

**ELHAM GARDENING SOCIETY**  
**No 8 Newsletter – September 2011**

Well here we are again, nearly at the end of another season and newsletter time! This has been a good year for Elham Gardening Society with very well attended meetings and excellent speakers. Membership continues to grow steadily and the Committee would appreciate suggestions and constructive comments for future visits, talks and on how you would like to see your Society develop.

For the first time this letter is being sent electronically. Following a request to confirm receipt of an earlier communication, response was poor so we hope this reaches you. We will certainly continue to send/deliver to those who do not use email.

The trip in June to Devon was a huge success, enjoyed by all who took part, and for some 'the best ever'. The weather could have been better but this did not detract from the varied gardens we visited. Sincere thanks to Hugh for all the work and effort put in to organizing the event and next year – Norfolk here we come! Please make a note of the date in your diaries – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June and booking forms will be available soon.

Despite a dreadful growing season the Annual Show proved very successful with some outstanding entries. It was good to see 'new' members exhibiting and prizes going to people who had never taken part. We would like to congratulate the Primary School on their exhibit and thanks must go to Hugh and his team for their dedication and work to encourage and inspire the young gardeners. Special thanks too must go to Fizz Martin for all the time and hard work she puts in, in her role as Show Secretary, to make the Show such a success.

**Future dates for your diaries**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING** at St. Mary's Church Hall. As usual there will be bulbs for sale along with plants to buy and a raffle. The proceeds will go to the FIFTH Trust – our local charity.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October** Neil Miller, the Head Gardener at Hever Castle is our next speaker, he comes highly recommended.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October** visit to Sheffield Park. See the application form at the end of this News Letter. Please return directly to Doug Martin to secure your place on what should be a lovely day out.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November** Annual Society Dinner to be held at the Village Hall and tickets will be available at the coffee morning or directly from Claire Donnelly on 840427. Despite increased costs we are keeping the price of the ticket the same as last year.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November** Helen Yemm, Garden writer and journalist. This meeting is to be held in the Village Hall and hopefully will be well supported. Please encourage your friends to come along and help swell numbers. Cost to non members is £3.00.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December** AGM and Christmas Party. Always an enjoyable evening and a good time to pay subs for 2012.

Hope to see you at one of the events.  
Maggie Newington,  
Membership Secretary