



September 2024

NEWSLETTER

Egham Gardens & Allotments Association



AUTUMN

2024

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



In some ways September can be regarded as being the start of the new gardening year. Now is the time to take stock of your successes and failures of the past year and plan accordingly for next year.

In the meantime we still have a couple of events coming up.....

LATE SUMMER SHOW



Thursday 12 September in the Easter Centre. In spite of a tricky growing season, there are always some things that do well, so bring along your produce - veg, fruit, flowers etc and have a go. Enter your monster veg for the Battle of the Giants! And not forgetting cakes, jams and jellies (always appreciated by the Judges!). We'll have the usual classes and a few new ones - winter squash, beefsteak tomatoes, sweetcorn. The Schedule accompanies this Newsletter and although we will accept entries on the day it is helpful to let Janet know beforehand if you can. Doors open 6

pm for staging. It's always a good social evening, we will have a quiz, and plenty of time to chat.



ST JOHNS ECO FAIR

Our EGAA display stand will be at the St John's Church Eco-Fair on Saturday 14 September, with some plants to sell, and displays of fruit and veg, with info about growing your own etc. It's a good opportunity to ensure local people know about our Association. Please, if any members can help Janet on the day this will be very welcome. And any ideas to catch people's attention - last year she demonstrated stringing onions, and planting leeks, and has previously done "how to store your veg", and straining blackberry and apple juice ready for home-made bramble jelly.



OCTOBER MEETING AND CHANGE OF SPEAKER!



Unfortunately the speaker for our October meeting has had to withdraw but Jill Williams has kindly stepped into the breach and will give a talk on Garden Styles – A Local View. She is always an interesting and amusing speaker so I feel confident the talk will be well received by all.

HOMEMADE APPLE JUICE



Your own apple juice! Once again Janet and Bernard plan to take apples for juicing and those who took advantage last year highly recommend the resulting juice. It costs £2 a bottle (£2.25 with a pretty label) and keeps for 2 years, as it's pasteurised. Apples with bruises and some codling moth damage are fine, the only ones to avoid are any with rot. Janet and Bernard will collect everyone's apples in late September/early October and take them over to Pasture Farm in the Chilterns, and bring back the juice a few days later. Contact Janet on 07958 130513 or sign up at our September meeting.

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THE TOWN CLOCK



The Town Clock donated and installed by the Club in 1991 has stopped working – again! For those members who don't know where it is – it is on the side of the building now occupied by Costa Coffee facing the Egham Fountain. Have a look when you are next in the high street.

The current owner of the building upon which it is mounted has contacted me and made a generous offer to contribute towards a new clock to be purchased and installed. Such a clock has been identified and as soon as contact has been made with the relevant person in charge either at Costa Coffee or the management company it is hoped arrangements can be made to move forward with this.

RHS CLUB AFFILIATION CARD



Don't forget that we have an RHS club affiliation card for you all to use that gives you access to the RHS gardens around the country. The usual charge for 2 adults would be £20.35 (inc. Gift Aid) or £18.50 (exc. Gift Aid) However, using the card 2 adults can gain entry for 50% less – allowing for a treat at the café or a purchase from the garden centre. Please let me know if you wish to use it at any time.

SUMMER OUTINGS - REPORTED BY KATERINA

Katerina has been busy arranging some outings during the summer and reports as follows:-

Our June outing to St Mary's Church in Thorpe and then to the Hay meadow was a great success. It was well attended and well worth it. Andrew West gave a very informative talk on the St Mary's history and its treasures. The talk was followed by tea and refreshments. We were so well looked after by the team at St Mary's!

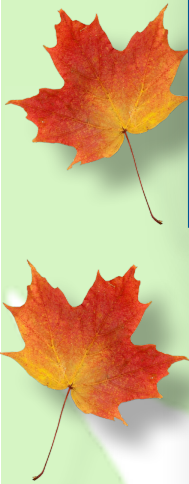


Jill Williams then, led us all on a walk in historic Thorpe. Although it was a short walk (from the church to the pub) every step was full of surprises. Heritage cottages, significant walls, the old Post Office, even anecdotes from people's lives back in the centuries. Very staunchly, we rejected any temptation to visit the lovely Red Lion Pub. Instead, we finished by a walk to the Hay Meadow and admired the collection of native plants growing daringly amongst the dry grasses.

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SUMMER OUTINGS - REPORTED BY KATERINA Continued.....

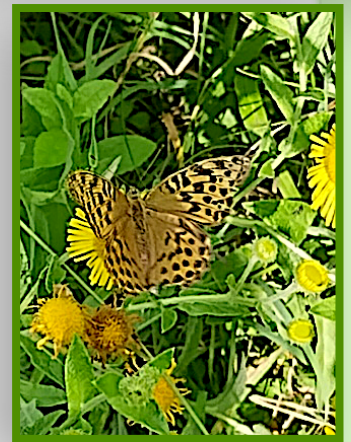


The next visit was to the KNEPP project. Unfortunately, this one was encumbered by unsteady weather, COVID and various last minute commitments. Two of our members managed to get there. They braved the weather and went on the emperor butterfly walk.



An impromptu visit to Oaken Wood was also well worth it. Not on the original list of outings, this one was published by Veronica and Heather in the WhatsApp group, starting a very welcome trend. (If anyone else is planning an outing that might be of interest to our members, and you do not mind company, you are very welcome to send a message to the WhatsApp group.) Here is what Veronica wrote about their visit.

“Following a very interesting talk by Phil Darley on the butterflies in Oaken Wood near Chiddingfold, a group of 4 of us arranged to see the butterflies for ourselves. Phil had very kindly invited us to visit and offered to show us around. The site is run by Butterfly Conservation, in particular to protect the wood white butterfly, the rarest butterfly in Surrey. We were very pleased to see a number of these delicate butterflies, along with others such as the silver washed fritillary.”



SPEAKERS FOR 2025

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOP GARDENING EXPERTS



As recommended by the top gardening people, late August and early September is the perfect time to start preparing for next year’s growing season (and not forgetting next year’s plant sales!)

Below are a few ideas for you:

Heather is doing a great job in organising the list of speakers for 2025 and the full list will be available with the newsletter in December

You could sow some hardy annuals (annuals are plants that complete their life cycle in one growing season and are generally easy to grow from seed).

Hardy annuals generally requiring no winter protection

Keep an eye on the weather, and if hard frosts are forecast, protect sowings with cloches or horticultural fleece:

Ammi majus (bishop's weed): Creamy white lace-like flowers in summer and ferny foliage. Height 30-90cm (1-3ft) and spacing 30-40cm (1ft-16in). Briza maxima (quaking grass): With creamy-white shimmering spikelets, ideal for dried arrangements. Height 60cm (2ft) and spacing 30cm (1ft).





AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOP GARDENING EXPERTS Continued.....



Calendula officinalis (pot marigold): Slightly aromatic leaves and single or double daisy-like flowers in shades of orange or yellow from summer to autumn. Height 45-60cm (18in-2ft) and spacing 30-37cm (1ft-15in).

Centaurea cyanus (cornflower): Dark blue daisy-like flowers from late spring to mid-summer. Height 30-90cm (1-3ft) and spacing 23-45cm (9-18in).

Consolida (larkspur): Delphinium-like spikes of flowers in shades of pink, blue or white. Height 45cm-1.2m (18in-4ft) and spacing 30-45cm (1ft-18in).

Linum grandiflorum (flax): Rose-pink flowers with dark eyes in summer. Height 30-45cm (1ft-18in) and spacing 10-15cm (4-6in).

Nigella damascena (love-in-a-mist): Saucer-shaped pale blue flowers surrounded by a ruff of ferny foliage. Seedheads make excellent dried arrangements. Height 30-45cm (1ft-18in) and spacing 15-20cm (6-8in).

Lunaria annua (honesty): White or pale purple flowers in late spring and summer followed by flat, round, silvery seedpods. Height 90cm (3ft) and spacing 20-30cm (8in-1ft).

Papaver somniferum (opium poppy): Single or double flowers in shades of deepest purple, lilac, pink and white, some are blotched at the base. Self seeds easily. Height 45-90cm (18in-3ft) and spacing 25-45cm (10-18in).

Papaver rhoeas (Shirley poppy): Single flowers have a white base and come in shades of scarlet, pink and white. Height 45-90cm (18in-3ft) and spacing 25-45cm (10-18in).

Papaver commutatum (ladybird poppy): Scarlet flowers have central black ladybird-like blotches. Self seeds readily. Height 45-90cm (18in-3ft) and spacing 25-45cm (10-18in). These ones might need a little protection if the winter is particularly harsh.

Cloches and horticultural fleece and/or keeping them in a cold greenhouse or a conservatory (or dare I say it in a spare bedroom!) can help.

Antirrhinum majus: Racemes of flowers and comes in many different colours. Height up to 1.2m.

Cerinthemajus: 'Purpurascens': Deep purple bell-shaped flowers held in a cluster of dark blue bracts in summer; blue-green foliage. Height 60cm (2ft) and spacing 30cm (1ft).

Eschscholzia californica (California poppy): Ferny foliage and cup-shaped flowers of yellow, orange, red or white in spring or summer. Height 15-30cm (6in-1ft) and spacing 20-25cm (8-10in).

Nemophila menziesii (baby blue eyes): Saucer-shaped white or blue flowers in summer, with blue spots on the tips of the petals. Height 15-30cm (6in-1ft) and spacing 15-20cm (6-8in).

Lathyrus odoratus (sweet pea): Fragrant climber with flowers in most colours except yellow from summer to early autumn; best sown in pots. Height 30cm-2.5m (1-8ft) and spacing 20-37cm (8-15in).

Linaria moroccana Fairy Bouquet Group (toadflax): Small, snapdragon-like flowers in pastel shades. Height 15-30cm (6in-1ft) and spacing 7-10cm (3-4in).

Orlaya grandiflora (white laceflower). As the common name suggests this is an annual with lacy white flowers and attractive to pollinators. Up to 75cm tall.

Take cuttings now of the following: Take a look around your garden and see what you might like to have some fun with.

Salvia (tender), **Pelargonium**, **Penstemon**, herbs (ie mint, rosemary, lavender)

Types of cuttings:
Softwood cuttings: are taken in late

spring, early summer but try it now, too. Look at your plants and select stems that are soft and flexible young shoot tips. These are usually really happy to make new roots. This technique can also be used for a wide range of mainly hardy and tender perennials such as **Anthemis**, **Aubrieta**, **Argyranthemum**, **Bidens**, **Osteospermum**, **Penstemon**, **Pelargonium**, **Petunia** and **Verbena**.

Semi ripe cuttings are taken from summer to mid-autumn (Jul-Sep) from healthy stems grown this season. The base of the cutting is firm, while the tip is still soft. Try this for climbers, herbs, evergreen shrubs, conifers and hedging plants. If you have a heated propagator it's easy. If you don't then pop your cuttings under a clear plastic bag as this will retain the moisture while allowing light in. Be patient – it might take a while!! – but in time you should see small white roots emerging from the draining holes when you lift up the pot. There is nothing quite like the satisfaction of knowing you've created new plants!! And, if it doesn't work, don't worry – it's all a learning process. While some of us succeed with certain plants, we'll fail with others. It's all part of the joy of gardening.

Website Address: <https://www.egaa.org.uk>.

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