2024

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Hampshire, Monday 15thApril.

The next AGM of the Australasian Plant Society will take place in Jermyn's House, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens by kind permission of Barry Clarke, Botanist, Plant Records Officer and Student Coordinator. Barry has also kindly offered to give a lecture and a guided tour of some of the Australasian wonders of the garden afterwards. We hope that this new venue for 2024 will enable more APS members to attend the meeting. We also hope that we may be able to organise a parallel Zoom session for the AGM.

Borde Hill Gardens, Haywards Heath, W. Sussex, Sunday 12th May

The APS will have a sales stand at the Borde Hill Gardens Plant Fair (subject to space availability). Listed by English Heritage as being of Grade II historic importance and set within 383 acres of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the High Weald, Borde Hill is of national botanical importance and features one of the largest collections of privately owned champion trees in the UK, with over 70 specimens. Many specimens are original material grown from seed brought back by some of the great plant hunters, including Kingdom Ward, Rock, Wilson and Forrest.limportance and features one of the largest collections of privately owned champion trees in the UK, with over 70 specimens. Many specimens are original material grown from seed brought back by some of the great plant hunters including Kingdom Ward, Rock, Wilson and Forrest.

Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens, Horsham, W. Sussex, Sunday 16th June

The APS will have a sales stand at this brand new plant fair. In 2019, Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens opened its doors after a closure of 10 years, this magnificent Grade I listed garden was nearly lost forever and has been the subject of the largest garden restoration in England. One of the best collections of Rhododendrons, Camellias and Magnolias in the country, including a Plant Heritage National Collection of Loderi and Leonardslee Rhododendrons.

Hole Park, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent, Sunday 18thAugust

We will have a stand at the Hole Park Plant Fair. This is one of the best-known gardens in Kent, a winner of Visit Kent's Garden of the Year award in 2016. Four generations of the Barham family have created a wonderful 16 acre garden in a magical parkland setting.

Borde Hill Gardens, Haywards Heath, W Sussex, Sunday 15th September

The APS will also have a sales stand at the Borde Hill Gardens Autumn Plant Fair (see details above)

Other events currently being considered for 2024 include a visit to Wakehurst Place and the Great Dixter Rare Plant Fairs.

For further information on any of these events please contact Gary and Maria Firth at themyrtleman@gmail.com or Tel 07842 951602

2023

APS AGM and visit to Lullingstone Castle Gardens
Saturday 18th Feb 2023
Please note change of date
By kind agreement of our President, Tom Hart Dyke, we are able to return live to Lullingstone Castle for our AGM. This will be followed by a guided tour of the gardens in the afternoon. Please bring plants to sell or to swap, or just give away. The AGM will commence at 10.30.
Lullingstone Castle is located just outside of Eynsford in Kent. The postcode is DA4 0JA. From Eynsford follow the brown signs to Eagle Heights and Lullingstone Roman Villa along Lullingstone Lane. Continue past the Roman Villa for about 600m along the narrow private road to the Tudor Gatehouse entrance.
The nearest train station is Eynsford, and trains take approximately 50 minutes from central London. When you exit the train station turn left, and then at the main road turn left again and pass under the railway bridge. (Do not follow signs for Lullingstone Roman Villa or Eynsford.) On the right hand side of the road before you reach the Lullingstone gated entrance take the turning onto the signed green public footpath (opposite the recycling bank in the lay-by). Follow the rough track that brings you out at the Lullingstone Roman Villa. Turn left and follow Lullingstone's private road to the Gatehouse entrance. From Eynsford station to the Castle takes 10 to 15 minutes.

RHS Wisley Gardens, Surrey
Monday 20th March, 10.30am
Wisley horticulturalist and APS member Hugo Danckwerts has kindly offered to provide a behind the scenes tour of some of the Australasian delights to be found there. These include Australian epiphytic and lithophytic orchids which should be in flower; Australian pelargoniums; the *Macrozamia* plant bed in the main display area; Wisley's Australasian pot grown specimens; and various other sub-tropical and tropical Australasian plants around the glasshouse.

Jeff Layman's Garden, Hampshire,
Saturday 20th May 1.30pm
APS member Jeff Layman has kindly invited us to visit his garden in Botley, Hampshire.
Jeff describes the garden as follows.

We moved here just over 10 years ago. The whole plot is about 0.1 ha. The front and back gardens were mainly lawns, although one attraction was a very large *Magnolia liliiflora* 'Nigra' in the front.
We have added a number of beds, but other than a few curves for interest the garden is steadfastly free of anything resembling a design. (I am to garden design what tone deaf is to music.) We have put in around 600 plants, of which quite a few are from the southern hemisphere, and seem to do well despite the very heavy clay soil and 20 m tall ash and beech trees in the back. The front of the bungalow faces almost due south so it can get very hot in summer, ideal for somewhat more tender plants. For those which might be frost-sensitive, or require protection, there is a 4 x 2.5 m greenhouse in the back. This has mainly Australian and New Zealand plants in beds, including *Grevillea wilkinsonii*. They are allowed to grow as they would be in the bush, that is, scruffily, and require a hack only every few years.
I have one main rule for the garden which has, in general, served me well. That is 'plants can't read'. In other words, they don't know where the books (and internet) say they are supposed to grow. For example, black bamboo grows well here in dry, windy shade. Plants of interest growing outside include five grevilleas, several eucalyptus (including *Eucalyptus moorei* which for some reason seems to be uncommon), callistemons, correas, *Embothrium coccineum*, magnolias, and about a dozen *Acer palmatum* varieties. There are also a few members of the Lardizabalaceae, including *Lardizabala ternata* and *Sinofranchetia chinensis*. Finally, there is a spiny border for those of an insensate and adventurous disposition!

Hampton Court Flower Festival
Monday July 3rd to Sunday July 9th
The APS and the Hebe Society will be putting on a joint display of Australian and New Zealand plants in the Floral Marquee at the 2023 RHS Hampton Court Flower Festival, on the theme of Australasian plants for a changing climate. We would love to hear from any APS member who can help out on the stand for a few hours or more during public opening hours. You don't need any special expertise and you will get the opportunity to visit the UK's largest flower show for free.

2022

RHS Wisley Specialist Plant Society Show 2022
Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th June
The APS and the Hebe Society are joining together to put on a display and plant sale at the RHS Specialist Plant Society Show. The 2020 and 2021 events were cancelled but in previous years this show has proved an excellent way to promote the APS and show a wider audience some of the wonderful Australasian plants that can be grown in the UK.

If you are interested in helping at the show and/or providing plants for the display please contact **Gary Firth** at **meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk**. The Wisley entrance fee is waived for all helpers.

Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens Saturday 9th July 1.30pm
Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens near Weymouth in Dorset are one of your editor's favourite places to see Australasian plants. The variety is huge and includes the National Collection® of the New Zealand genus *Hoheria*. There is continual experimentation to see what will thrive in the ground in this admittedly mild location, so you never know what you might come across. Abbotsbury is also noted for its rhododendrons and hydrangeas, its camellia groves and its magnolias, not to mention stunning views of the Jurassic Coast and Chesil Beach. Plus there is a great specialist plant nursery, parking is free, and adult entry is only £10.

APS member Sean Boast who is in charge of the Australasian areas and does a lot of propagation has kindly agreed to show us round. Further details will be provided nearer the time. In the meantime, if you want to get an idea of what Abbotsbury has to offer then try http://abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/gardens/gallery/.

Contact Judy Clark for further details.

Members Gardens Visit, Mid Sussex, Saturday 17th September
A visit to new member, Steve Bridgers Burgess Hill Garden plus one other garden. Although it currently has a limited number of Australasian plants (including some very well grown Dicksonia's) this is one of the most impressive small tropical gardens that I have seen. Steves description below does not do it full justice, you have to see for yourself. Ater visiting here there will be an opportunity to visit at least one other local garden (including Gary and Maria Firths packed garden in Haywards Heath).

'An Interesting tropical garden filled with unusual and rare exotic plants. A number of established tree ferns, palms and bamboos along with many seasonal specimen

We also have a large conservatory filled with rare and hard to come by plants as,well as a garden room housing tropical climbers,ferns.and jungle cacti.'

Please contact Gary Firth for further details.

RHS Wisley Hilltop Display: Saturday 8th October
This display, which will be in the new centre of horticultural excellence at RHS Wisley, Hilltop, will be another joint effort with the Hebe Society, and provides another opportunity to promote the APS.

Unfortunately the event falls on the same weekend as the Great Dixter event (below) so we will have to split our forces. Steve Harding, Chair of the Hebe Society (and an APS member) has kindly offered to set up and man both displays but would greatly appreciate help from other APS members.

If you are interested in helping on the day and/or providing plants for display please contact **Gary Firth** at **meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk**. All helpers get free entry to Wisley and members of the APS and the Hebe Society who are not RHS members will get entry to the gardens on the day at the reduced price of £7.50.

Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair 8th – 9th October

We have been invited to have a plant stall at the prestigious Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of October. This is regarded by plant connoisseurs as one of the best plant fairs in the country with many specialist nurseries attending, including from overseas.

If you are able to help either by supplying Australasian plants for sale or by manning the stand on one or two days we would love to hear from you at **meetings@anzplantssoc.org.uk.**

Planning future events

Could you, with help from the committee, host or organise an APS meeting? In the past we have visited public parks and gardens, specialist nurseries, and private gardens. In particular we are very aware that the all the events planned for 2022 are located in the south of England. One reason for this bias is that almost all your committee members hail from the south of England and we are much less familiar with places that APS members might like to visit in other parts of the UK. Organisation is also much easier if there is a local person to help.

If you have any ideas for meetings for 2022 or even 2023 **Gary and Maria** at **meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk** would be very pleased to hear from you.

Previous events

2020

Date and time TBC

Chester Zoo, Cheshire - to view the Plant Heritage National Collection of Nepenthes- a genus that has its center point of diversity in South East Asia and New Guinea (part of Australasia) but extends down into Northern Queensland.

Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens, Dorset - APS Member and head gardener, Sean Boast will take us on a guided tour of this very special garden nestled into a very special microclimate. Sean is enthusiastic about pushing the boundaries of what can be grown on the Dorset coast and grows many species from Australia and New Zealand at Abbotsbury.

2019

16th November 2019: AGM, Lullingstone Castle

Start Time: 10am

Point of Contact: meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk

All members are invited to attend the AGM which, thanks to our President's continued generosity, we are again holding at Lullingstone Castle in Kent. This is always a terrific day, not least because the business aspects of the AGM are confined to the morning session and the

remainder of the day is pure pleasure. After a buffet lunch Tom will take us round the World Garden and his varied undercover collections. In between there will be opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones, to purchase plants from specialist growers and to swap plants with other society members.

Sunday 19th May 2019 : Meon Orchard and County Park Nursery, Hampshire.

Start Time: 10am

Meon Orchard, home of Dr and Mrs Doug Smith is home to National Plant Collections of Eucalyptus, Araliaceae and Podocarpus & related Podocarpaceae. These give structure to the 1.5 acre plantsman's garden filled with architectural, exotic and rare plants. A recent addition is a 20 acre meadow with ½ mile of river Meon frontage. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oztqu5qPRUA for images of the garden.

County Park Nursery, now relocated to Blackmoor, just 5 mins from the A3 in Hampshire, is home to Paul Boosey, grandson of Graham and Margaret Hutchins who started the nursery in 1955 on a small patch of land in their backyard in Essex. Still mostly growing New Zealand and Australasian species, the range has been reduced whilst still retaining some of the old, with the main focus now being on structural and low maintenance shrubs suitable for the UK climate such as Leptospermum (Manuka), Callistemon, Corokia (wire-netting bush) and Hoheria (lacebark).

We plan to arrive at Meon Orchard at approximately 10am to be met by Doug who will show us around the garden. Following lunch at the nearby Roebuck Inn we will travel on to County Park Nursery where Paul will be waiting for us with tea, coffee and cake. (We are at the top of the drive for the manor house, first left upon turning in, I will put out my bright orange sign on the day so you won't go past. Cheers, Paul).

See www.countyparknursery.co.uk

Please note that there are no toilet facilities available at County Park Nursery.

If you wish to attend this event please contact Gary Firth at meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk so that we have an idea of numbers attending.

Late Summer/early Autumn, Date TBC : RHS Rosemoor Garden and APS member Beth Smith's garden, Devon

Join us for a guided tour of RHS Rosemore with Head gardener (and APS member) Jonathan Webster and then a visit to member Beth Smith's incredible cliff top garden, Foamlea, with its fantastic views of the Devon coastline. find out more about Foamlea here

2018

Saturday 9th June 2018: Cookscroft

Start Time: 11am

Cookscroft, APS members John and Jill Williams' five acre garden, is located to the south west of Chichester, West Sussex. Being about one mile from the sea it has a relatively maritime climate. Started in 1988, it features cottage, woodland and Japanese style gardens, water features and borders of perennials with a particular emphasis on southern hemisphere plants. Of particular note to APS members will be the 40 eucalyptus species together with collections of *Corokia*, *Correa*, *Callistemon*, *Grevillea* and *Hakea* as well as a well grown *Boronia heterophylla* which has survived many years grown permanently outdoors. There will be an admission charge of £5.

For refreshments there are a number of pubs and restaurants local to the area although you may need to prebook if wishing to attend the nearest.

Please contact Gary Firth at meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk if you expect to attend.

Directions: Cookscroft is located in Bookers Lane, Earnley, Chichester, PO20 7JG. Travelling from Chichester, after a long straight road in Birdham go left at the roundabout. One mile further on, on a sharp right hand bend, Bookers Lane goes off to the left from the apex of the bend. There may well be ”Diversion” signs but take no notice. Once you have entered the lane, Cookscroft is the second property on the left. Drive past the house and barns and you will see a double entrance on the left. Go through the first single gate and up the drive, turn right into the field and there is ample parking space.

A satnav should take you straight to Bookers Lane but beware of going too far down.

Thursday 19th July: The Ecology of Banksia, Dryandra and Other Australian Proteaceae; a talk by Kevin and Kathy Collins of Banksia Farm

Location: Cambridge University Botanic Garden http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk

10.30am: Meet at garden entrance

11am: Talk by Kevin and Kathy Collins in the garden's classroom

12:30pm: Buffet Lunch at the gardens

13:30pm: Garden Tour with horticultural team.

Kevin and Kathy Collins of Banksia Farm are the holders of the only complete collection of Banksia in the world and are world authorities on the subject of Banksias and Dryandras, two of Australia's most iconic genera.

See the following link for more information

http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2018/02/western-australias-banksia-farm

An entrance fee to the garden of £6 will be charged to members attending the lecture.

8th September: Kew Gardens

Start Time: 11am at Victoria Gate, Kew Road

Point of Contact: chairman@anzplantsoc.org.uk

We will be visiting the newly reopened and replanted temperate house, Australasian plantings in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, Rock Garden and an exhibition of botanical art in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery called "The Florilegium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney".

12th September: Geoffrey Cooper's Arboretum, Oxfordshire

Start Time: 12am

Point of Contact: meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk

APS member Geoffrey Cooper's six acres of rare trees and shrubs at Singe Wood in Oxfordshire have to be seen to be believed. Geoffrey pays close attention to his plants' needs and to their provenance, and thus succeeds in growing many Australasian species well in what might seem to be a less than auspicious location. He has planted about 600 specimens, including 100 or so eucalypts, along with acacias and other Australasian shrubs and small trees, and Nothofagus from Australia, New Zealand and Chile, as well as trees and shrubs from other parts of the southern hemisphere, north America and Asia, all growing in a beautiful naturalistic setting.
As Singe Wood is not easy to find and parking is limited, we will meet at Geoffrey's house (directions below) and leave at 12.00 sharp to drive to the arboretum, sharing cars if necessary. The terrain is a bit rough - think walk in a wood - and if it has recently rained it could be muddy, so sturdy footwear is a must. You will also need to bring lunch, including something to drink, as there are no nearby facilities.
Please contact Gary Firth at meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk if you expect to attend.
Directions: Geoffrey's address is Milton House, Cote, Bampton, Witney, Oxfordshire OX18 2EG, grid reference SP353027. From Aston (east of Bampton) travel about ¾ mile towards Standlake and Eynsham on the B4449 until you come to a crossroads. Turn right (towards Cote and Old Shifford; the lane has no name) and Milton House is about ¼ mile on the right. The entrance is between two stone pillars. Please park in the grounds, not on the road verge.

6th-7th October: Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair

Times: 11am-4pm

Point of Contact: meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk

Now under the stewardship of Fergus Garrett and the Great Dixter Charitable Trust, Great Dixter was for many years the family home of eminent gardener and garden writer Christopher Lloyd. Great Dixter's plant fairs attract specialist nurseries from all over the UK and Europe and this year we will be attending to sell plants and publicise the society. Great Dixter is located just

outside of Northiam in East Sussex, post code TN31 6PH; entrance to the fair is included within a garden entry ticket.

Please find more information about it here:

https://www.greatdixter.co.uk/whats-on/events/great-dixter-autumn-plant-fair-2018/

10th November: AGM, Lullingstone Castle

Start Time: 10am

Point of Contact: meetings@anzplantsoc.org.uk

All members are invited to attend the AGM which, thanks to our President's continued generosity, we are again holding at Lullingstone Castle in Kent. This is always a terrific day, not least because the business aspects of the AGM are confined to the morning session and the remainder of the day is pure pleasure. After a buffet lunch Tom will take us round the World Garden and his varied undercover collections. In between there will be opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones, to purchase plants from specialist growers and to swap plants with other society members.

2017

18th November: AGM at Lullingstone World Garden.

Start time 10am

As in previous years, we would like to welcome you to Lullingstone for what always proves to be a fun day. The 'business' aspect of the AGM will be kept to the morning session and then after a break for a buffet lunch there will be the opportunity to visit the world famous 'World Garden', catch up with other members of the society, purchase plants from specialist nurseries and swap plants with other members.

30th September: Hastings, private garden and Alexandra Park

Start time: 10.30 am

Judy Clark's small suburban garden will be open from 10.30. It is packed with around 300 southern hemisphere plants, the majority Australian, including a Plant Heritage national collection of correas, also know as Australian fuchsias. Correas bloom from August to March and, fingers crossed, many of them will have started flowering; see 'What's Growing' for some pictures. This part of the event is joint with Plant Heritage Sussex.

Owen Johnson, author of the Collins Tree Guide, will show us round Alexandra Park, starting at 2pm. The tour will focus on southern hemisphere species but will not neglect other interesting trees. Alexandra Park is regarded as the best public park in England to see rare and well-grown trees, including 16 Champion trees.

For lunch bring a picnic or there is a reasonable cafe with a sea view about 5 minutes walk away on the West Hill.

Alexandra Park is a 20 to 25 minute walk from Judy's house or a 5 minute drive plus a walk the length of which depends on where there's a parking space.

Bring plants to swap or sell during the morning.

Contact Judy at editor@anzplantsoc.org.uk for further details including directions.

9th September (Provisional): Ness Botanic Gardens - Unfortunately this event is no longer going ahead. We hope to visit Ness in 2018.

5th August: Marks Hall Garden and Arboretum in Essex

Start Time: 10.30am

The Marks Hall collection is planted on a geographical theme with plants from the temperate regions of the world grouped together. There are areas representing Europe, Asia, North America and the Southern Hemisphere, set in more than 200 acres of historic landscape providing interest and enjoyment throughout the year.

Highlights include the Millennium Walk, designed for structure, colour and scent. The largest planting of Wollemi Pine in Europe and the inspired combination of traditional and contemporary planting in the 18th century walled garden.

Afterwards there will also be an opportunity to visit RHS Hyde Hall Gardens which is holding its annual show that weekend.

The gardens are situated between Coggeshall & Earls Colne, with access from the M11 & A12. There are brown and white signs on the A120 north of Coggeshall.

For further details please contact Gary Firth at themyrtleman@gmail.com.

4th-9th July: RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

This year, the society will be displaying plants from Australia and New Zealand in conjunction with Plant Heritage, including representatives from National Collections and Plant Guardians, at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. There will be members manning the stand, so come along and say hello! This will also be a great opportunity to find some plants for sale from nurseries specialising in plants from Australia and New Zealand.

27th January: Linnean Society Tour

Start Time 10.30am (meet outside Burlington House on Piccadilly, London at 10.15am)

Cost: A donation to the Linnean Society with a suggested minimum donation of £5 per person

Join us for a unusual opportunity to tour the collections of the longest standing society for the study of natural history. The Linnean Society of London is the world's oldest active biological society. Founded in 1788, the Society takes its name from the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) whose botanical, zoological and library collections have been in its keeping since 1829. As it moves into its third century the Society continues to play a central role in the

documentation of the world's flora and fauna – as Linnaeus himself did – recognising the continuing importance of such work to biodiversity conservation.Boasting such famous names as Charles Darwin and Sir Joseph Banks among its fellows the societies collections hold treasures that are sure to be of interest to anyone interested in Australasian plants. Not least of all among these collections are two volumes of Celia Rosser's 'The Banksias' which we have made a special request to see during our visit.

If you wish to attend please let Robbie Blackhall-Miles know by email at chairman@anzplantsoc.org.uk by 20th January 2017

Please direct all enquiries to chairman@anzplantsoc.org.uk

2016

12th November: AGM at Lullingstone World Garden.

Start time 10am

After a record attendance to our AGM in 2015 we would like to welcome you back to Lullingstone for what always proves to be a fun day. The 'business' aspect of the AGM will be kept to the morning session and then after a break for a buffet lunch there will be the opportunity to visit the world famous 'World Garden', catch up with other members of the society and purchase plants from other members and specialist nurseries.

21st August: Chelsea Physic Garden and Mona Abboud's Garden, London. Meeting at 11am at the Main entrance to Chelsea Physic on Swan Walk, just off Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea.

The Chelsea Physic Garden was founded in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries for its apprentices to study the medicinal qualities of plants. The focus of the garden remains plants of medicinal and ethnobotanical interest. They also grow rare and endangered species and plants named or introduced by people associated with the Garden's history. Not to mention botanical order beds, collections of island endemic species and a large glasshouse for plants too tender to thrive outside. Medicinal plants on show include ones associated with Aboriginal, Maori and South African tribal medicine. We anticipate that Head Gardener Nick Bailey will be able to show us round. An entrance fee for the Chelsea Physic garden applies.

APS member Mona Abboud is the holder of a National Collection of corokia. Her long narrow garden in Highgate is chock full of interesting plants, including many from Australia and New Zealand; more information can be found at monasgarden.co.uk.

4th - 10th July: Maria and Gary Firth shall be showing Australian myrtles in the Plant Heritage area at the Hampton Court Flower Show.

22nd June: Judy Clark and Gary Firth will be among 5 Sussex Collection Holders talking on Plant Heritage Collections (Correas and Myrtles) at the Chichester Garden Fest (on from 20th - 22nd)

18th - 19th June: The Australasian Plant Society will have a stand at the 'All About Plants' event, held at RHS Wisley (in Wilsons Wood). This is a major Plant Society show featuring displays

from many plant societies, large colour-filled central displays, information about showing and judging a range of plants, planting displays and master classes.
10am - 5pm Saturday and 10am - 4pm Sunday

Saturday 14th May: Open Garden Day at Maria and Gary Firth's Garden in Haywards Heath at 10.30am and then on to Tim and Gill Burr's Garden for 1.30pm.

15th February, 5.45pm to 7.15pm: Seed banking, the forest & mountain flora of New Zealand. Kew Mutual Improvement Society lecture by Gareth Porteous (Kew Diploma student). Venue: Jodrell lecture theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Price: £2 entry

11th January, 5.45pm to 7.15pm: Growing against the odds in Australia. Kew Mutual Improvement Society lecture by Rupert Harbinson (Kew Diploma student and APS member). Venue: Jodrell lecture theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Price: £2 entry

2015

14th November: AGM at Lullingstone World Garden.

22nd August:

West Sussex, 22 August

Please note important changes to the advertised programme

The programme for this meeting has had to be changed due to the sudden serious illness of Gary Firth, at whose garden we were going to start our meeting. I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing Gary a very speedy recovery.

So, the day will **start at Borde Hill Garden** (www.bordehill.co.uk/) where we will meet in the car park (parking is free) at **11 am**. Borde Hill is 1½ miles north of Haywards Heath, 20 minutes north of Brighton, and 20 minutes south of Gatwick on the A23 (exit 10a via Balcombe). For satnav users the postcode is RH16 1XP. The garden is free to RHS members during August and National Trust members paying the full entry price get two for the price of one.

We will eat lunch at Borde Hill. There is an excellent cafe (I have been there), or bring your own. I anticipate that we will leave about 1.30 for our next venue.

In the afternoon we will visit Nymans (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans/), approximately 15 minutes drive from Borde Hill. Since first planning this meeting I have learned more about Australasian plants there and Gary has arranged for a member of staff to show us round. They are creating a new gully garden which will be almost solely devoted to Australasian plants. It won't be fully open until next spring and it will be interesting to see it at this early stage and to find out about what plants they've chosen and why. There is also a Chilean walled garden and a South African bed, so plenty more of interest.

Entry to Nymans is free to National Trust members and, during August, to RHS members (as far as I can understand from the RHS Members' Handbook). The address is Nymans, Staplefield Road, Handcross, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6EB.

For anyone who wants to make a weekend of it on Sunday 23rd we will visit Wakehurst Place (http://www.kew.org/visit-wakehurst) and a nursery or two if I can manage to organise something. Final arrangements will be made when we meet on the Saturday.

Do bring plants to swap and we will make some time for this during the day.

If you would like to attend please let Judy know in advance at editor@anzplantsoc.org.uk

4th July: Sheffield Botanic Gardens and APS member Sue Kohler's garden.

2014

Saturday 7th June: Edinburgh Botanic Gardens + AGM

July 12th: Wakehurst Place

September 20th: Plas Newydd, Crug Farm & Fossil Garden

November 15th: Lullingstone World Garden

2013

For Our National Meeting for 2013 we are going to The National Botanic Garden of Wales in South West Wales

We had a meeting there when it first opened, and it will be interesting to see how it has developed over the years.

We are planning to have a guided tour of the Great Glasshouse as part of the day, and whilst some time will be taken up by our AGM there will be plenty of time to look round.

And as an inducement as it is our AGM we will pay for entry for paid up members.

Our events have always been very enjoyable - a mix of sociable and learning about plants, so please put the date in your diary now.