

From the Chairman

Welcome to the first electronic version of the Group Newsletter, which John Dyson has kindly offered to gather together from contributions from other members of the Group, details of forthcoming events and other items of interest which have come to his attention. We are grateful, as always, for John's expert IT skills and his willingness to undertake this task. Perhaps I should remind you that he is simply gathering and purveying the contents to all members who are able to receive these future Newsletters electronically and that any member without a computer will be able to receive a paper copy to be sent/handed out by, Pat, the Group Secretary, provided she is told of the member's need. We welcome contributions from all members.

We have had a successful year in most respects. The Celebrity Lecture was an enjoyable occasion in a new venue in Oakham School, where the recently built new lecture theatre provided considerable comfort and up-to-date technical equipment. The speaker, Tom Hart Dyke, was a lively, enthusiastic and informative choice, creating an entertaining evening. The excellent refreshments rounded off the evening very nicely.

On the May Bank Holiday we held our extremely successful Plant Fair which was held at Ashwell House for the last time before moving with Mr. and Mrs. Pettifer to their new home also in Ashwell. We had one summer outing to Herefordshire, which although not as well supported as it might have been, went well, due to Mark Bird's good organisation. The lack of support gave cause for thought amongst your Committee members. It was decided to canvas members' views by means of a questionnaire. The mixed response suggested to the Committee that we should try this year to provide alternatives for the coming summer, hoping to meet members' various suggestions. Hence we have our usual one day outing, this time to Worcestershire, with an excellent choice of places to visit; an overnight (two nights, in fact) trip along the lines of many years' successful Committee members outings but this time open to spouses and other members of the Group; and thirdly, a day trip to a horticultural show, Harrogate in the autumn, on this occasion. Plenty of choice and we hope for a good response. Coupled with all this we have had our usual winter series of monthly lecture evenings. Many of the speakers have been excellent and virtually all others have been entertaining and or enjoyable. Finding good speakers is not easy and you will appreciate that travel distance and cost can be a limiting factor, but we do our best to provide an enjoyable and varied programme.

We are fortunate to have such a comfortable venue for our meetings, with good refreshment facilities and a built-in PA system to assist those of us with hearing problems. We have recently purchased a projection screen from Group funds to improve the visual aspect of talks. Your Committee is always open to receive suggestions from members on any aspect of the Group's activities where there is scope for improvement.

Henry W.

2015 Plant Fair

The HPS Rutland Group Plant Fair

will be held on
SUNDAY MAY 24th
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Specialist Nurseries will be in attendance
Excellent refreshments will be available
Admission £2 and accompanied children free.

The Farm, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell
(near Oakham) LE15 7LJ
(see red rectangle on map left)

By kind permission of Mr and Mrs S. D. Pettifer



2015 Summer Coach Outing

On Wednesday June 17th we will be leaving at 7.45 a.m. to visit Pershore College Gardens, Vivienne Mcghee's garden, Bretforton Manor and finally Bob Browns nursery leaving there around 17.30-18.00hrs
Details of price and tickets will be circulated when available

2015 Talks Programme

Our monthly talks resume in September, see schedule below:

Sep 8th	Tom Mitchell	Where Wild Things Are
Oct 13th	Malcolm Beerman	Hardy Fuchsia Species Their Keeping and Cultivation
Nov 10th	Hugh Thomas	Gardens and Garden Visiting
Dec 8th	Richard Hobbs	Hardy Bulbs from Around the World

Future Newsletter Editions

There have been no articles submitted for publication in this first edition of the electronic Newsletter. Articles on any gardening topic would be welcome and can be submitted by e-mail in any format to hpsrutland@gmail.com

The Annual General Meeting of the Rutland Group of the Hardy Plant Society
will precede our next talk on
Tuesday April 14th at 7-30 pm
in the Uppingham Methodist Church LE15 9SQ

The talk which follows will be by **Alun and Jill Whitehead** and entitled
Iris, some History, some People, some Plants.

HPS Rutland Group Committee

Your 2014/15 Committee Members are currently:

Henry Woolston	Chairman
Janet Rowe	Vice-Chairman & Plant Fair Organiser
Mary Nourish	Treasurer
Pat Woolston	Secretary
Mark Bird	Programme Secretary
Jo Porter	Membership Secretary
John Dyson	Publicity Officer & Webmaster
Sue Graves	Committee Member
Steve Pole	Committee Member
Ann Godbolt	Committee Member
Gill Hadland	Committee Member