



Welwyn Garden City Horticultural Society

www.wgchortsoc.org.uk

Chair: Alison Ewington 01707 376282 alison.ewington@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: David Kell 01707 328560 a.d.k.kell@btinternet.com

Secretary: Pat Williams 01707 324608 patstevewilliams@btinternet.com

Membership: Denise Madden 01707 323951 gladers2@googlemail.com

Newsletter: Anne Freimanis 01707 323277 a.freimanis@icloud.com

NEWSLETTER No. 156

Spring 2024

All Aboard!

The Society has made a donation to the award-winning All Aboarders – the WGC Station Adoption Group - who are doing such a good job in greening the station platforms. The donation is going towards plants, with a woodland theme, for a bed on Platform 3/4 of the station. The bed will be planted up in the next few weeks with a variety of shrubs including azalea, osmanthus, hydrangea, pieris, ceanothus and hardy fuchsias. We will share photos once the plants become established, but better still, go and have a look for yourselves



The *All Aboarders* are a friendly group of volunteers who arrange regular working parties. They generally meet for a few hours on alternate Thursday and Saturday mornings and are always ready to welcome new volunteers.

Check out their website for more details: <https://allaboarders.org>

Our September Outing to Wisley

Tickets are on sale at our meetings or by sending the completed booking form, as attached to this newsletter, to Jenny Begg making payment by cheque or BACS.

12 September - RHS Wisley, Woking, Surrey. £30 including coach, gratuities, garden entry and guided tour. Depart - 9.30 College Way, WGC.

We have taken advantage of the Society's RHS membership to get free entry for us on this trip. We have also arranged for a garden tour.



Since we last visited Wisley much has changed – although the most loved features remain, often with a new twist and fresh planting.

The atrium at RHS Hilltop has opened with its permanent exhibition. Dramatic showcase displays and interactive exhibits feature the best of the RHS's research and world-class collections. Wisley's famous double Mixed Borders run either side of the Broadwalk, on the slope leading up to Battleston Hill, a

400 foot long horticultural wonder, bringing bold colour and texture from late spring to autumn. The Equinox Border reaches its peak in the early autumn with dahlias, sedums, and salvias blooming abundantly, joined by asters and monkshoods, as well as the grasses with their combination of feathery delicacy and grand stature.

Jenny Begg and Anne Freimanis

A Date for Your Diary

Our 2025 trip to RHS Bridgewater and other northern gardens:
30 June – 3 July 2025. Details to follow.

Summer is a time when many people get interested in gardening

So, If you have a friend or neighbour who is showing such an interest, perhaps you might introduce them to the WGC Horticultural Society? Then they would benefit from:

- 9 fascinating lectures a year – with tea & coffee provided!
- Access to outings including the winter lunch, the summer holiday, and numerous day trips by coach.
- Member plant swaps (usually 2 per year)
- A quarterly newsletter

All for only £15 per year. Please contact Membership Secretary, Denise Madden, 1 The Glade, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7LG gladers2@gmail.com

Our Autumn 2024 Speaker Programme

**10 September - Hertfordshire National Garden Scheme –
Bella Stuart -Smith**



Bella, a professional garden designer and plantswoman, is one of the County Organisers for the Hertfordshire National Garden Scheme. She also opens her own garden at Pie Corner in Bedmond for the scheme. She will share her experience of the work of the NGS in the county and what it takes to have a garden entered into the 'little yellow book'.

8 October - Local apples and orchards - Peter Oakenfull

Peter's background is in ecology and environmental management. He is the warden of The Commons Nature Reserve in Welwyn Garden City and ran his own landscape and conservation management business since 1984. He has a great interest in, and wide knowledge of, Hertfordshire apple varieties and other fruit trees and will be talking about his involvement with local orchards.



Meetings start at 8pm at St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Church Road, AL8 6QJ. Tea and coffee are also served at the meetings.

Laurence Bauer and Sue Friend

Our Garden Lunch at Knebworth House

You may remember it as the only day in spring when it didn't rain!

On the 25 March forty members made their way to Knebworth House for our



Society's Annual Lunch. Having negotiated slow traffic due to the subsidence of the A1M, we were greeted by a large herd of fallow deer grazing in the magnificent parkland.

We had a tour of the grounds and the House gardens led by a thoroughly knowledgeable, and very proud, retired head gardener. The

garden was partly designed to honour Gertrude Jekyll whose plans for the Knebworth gardens were uncovered



in the House records. Daffodils drifted under the trees and wooden

sculptures appeared in strange locations.

After a pleasantly sociable lunch together, we were shown around the House and exhibition centre where we learnt about the Cobbold

family history.

An enjoyable and relaxing day on our doorstep, in the company of our horticultural friends.

Jenny Begg; photos: Steve Williams, Alison Ewington

Highlights of Our Recent Outings

There are many more photos for you to enjoy on our website, just click the link: <https://wgchortsoc.co.uk/past-outings/>

If you have any photos that you would like to share with members please send them to Anne Freimanis: a.freimanis@icloud.com



All Aboarders

The All Aboarders 2024 Makeover Day was held in March and saw the successful transformation of one of the flat beds on platform 2 into a new sensory garden. This garden was sponsored by Siemens Mobility as part of the work they are doing on the East Coast Mainline. Additionally there were 5 new square troughs installed, other structural maintenance completed, new posters installed and a lot of general gardening done! On the day there were around 30 representatives both from the rail industry, local businesses and councillors, and of course local volunteers. A big thanks to all involved.



If you have any news, seen plants in our public spaces or have plants in your garden that you would recommend please let the Editor know: Anne Freimanis, a.freimanis@icloud.com or 01707 323277.