

ELHAM GARDENING SOCIETY.

No. 4 Newsletter – September 2009

This has been another good year with well attended meetings, lots of new members and good speakers and with still more to come - notably Tom Hart-Dyke, from the World Garden at Lullingstone for the October meeting.

This meeting on Thursday 15th October will be held at the Village Hall and we are inviting other local Gardening Societies. It should be a very popular, entertaining evening, so please come along and encourage friends. There will be a charge of £3.00 for non-members.

The highlight of the summer must be the Annual Show. Every year it seems to get better and this year was no exception. There was a record number of exhibitors and entries and amongst the many outstanding entries, the Best in Show trophy was won by Doug Martin with his photograph of boats in Picardy. The committee were delighted that several awards went to new exhibitors. Special thanks must go to our Show Secretary, Fizz Martin for all her hard work and effort in making it such a success.

The tour to Picardy was also an outstanding success and enjoyed by 32 members and friends. A report of the trip will be made at the AGM on Thursday 10th December. Our thanks go to Hugh for organizing such an enjoyable event. Next year we shall be visiting Shropshire so please make a date in your diary (25th – 28th June 2010) and the booking forms will be available at the September Meeting. This trip will follow the 'Elham Gardens Open' weekend, when as usual several gardens will be open on Saturday 19th June under the NGS (Yellow Book Scheme) and on Sunday 20th June for local charities. Many members will be involved on these two days so a weekend in Shropshire, away from gardening chores will be most welcome.

The Spring Outing to Wisley on a beautiful April day was enjoyed by many and we were privileged to be shown around the new glasshouse by the Curator.

The Autumn Outing to Kew is on Thursday 22nd October and you will find a booking form enclosed - please return to Doug Martin as soon as possible and don't be disappointed by having an already fully booked coach. Our thanks must as always go to Fizz and Doug Martin for all their effort in arranging our outings so efficiently and well.

Other dates for your diaries:-

Saturday 10th October 10am - Coffee Morning, at St .Mary's Church Hall. Again there will be plants and bulbs for sale and the proceeds will go to 'Greenfingers', our adopted charity.

Thursday 15th October 7..30pm - Elham Village Hall, talk by Tom Hart-Dyke.

Thursday 22nd October – Trip to Kew.

Saturday 14th November – The Annual Dinner to be held in the Village Hall.

Thursday 10th December – AGM & Christmas Party. This is a bring and share a plate of food evening and usually very enjoyable. There will be a presentation of the Picardy Tour and it is a good opportunity to re-new your membership which runs from January – December 2010.

The 2010 programme is currently being arranged and is looking good.

I hope this letter is a good reminder and look forward to seeing you soon, perhaps too at the Farmers' Market where some members have helped Mike Donnelly with surplus plants and vegetables. If you have any surplus produce I am sure Mike would be pleased to hear from you.

Maggie Newington,
Membership Secretary.