

# Pluckley Gardening Society

January 2011

## Bright Spots in Winter Gloom

---

### The PGS Committee:

- Pat Morss
- Sue Steward
- Rosemary MacDonald
- Eileen Steinbock
- Sue Ridsden
- Joan Walker
- June Heathcote
- Julie Bennett
- Sue Whatman
- Val Smith

---

*Have you renewed your membership? Don't delay – do it today! £7.50 for the whole family Perfick!*

2010 certainly was a year for the record books. Not only was it the year PGS celebrated its sixtieth birthday but it was also the year when winter arrived very much earlier than expected. And, boy, what an entrance! Snow, ice, record sub zero conditions and then more snow. Almost enough to quench the enthusiasm of even the most intrepid gardeners but not our members! Even though the ground was frozen too solid to sink a spade, and tender plants were brought inside or wrapped up in fleece like Egyptian mummies, members twice braved the elements to venture out for two social events to round off the year. The first was **The Annual General Meeting** where doubtless in anticipation of what was to follow, the business part of the evening was quickly completed. Christine Flannery and Jean Johnson received votes of thanks for their sterling work on their retirement from the Committee and Rosemary MacDonald made a welcome comeback after a couple of years sabbatical. Pat Morss was returned as Chairman for another year

and the rest of the Committee were voted back in en bloc. We are naming (but not shaming!) them here so that you will know who they are.

During the pre talk interval the atmosphere was (as ever) friendly and relaxed. Members mingled and munched on cordon bleu fish and chips from the mobile van. However the Committee had decided that the passing of 60 years could not go unremarked upon or uncelebrated so two additional surprise items were added to the agenda. A magnificent cake, made by the very talented Jenny Heathcote (a former Chairman) was serenaded into the hall before our President, Gill Highwood made the first ceremonial cut. As slices were distributed to one and all the party atmosphere cranked up when champagne also miraculously appeared to facilitate a toast to all who have made PGS so successful over the years - past, present and in the future too. Not just your average AGM then, not even an M & S AGM, but a unique AGM for PGS which is, after all, not your average gardening society.

This was the opening comment made by the somewhat bemused speaker before she

went on to give her very informative and entertaining talk on herbs. Definitely an evening for the record books!

Nor did wintry conditions affect attendance at the second winter social event – the biennial **Quiz Night**. This event raises money to subsidize costs for the 'annual outing' for members which this year will be to the RHS gardens at Hyde Hall. Despite arctic temperatures outside (and initially inside too!) a full house definitely warmed up the village hall and made a generous contribution towards the funds.

Thanks are again due to Chris Housman who provided up to date technology to keep scores and maintained serene composure when facing some spirited challenges on some of the answers. The winning team went home each with a bottle of wine but the losing team had the best prize for a team of gardeners – six bags of (well rotted) horse manure. Unfortunately these have yet to be delivered as the compost

heap has remained frozen solid or completely waterlogged since then. However, now that the roistering over Christmas and New Year are becoming a distant memory as soon as the weather becomes a little less extreme it is likely that the precious commodity will find its way to do its magic in its final resting place.

### **More Ways of Getting in Touch**

As Broadband finally did come to Pluckley and Egerton Telecottage has been running classes for a long time for all to learn how to surf the web, PGS has decided to swim with the tide and update its ways and means of communication. This means that everyone and anyone who has access to a computer can see what is on offer and not lose out on any of the activities throughout the year. From now on you will be able to send any queries to our new dedicated e-mail address which is [pluckleygardeningssociety@gmail.com](mailto:pluckleygardeningssociety@gmail.com). and this will reach the relevant committee member immediately. We shall still be sending out the traditional booklet Schedule and the paper calendar of events for you to fix to your fridge with a suitably apt magnet but in case you accidentally throw these out with the ocean of other paper and flyers which cascade through the letterbox we shall also be posting all details of events on the Pluckley Village Website. To find this, all you have to do is click on Internet Explorer, then type 'Pluckley' into the search section and then click on the home page.

### **Getting the Shrubs Into Shape**

Don't panic Ruth and Raymond – we don't mean you! It is the topic of our first event of 2011 – a talk on pruning in the Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 by Fiona Abrahams of Hadlow College. If you have some eccentrically shaped shrubs which you want to restore to an aesthetically pleasing shape whilst keeping the blooms then come along to find out how the professionals manage it. Entry will be £4 to include light refreshments so bring your friends too as it will be a good evening.

### **Not Quite Uncle Sam or the Stars & Stripes**

This is our trip to The American Garden on 15<sup>th</sup> May which is so called after the American Redwood tree planted there one hundred and fifty years ago. The cost will be £8 per head to include entry and transport with Wealden Wheels. Booking form will be enclosed with this Newsletter and on the website or by request by e-mail.

### **An Evening to Delight all the Senses**

This can only be referring to the Pimms Evening which this year will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June in the garden of Sheerlands Farm, the home of our President Gill Highwood.

Beautiful blooms, heavenly scents, delicious refreshments in the company of good friends – what more can you ask for! Make a note in your diary now to be there. No need to book – just come along.

### **A charabanc ride to Hyde Hall – all for only £5 for PGS Members.**

This is our 'annual outing' which is being subsidized from the profits from the QuiZ Night. This is a full day out on 13<sup>th</sup> August which is always very well attended. Make sure you book early using one of the methods already mentioned so as not to be disappointed.

---

### **Two Chances to Shine**

- Spring Show on 16<sup>th</sup> April
- Autumn Show on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept

---

*Don't forget to renew your membership for 2011*

## Company Name

Address Line 1  
Address Line 2  
City, ST CT5 1DR

PHONE:  
0123 123 4567

FAX:  
0123 123 4568

E-MAIL:  
name@email.com

---

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
**www.Example.com**

## Back Page Story Headline

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product

Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press

releases, market studies. While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

## Continued Story Headline

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful

content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research

articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

## *About Our Organization...*

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of

context.

Microsoft includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter.

There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

## COMPANY NAME

Address Line 1  
Address Line 2  
City, ST CT5 1DR

COMPANY NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE  
CT5 1DR

Chairman: Pat Morss, The Hollies, Mundy Bois, Pluckley TN270ST 01233 840686  
Secretary: Sue Steward, Jennings, Charing Road, Pluckley, TN27OQL 01233840320  
e-mail pluckleygardeningociety@gmail.com