

## Spring Newsletter 2022



What a lovely Easter, weather perfect for gardening and getting out and about. Hopefully we are now looking forward to a perfect year for growing our vegetables and flowers with lovely displays in our gardens and on our Allotments, with record number of entries at our flower show on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

I am glad to report that the Society has resumed its garden talks programme. We have decided to reduce the number of talks to four instead of the usual eight. This was decided as the numbers of attendees has reduced somewhat. This year we have held a talk on Gardening for Autumn Colours and our Members Spring Flower Show. The flower show is an informal show, judged by Gerald Smith, afternoon tea and cakes and a fun quiz. Unfortunately, due to the unusual weather we experienced prior to the show our numbers were down on the first show held in 2019, but I am pleased to report that the entries were excellent. Thank you to everyone who attended the show, not just to exhibit but to enjoy an afternoon getting to know other members of the society.

Our next garden talk is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 7.00 for 7.30. Dr. Dave Royston will talk on 'Gardens in Health Care from Herbs to Healing' St Nicholas Church Hall, Thames Ditton. Jean Billett

### Dates for Your Diary

**Saturday, 11 June 2022**, Molesey Carnival

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June**, 7.00 for 7.30. Dr. Dave Royston will talk on 'Gardens in Health Care from Herbs to Healing' St Nicholas Church Hall, Thames Ditton.

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022** - EMGS Jubilee trip to Windsor for a guided house and garden tour at Frogmore House and self-guided visit to Savill Garden

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022**, 2pm-4pm Annual Flower Show, St Nicholas Church Hall, Thames Ditton

### Garden Visits

Our first garden visit this year was on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April to Great Dixter and 47 Denmans Lane. Our day started at 8.15 with a break on route for coffee, arriving at Great Dixter at 10.45 there was free time to enjoy the pleasant features of the gardens that lie all around the house. Making a circuit of the gardens and you have made a circuit of the house exterior. Each has good views of the other. At midday we were given a private tour of the house, which is made up of three houses, one built in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century with slightly later additions, the second a yeoman's house from Benenden, across the border in Kent, built in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and moved to Great Dixter in 1910, and the third combines the two with additional accommodation, completed in 1912. After lunch we then travelled

onto 47 Denmans Lane a private garden open under the Nation Gardens Scheme. Featured in Sussex Life, this wonderful garden in the centre of Lindfield, stretches to over an acre. It has ponds, sinuous lawns, roses, herbaceous borders, rhododendrons, parterre, 20ft Solardome, propagation greenhouse, fruit and cutting gardens. A beautiful garden to wander around and enjoy afternoon tea with our hosts.

Our next garden visit, one not to be missed is a special Jubilee Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> August to Frogmore House and Gardens and Saville Gardens (information about this visit and booking form later in this newsletter).

### **Molesey Carnival, Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Our main fundraising event is the Molesey Carnival where we have a garden stall. This is where we need your help. If you have been dividing your perennial plants, or have a surplus of plants grown from seed and don't know what to do with them, please pot them up, label them and bring them to the carnival or contact Jean Billett 01372 465961 or Tony Speller 02083981774 for collection. Also, you may be aware that Tony Speller, our treasurer purchases plug plants which are sold at the trading hut for members to buy. We also grow on a number of these plug plants for sale at the Carnival. Again, this is where we need your help to nurture and grow on these plants, therefore if you can help with growing on a few of the plants (pots and compost supplied) we would be grateful. Please contact Tony Speller 02082981774 or email [tony\\_speller@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tony_speller@hotmail.co.uk) to offer your help. Last but not least, help on the day of the carnival would be much appreciated, setting up the stall in the morning from 8.30, selling the plants (you do not have to spend the whole day but a couple of hours would be great), dismantling the stall at the end of the day. I can assure you, you will enjoy the day, if only for a couple of hours. For more information or to volunteer your help please contact Jean Billett 01372 465961 or email [jean.billett@ntlworld.com](mailto:jean.billett@ntlworld.com).

### **Jubilee trip to Frogmore House and Savill Garden 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**

We have been lucky to secure limited access tickets to enjoy a special day out this summer which combines a guided tour of Frogmore House, a guided Frogmore Garden walk and then the afternoon on our own at The Savill Garden. Certainly, a memorable way for our society to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To complete the day, and as an optional extra, we've pre-booked a small number of places for an afternoon Cream Tea at the highly acclaimed Savill Garden

Frogmore House has been a royal retreat since it was purchased by Queen Charlotte in 1790. Queen Charlotte and her daughters' passions for art and botany are reflected throughout the interiors, particularly in the beautiful Mary Moser Room, decorated to resemble a shady garden alcove open to the skies. The Duchess of Kent lived at Frogmore House for almost 20 years, and her daughter, Queen Victoria, visited the house regularly during her long widowhood. The tour of the house ends in the Britannia Room, furnished with items from the Royal Yacht Britannia arranged at Frogmore by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

The visit continues with a guided walk around the 35-acre garden, first laid out for Queen Charlotte in the 1790s. The design and planting scheme of the garden today incorporates additions made under the direction of Queen Victoria and Queen Mary, as well as several trees and shrubs added to mark Her Majesty, The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The route encompasses views of the lake, Queen Victoria's Tea House, the Gothic Ruin and the Royal Mausoleum, the final resting place of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Please note that the tour of the garden includes the external areas of the Royal Mausoleum, Tea House and Gothic Ruin, but not the inside.

Since its creation in the 1930s, The Savill Garden has been an inspiration for all. This natural haven of beautifully designed gardens and woodland can be enjoyed by everyone. The 35 acres of interconnected gardens include the Hidden Gardens, the Summer Gardens, the New Zealand Garden and the Summer Wood, and in August we can look forward to a stunning display of roses. We'll also be able to enjoy the award-winning Savill Building, which serves as a visitor centre for The Savill Garden and wider Great Park. It was opened in 2006 by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, Ranger of Windsor Great Park for almost 70 years.

Its undulating oak roof has been shaped to look like a rippling leaf, and blends seamlessly with the tall mature oak trees surrounding its perimeter. Inside, there are endless opportunities for browsing, shopping, and for lunch and tea.

The cost for the day including all entries, coach travel and a tip for the driver is £64 per member. Lunch can be bought at the café, coffee stop or restaurant at the Savill Garden.

If you'd like to book an afternoon cream tea in the visitor centre restaurant, the cost is £6.75 per person. We need a minimum of 10 teas to confirm our booking for the teas.

Friends and non-members are welcome at an additional cost of £5 to cover insurance for the trip and 1 year's membership of EMGS. Booking form is attached to this newsletter or can be downloaded from our website [www.emgs.co.uk](http://www.emgs.co.uk)

## FLOWER OF THE MONTH THE TULIP



What more could we ask for? Planted October/November: sunny site: reasonably free draining soil: depth the same as the height of the bulb – and we will have spring flowers for years to come in gold, oranges, reds, whites, purples even black: doubles or singles, lily-shaped or orb-like, plain coloured or sumptuously flared, some even scented: virtually pest free and the price? As little as £1.99 or up to £31.00!

### **Flower Show 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

After a successful flower show in 2021 at very short notice we are looking to 2022 for a show that will exceed all previous years' entries. The show committee have added new classes for this year's show and the new show schedule and rules are available to download on our website. We will as usual send out the schedule, rules, entry form and helpers forms via email.

## **Trading Hut**

The Trading Hut is now open, in addition to Sunday normal opening, on Wednesday evenings 7.8p.m. until the last week of June. There are still supplies of Spring Planting Bulbs/flowers, Onion Sets and Garlic at 50% off marked price. Also, there are a limited number of 2 kilo bags of First Early Potatoes £1.10p per bag.

## **Flower bed at the Coop store car park on Hampton Court Way**

In an attempt to promote Esher Molesey Garden Society, we have taken over a small flower bed at the Co-op car park on Hampton Court Way. This bed was previously planted with wild flowers by the Scouts and Guides, but unfortunately over the last couple of years has succumbed to weeds and grass. A few volunteers from the society have cleared the site and planted it with perennials. I would like to thank Lynda McCarter, Ian Billett and Gerald Smith (also Gerald who has very kindly supplied all the plants) for their hard work in clearing the site and maintaining the site. Before and after photographs will be in our next newsletter. Volunteers always welcome to help maintain the site. We will be erecting a sign advertising the Esher Molesey Garden Society. As has been mentioned in previous newsletters we are actively trying to recruit new members to the society, therefore a flyer has been produced and is now with the printers. For these flyers to be distributed we will need your help. Please contact Tony Speller 0208 3981774, email: [tony\\_speller@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tony_speller@hotmail.co.uk) or Jean Billett 01372 465961, email: [jean.billett@ntlworld.com](mailto:jean.billett@ntlworld.com)

## **Secret Gardens of Weston Green**

The 'Secret Gardens of Weston Green' will be open on the afternoon of Sunday 26th June, organised by the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents Association. They are still looking for one or two more gardens in Weston Green (if you aren't sure if you qualify, it is basically the roads between Hampton Court Way and Douglas Rod E/W and Imber Court and the railway line N/S.) Gardens don't have to be Chelsea standard and they don't have to be large, they just need to be pleasant to look at or have an interesting story to tell. If you would like to offer your garden, please contact Cllr Gill Coates on 020 8873 3040, or [gcoates@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:gcoates@elmbridge.gov.uk). Full details of the event will be in the June issue of Thames Ditton Today magazine.

