**ELTHAM AND AVERY HILL GARDENS SOCIETY**

[www.eahgs.org.uk](http://www.eahgs.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019**

**Butterflies might be more attracted to your weeds than your flowers**

Colourful blooms are not the chief reason these insects love your garden – its more about the fragrance and nectar. According to the Smithsionian Institute new cultivars of popular flowers have been bred for enhanced colour and size, but have often lost their fragrance in the process. So everyday weeds like dandelions and clovers might actually be the most appealing things in your garden to butterflies (they hate pesticides too) Taking care to choose heirloom flower seeds can get them to also fly your way.

**Did you know**

There are more micro-organisms in one teaspoonful of soil than there are people on earth. It’s alive! OK, in all seriousness, that fact might make you itchy, but microbes are important for keeping your soil full of nutrients.

**Site Shop - Pat and Dave Middleton**

It's the busy time of the year in the shop at the start of the growing season. We are well stocked so please come in and have a look and support the shop. The shop is open every Sunday 9.30am - 12noon.

**Pippenhall Site Rep**
Plot holders at Pippenhall are aware that the lock on the main gate has failed. Hopefully by the time you read this the problem will have been resolved.
Now the grass is growing well please maintain the paths and borders around and between your plots. Please **DO NOT** dump any waste, rubbish, foliage etc from your plot on vacant plots or along the boundary paths of the Site.

On Wednesday 8th May 2019, Anthony Noel will be giving his talk "Great Little Gardens" at the Victoria and Albert Museum Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL).  This is a free event and will take place 13.00-13.45 in the Hochhauser Auditorium.

**Mike Hill, Show Secretary writes:**

The Society's 67th Annual Show will take place on Saturday 14th September.

We expect it to be as successful as it usually is. Some people claim that there is less interest now in events like this. However, looking at annual figures dating from 2003, we find that the numbers of exhibits and exhibitors remain remarkably constant at about 250 and 25. As older members depart new ones step in. If you are someone who has never exhibited before I urge you to have a go. It's all good fun. The exhibit classes will be the same, with perhaps some domestic class alterations. We are open to suggestions for change. It was proposed that we have a class for scarecrows. This year our guest of honour will be Andrew Martinov, manager of Thompson's Garden Centre, Shooters Hill.

Mike Hill, our show secretary and treasurer, will be having an open garden on Sunday 2nd June, 2-5. This is part of the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice open gardens scheme covering Greenwich, Bexley and Eltham (look on their website).

There will be lots of bargain, quality plants for sale, as well as refreshments. Any donations of cakes, plants and offers of help will be gratefully received.

118 Eltham Hill

SE9 5EF

**Here at Glenlea**

The Calabrese “Marathon” are aptly named. They have produced spears from mid-December through to mid-April. I have now sown for the next season. I have seeds left over if anybody is interested.

Carrots grown without soil (in coconut fibre). I have proved to myself it can be done, but the quantity of the carrots did not justify the high cost of material. Its back to needing multipurpose Compost.

**There are still seats available for the Spring outing Spring Outing – book now so as not to miss out**

Wednesday 12th June 2019 to Sheffield Park Garden. Well, it is time to think of warm bright summer days so with this in mind I am pleased to tell you that I have booked an outing to Sheffield Park Garden in East Sussex. The garden is situated on the A275 between Wych Cross and Lewes and is a beautiful garden and park land deep in the superb Sussex countryside. There is plenty of space to stroll around in at your leisure and, of course, there is a café for refreshment and rest, if needed. A plant sale section is on site as usual, all geared to get cash out of your wallets or purses. If you want to take a picnic then please do so as there is a picnic area available. We hope to leave Sheffield ark at 3.15pm so that we are back in Eltham just after 4.30pm – traffic permitting. The cost has again risen, the coach fare alone is £625. Entry to the Garden is £11per person but free if you belong to the National Trust or the RHS. Do indicate on the application for if you have membership to either.

**SPRING OUTING APPLICATION**

Please reserve me/us ……………places on the coach to Sheffield Park on Wednesday 12thn June 2019.

 My/Our names are…………………………………………………………………………………….

Address………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

I/We are members of the NT/RHS [ ]  Please tick if yes.

The pick-up points are as follows:

Eltham High Street (Water Board) …………………………………………..9.30am

Westmount Road (Methodist Church) …………………………….……...9.40am

Avery Hill Road………………………………………………………………………..9.45am

Please tick your pick-up point.

The cost of the trip is £38 per person and for members of the NT or RHSD £28 per person, but do bring your membership cards on the day PLEASE make your cheques payable to R.G. Mattinson and return the application form to me at 19 Messeter place, SE9 5DP. Tel: 8859 8656. Email marg.rich@gmail

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

I should like to join/re-join the Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society. (It is not necessary to be a plot holder to join the Society). Subscription to be sent to Roger Brown, 74 Crown Woods Way, Eltham, SE9 2NN

Herewith my membership fee for the next 12 months: -

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Address………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Post code…………………………………..

e-mail address……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

I enclose a remittance of £4 (£2 for senior citizens), with cheques payable to Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society, together with an s.a.e for reply. I also wish to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the Newsletters and Show Schedule, and so enclose £………

With my subscription. Please send me a membership card and arrange for delivery of Newsletters.

(By completing this application form, I agree to receive digital communications from the Society, such as Newsletters)

*Please note that your personal details will be held on the Society Register, but in conformity with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, we undertake never to pass these on to any third party, nor to use them for any purpose other than for legitimate Eltham and Avery Hill Gardens Society business.*