



PRESIDENT – Mr. David Black (Reaseheath Course Manager)

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2019

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Editorial

Welcome to all and a very Happy New Year to you and yours.

As our past President Anne Harrison has now retired from Reaseheath she will also be standing down as the THEA President. We would like to thank Anne for all her hard work, time and the joy she has given us over many years.

We are delighted to inform all our members that our new President will be David Black, Programme Leader in Horticulture at Reaseheath. We welcome him to our merry band and look forward to a long and productive relationship.



Previously a Grounds Manager here at the College, David Black is now a full – time lecturer in Horticulture teaching on FE and HE courses, and NVQ/ QCF Diploma Level 2 & 3 Apprenticeship programme.

David's horticultural career began here at the College some 28 years ago when he studied for the National Certificate in Horticulture. This was a complete career change after serving as an engineer for ten years. Redundancy created an opportunity that he had been longing for, to work and study outdoors. The NCH gave him a good general education in Horticulture, that subsequently led to jobs with the parks and gardens Department for the local council, tree surgery and eventually a Head Gardeners post with a local multi-millionaire.

David secured a job here at the College 18 years ago as a Gardener, during this time he has studied at HE Level in Landscape management, horticulture and landscape design. This has been recognised with promotions to Grounds Manager, and currently as lecturer and Course Manager. David has been involved in numerous horticultural projects that include the RHS Tatton show, BBC Gardeners World Live, school competitions and gardens, and extensively throughout the College grounds.

Best Wishes to you all

Jo Worth (Chair)

STUDY DAY PROGRAMME

Friday, 22nd February 2019 - Main Lecture Theatre, Reaseheath College

From 10.00	Sign in Members leave items for Plant/Book Sale
10.15	Coffee available in Restaurant
10.45	Lecture: The National Garden Scheme Lecturer: - John Weston
11.45	THEA Plant Sale
12.00	Lunch available in Restaurant Plant Sale - continued
1.30	Raffle Draw Prizes
2.00	Lecture: Hellebores, their biology, characteristics and habitats. Lecturer: - Mike Byford, of Hazles Cross Farm, Staffordshire

Speaker 1

The National Garden Scheme – The famous Yellow Book! It gives a unique access to 3500 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales. Founded in 1927 to support district nurses, they now support other healthcare charities to the tune of £3.1 million in 2018, Susan and John Weston opened their own garden, Birch Trees at Copmere End, Eccleshall for the first time in 1999. Susan became Assistant County Organiser in 2005 and then took over as County Organiser for Staffordshire in 2007, helped by husband John.

Speaker 2

Hazles Cross Farm is a family run nursery, specialising in Hellebores, Trilliums and rare/unusual perennials. Mike has had a passion for Hellebores for over 30 years since discovering them in the grounds of a National Trust stately home lighting up an otherwise gloomy winter garden.

Do take a look at their website to whet your appetite for what promises to be a fascinating talk
www.hazlescrosfarmnursery.co.uk

Arrangements on the day

This event will take place in the **Main Lecture Theatre** adjacent to the Restaurant. Please assemble there from 10:00 a.m. onwards to sign in, drop off your plants and other items on our Sales Table.

Coffee can be purchased in the Restaurant before the start of the meeting. **Lunch** will be available in the Restaurant from 12.00. Please use the area of the restaurant adjacent to the lecture theatre where tables are roped off and laid out with cutlery ready for our use.

Members are asked to park in the **Main Students Car Park** near the Worleston Road entrance (see Campus map). For members who are unable to walk far, the college reserves **six parking spaces** for us in front of the Old Hall and are accessed from the college entrance on the A51, almost opposite the Reaseheath Equestrian Centre. If the security bar is closed, simply drive up to it and it will open automatically.

Guests are very welcome. There is a charge of £5 each to be paid on the day. There is no charge for members or associate members.

Plant Sale

We will again be holding a Bring and Buy sale of plants and other small gardening items. The income from this sale contributes significantly to our funds. As usual, please label your plants clearly. Use a clean pot and

bring them in a plastic bag so that we leave as little debris as possible. If any of your items remain unsold at the end of the day please take them home again.

Raffle

We will be selling raffle tickets again in aid of THEA funds.

November Study Day and AGM Reports

The following reports are from the AGM.

The Gardens of Japan - Graham Hardman

Graham's experience of Japanese gardens is his passion and pleasure in life. He explained the history, culture, society and art and maintenance of Japanese gardens, with large brush strokes to the finest detail. We saw beautiful photographic images of spectacular gardens and a fascinating talk that held us all entranced. It opened up a world of gardens rarely seen from his extensive knowledge and travels of the mysterious land of Japan. Graham then, brought us nearer home with the history and principles of Japanese gardening across the UK and Tatton Park. A talk packed full of information and one never to forget.



The 'Golden Temple', Kinkaku-ji in Kyoto



Japanese gardens can be colourful – it is used to highlight seasonal changes



Pine tree branches being held by ropes against the weight of heavy snow

Report by Marion Barker Committee Member

The Landscape Designs of Humphry Repton 1752-1818

Kate Harwood delivered the lecture, telling us that after several unsuccessful careers, including cloth merchant and playwright, Repton decided to become a landscape gardener in 1788, despite having no formal training.

This proved rather more successful with over 400 commissions in 30 years and Repton became famous for his red books, covered in Moroccan leather, with a flap system showing before and after design drawings. He became very skilful in opening up views across landscapes, reworking paths to show off these views and hiding views that were considered unsightly, such as kitchen gardens and ploughed fields.

Kate told us that Repton was not a horticulturalist and his drawings rarely showed details of plants used. His commissions included Tatton Park, Uppark House (W.Sussex), Cobham Hall and Woburn Abbey.

Kate's lecture provided a fascinating insight into Humphry Repton, the man, his life and his work, in this the bicentenary of his death.



Repton at work at Welbeck Abbey



Repton's "before" and "after" paintings were a key feature of his Red Books

Report by Katherine Bell - Committee Member

THEA 40th AGM

This year's 40th Anniversary AGM opened with Jo Worth's chairman's report (read by Debbie Holden), which welcomed everyone to meeting. Jo's report commented on what a great time we had joining in with the celebrations for our Ruby anniversary, from Roy Lancaster's fascinating and inspirational talk about his career in horticulture, to Anne Harrison's excellent and thought-provoking talk about the changes in horticulture over forty years. Jo also expressed her delight at the well-attended study days and garden visits over the year.

The meeting discussed changes to the committee. Debbie thanked Freyda Taylor, Marion Bond and Judith Allman, who were standing down, for all their hard work over the years. We have two new members on the committee: Marion Barker and Julie Grundy. Kate Bell has agreed to take on the position of treasurer, and Helen Gardiner that of secretary. Debbie is membership secretary and also looks after the association's web and social media presence. Jo has agreed to continue as chairman for a further two years. We still need more people on the committee to help organise the study days and outings, so if any members would like to join, you would be very welcome.

Other Dates for your 2019 Diary

We are currently looking at the possibility of visiting HRH Prince Charles garden at Highgrove this summer possibly August. If you would like to visit as a coach trip with us, please leave your name on the list provided at the entrance to the lecture theatre. Anyone wishing to come with us will have to carry with them a photo ID to produce at the entrance. Price approximately £50 per head (coach seat plus entrance fee)

Further to the excellent talk on Japanese Gardens at November's Study Day, we are in the process of organising a guided tour of the Japanese Garden at Tatton Park on 25th April 2019 at 1pm. The price for this tour will be £7.00, those attending will need to make their own way there. In addition to the cost of the tour, there is a charge for garden entry but National Trust and RHS Members can enter the garden for free. It should be noted that car parking is operated by the local council and there is a charge, currently understood to be £7 per car so would be a good idea to co-ordinate your travel plans. More details and a booking form will be sent out by email next week. Alternatively, you can sign up at our next study day - please leave your name on the list provided at the entrance to the lecture theatre.

The Audley Allotment Association is hosting an evening with Harry Delaney at Audley Cricket Club at 19:00 on 11th February. Harry will be talking about fruit, flower and veg cultivation at the beginning of the season. He plans to demonstrate pruning and grafting. A limited number of tickets (£10 per head) are currently on sale which includes a pie and pea supper, see attached advertising flier or book via the following email address: audleyallotments@gmail.com

Our next study day at Reaseheath will be Friday November 1st 2019

THEA Committee

Chair & Newsletter	Jo Worth	01928 787758 07541 36 5140	jo_the_podiatrist@hotmail.co.uk
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General Information Email: horticultural.enthusiasts@gmail.com

We would like to invite you to join THEA Committee at any time. To find out more, either speak to one of the committee members (above). THEA Committee meets three times a year for a 2-hour meeting to plan Study Days and Summer Outings and to decide topics for the Newsletter etc. Just call or email any one of us to discuss it informally; our contact details are above. There is no fixed term for a Committee Member and you don't need to have any special skills, although to be able to communicate by email makes life easier.

Horticultural Enthusiasts on the Internet

Good news - the Horticultural Enthusiasts' Association now has a web site.

Please take a look at <https://horticulturalthusiasts.org.uk/>.

The website contains a blog with the latest news from THEA. In addition, there are a series of other pages:



- ABOUT which gives you the history of THEA with details of how to join
- EVENTS which gives the details of study dates and other events
- GARDEN VISITS where all details of planned garden trips will be published
- NEWSLETTERS where all the newsletters and other publications will be stored for easy access
- Finally, there is a page PRIVACY where we have published our information privacy statements

Please take a look we are always keen to hear your views. Any suggestions for improvements? Any articles of horticultural interest which you might like us to share with people.

Also, if you have an interest in web design or social media and you would like to give us a hand updating and improving the site, please get in touch. Just email us at horticultural.enthusiasts@gmail.com



And don't forget, for those of you who use Facebook, we have a Facebook group where we can share horticultural information, ideas, events and questions. This is a closed group so only THEA members will be able to see what we discuss. Search groups for "**the horticultural enthusiasts' association**" or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1929657067361737/>