this one was discovered at Heligan and is an unknown variety. It was just at its best for our visit. Behind this was an enormous hedge, which I for one could not have lived with, but perhaps it hid something nasty from view.

Around the corner from the wild flower patch (which had frits and other bulbs in spring), was a very tidy composting and wood storage area and a shed decorated with the following letters arranged artfully on its door:

Y c h g t b o
Y, n p a d i t
c b.

In case you don’t remember or never knew, it stands for ‘Your curiosity has got the better of you, now put a donation in the charity box’. Another good NGS garden, whose owners Iain and Mary Hayter must work extremely hard and with obvious passion for all they do.



The Waitrose Nursery by Diane Rawnsley

Longstock Park Nursery is part of the Leakford Estate owned and managed by Waitrose in Hampshire's Test Valley. The nursery is surrounded by brick and flint walls covered in clematis, wisteria and roses, on the far side of which is an 80 metre herbaceous border, predominantly in blues, lemons and pinks using geraniums – *psilostemum*, 'Jolly Bee' and sanguineum varieties. The borders were edged with *Alchemilla mollis*, nepeta and heucheras. Brighter notes were brought in with yellow lilies and daylilies and *Achillea* 'Moonshine'.



Adjacent to the herbaceous border and running the entire length, is a magnificent series of archways of pears, apples and clematis, underplanted with lavender.

A National Collection of buddlejas runs the length of a parallel border ... I succumbed and purchased a lovely silver leaved one called 'Silver Anniversary'.

They also hold a National Collection of clematis. Admiring a *Clematis* 'Prince Charles' with the gardener, she said that you can't plant a *texensis* clematis next to a *viticella* because it will strangle it; so they have *Clematis* 'Princess Diana' further down the border ... make of that what you will!

Adjoining the nursery is a 70 acre arboretum, which leads to renowned water gardens, so a return trip with more time is probably necessary to do this nursery justice.

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey by Jennifer Williamson

Our first impression of this garden was the vastness of it, 180 acres of garden and arboretum, and its obvious popularity, enormous number of visitors, families and children picnicking and playing in the lovely sunshine.

It being impossible to do justice to such a vast garden in the allotted time we decided our priorities were to get lunch as quickly as possible and make our way to see the long

border. The visitor and education pavilion was a long low modern building containing the restaurant/café. Lunch was eaten at record speed and we were off across the park to find the long border. It was a frustrating walk across the parkland with so little time, impossible to have a proper look at the magnificent trees and shrubs and find out what they were.



We found the new, long Centenary Border, which stretched into the distance 250 metres long. It's a double border with mixed planting, including shrubs, trees, perennials and bulbs, backed by the mature trees, which must have been there many years. We walked down the length of one side and back up the other, amazed at the size and beauty of many of the plants.



We had been given a plan of the garden when we arrived, which included a list of 'plants of current interest' (a great idea in such a large garden). Our first knock out plant was a delphinium called *D.* 'Faust' (left). It was breath-taking, about 8 feet high and purple/blue. There was a beautifully neat *Euphorbia* 'Abbey Dore' (below) that took our eye, as did *Penstemon* 'White Bedder'.

Eryngium 'Sapphire Blue' a sterile garden cultivar with the largest flowers of any sea holly, which get bluer and bluer as the weeks pass. An *Agapanthus* 'Glacier Stream' with massive flowers and buds grabbed our attention as did *Clematis* 'Alionushka' (I) AGM, purple/pink. Another delphinium, *D.* 'Loch Ness' stood out, a fabulous electric blue. The shrubs and trees included the beautiful *Deutzia setchuenensis* var. *corymbiflora* AGM, *Malus* 'Evereste', and a champion tree, *Ilex x altaclerensis* 'Golden King'. It would have been lovely to stay longer but time ran out and we had to move on, especially as Sue was desperate to get to Andy McIndoe's garden!



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