



Epsom Garden Society: March 2026

Newsletter: Margaret Haslam 07377 736506, 3 Elm Grove Epsom KT18 7LZ
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Dear Member, if you have any news or garden related small ads that you would like to be included in the Newsletter, please phone me, 07377 736506, or email me, margarethaslam6@gmail.com

Road Rep needed for **Epsom College area** – no newsletters to deliver, but subs to collect in April. Phone Steve 07783 511554.

Sue Glover writes: If you have lots of bulbs in your garden and would like to open early please let me know. I might suggest an extra trip to **Wisley** in April to see their huge bulb display.'

Sunday 22nd March at 2.30pm, Albury Park, Albury, Surrey GU5 9BH. £6 plus refreshments. 14 acre pleasure grounds laid out by our old friend **John Evelyn** for the future **6th Duke of Norfolk**, with terraces, a lake and a river. Not a private visit, sorry, no dogs.

Thursday 16th April, pm. [Change of date from last newsletter] **Moleshill House, The Fairmile, Cobham KT11 1BG.** Romantic disarray with mature and interesting trees, topiary, dovecote, garlanded cisterns and gypsy caravan garden, no dogs.

Friday 22nd May, 10.30, Chinthurst Lodge, Wonersh Common, Wonersh GU5 0PR. £10 including refreshments. A 1 acre enthusiasts tranquil garden divided into rooms. Dramatic white garden, specimen trees and shrubs, water feature, wells, ornamental ponds, fruit cage, herb parterre and Millenium rose garden. No dogs.

To reserve a place please contact **Sue Glover**, 07810 117140, suegreenfingers51@gmail.com. I will provide meeting instructions and any relevant information. For most visits please bring cash on the day.

Also, **Friday 17th April, 1-5pm**, Adults £4, children free. This is the garden surrounding **The Royal Marsden**, 2 Oakleaf Avenue, Sutton SM2 5GP. Designed by the famous gardener **Piet Oudolf**. The garden is divided into four inter connected zones with plants carefully chosen according to the amount of sun each receives. There are shaded, woodland, Spring and Summer zones. You can book ahead on their website <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/37617/maggies>, or just turn up and pay on the day. There will be tea/coffee and cake refreshments to buy. Make your own arrangements to visit this one, **Sue** will not be organising.

We are members of **Surrey Horticultural Federation**, and they have arranged talks for us at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall.

On Saturday 21st March at 2-4pm **Jennifer Potter** will tell us about '**A Cultural History of the Rose.**' She will untangle the complicated history of the rose and its transformation from a simple briar of the northern hemisphere into the western world's favourite flower. Ranging widely across cultures and art forms, she tracks its shifting associations with love, sex, death, politics and the great religions of East and West, overturning several cherished rose myths and celebrating its contribution to health and well-being.

£12 for us, or £6 online. To include tea, coffee and cake afterwards.

To book: <https://bookwhen.com/surreygardenstrust>, and click on the talk.

Epsom Riding for the Disabled are holding a **Manure Sale** on Saturday 14th March at their site St Ebbas Farm Hook Road between 10 and 1pm with all proceeds going towards helping them continue their work in the community. Well-rotted, bagged and loaded into your vehicle. 3 bags for the price of 2. [Usually £6 each]

On Wednesday 11th March RHS Expert and Lecturer **Ray Broughton** will be giving a talk about '**Organically Grown Vegetables in Small Gardens**' at 8pm in the Larkin Room at the Leatherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead KT22 8AH. Visitors £3.

Cathy finally heard from the man who is going to give us a talk involving *Cottage Gardening* on the 25th February, he had been travelling in Antarctica, which explains why **Cathy** was unable to contact him. We are still unsure what the talk will be about, techniques? Photos of? All will be revealed on the day.

Sue Wiltshire kindly offers anyone who would like some Champagne Rhubarb crowns, phone her to arrange a good time to collect. 0208 786 7690, or 07771 628811.

On the 21st February we enjoyed a *very jolly quiz*, organised by **Kim Shrosbree**. There were twenty questions, with photos on the screen, and we had four choices to find the right answer. Easy Peasy you might think, and some were, but others really challenging. **Cathy** won, and at first was banned from receiving the prize, but she had far more answers right than anyone else, so **Kim** relented and gave her the voucher from Moat Garden Centre. The answers were very interesting, 'Who wrote this book?' was Beth Chatto, who was famous for the principle of placing the right plant in the place it would be happiest. Her husband Andrew had researched garden plant origins and Beth wrote several books about gardening under specific conditions.

Next, '**Name the perennial that does not thrive in wet conditions?**' It is *Lupins*, they can get a fungal condition called lupin anthracnose which causes severe dieback in wet weather. They are also being attacked by huge aphids that are now widespread throughout Britain. In fact a trial of lupins had to be abandoned when the aphids moved in at Wisley. If you are allergic to nuts you should avoid contact with lupins too. Despite all this they can fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and fertilise the soil for other plants and so are an important green manure.

Next came a **sickly tomato and we had to name the problem**. It was *blossom end rot* caused by lack of calcium, maybe from irregular water supply. Sometimes if the roots are squashed in a pot or a growing bag they are at risk of this. Also daytime ventilation of greenhouses helps with high humidity.

The **green vegetable needing identification** was *kale*. This contains sulforaphane, a chemical with potent anti-cancer properties.

This plant was **Camellia Sinensis** used for *tea*. Commercially cultivated from the equator to as far north as Cornwall.

The yellow and white flower is **Limnanthes Douglasii**, the *Poached Egg flower*. An asset in the vegetable garden as it attracts hoverflies who feed on aphids, and is very attractive to bees who will pollinate the plants.

Which **potato was not an early one?** *Cara*, valued for its high yields, vigour and disease resistance.

The **climbing plant** was *Winter Jasmine*, providing a welcome splash of colour over Winter, but not scented. It doesn't twine and will need tying in.

Then a question about **rose diseases**, sure mine get all of them but the answer was *rust*.

Crocus was the answer to which of these, crocus, hyacinths, tulips and daffodils, was **not a true bulb**. They were first brought to the Netherlands from Constantinople in 1560.

You should **top dress your lawn** in *July and September*. This is adding a fine layer of home mixed quality soil to the lawn which will improve the grass.

The **name of a mystery shrub** was *Photinia*, the others were Pieris, Leucothoe and Azalea. All evergreen, good coloured foliage and similar leaf size.

Tayberries are a cross between *Blackberries and Raspberries*, patented in 1979. Ready to pick in early July, and very soft when ripe so never seen in shops. Heavier crops than Loganberries, good for cooking, freezing and jam making.

Chantenay Red cored is an *early, main crop variety of carrot* with small cored stump ended carrots, dating back 200 years to the Chantenay region of France.

Mimulus Luteus is really a marginal rather than a bog plant, where Primula, Astilbe and Gunnera will all grow in damp, boggy gardens.

A soil with a pH of 5 is *moderately acidic*. The range is from 0 to 14 with 7 neutral. Below this is acidic and above alkaline.

A semi-ripe cutting has a *hard base and a soft top*. {sounds like a sports car, said **Kim**}

Winter Savoury was the only herb shown that was *hardy in the UK*, but few of us could think what it tasted like. This one was tricky, what was the **name of the first garden** that Gardeners' World was filmed at?

Percy Thrower's 'The Magnolias' designed and built by himself near Shrewsbury. **Monty Don's** dogs are **Patty and Ned**. Thanks to **Kim** for this fun morning! *Best wishes Margaret*

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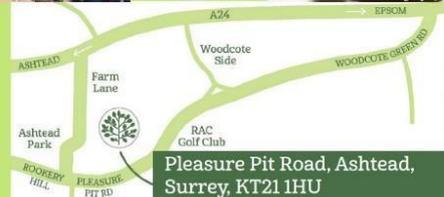
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