



EASTON WALLED GARDENS

www.eastonwalledgardens.co.uk

Tel: 01476 530 063

Newsletter No. 16, January 2008

Dear All

A very Happy New Year to all our friends. This year is going to be a very exciting one for the gardens. Over the winter we have put in 7 top grade toilets, felled more trees and planted more hedging. The big story for this year, however, will be the new 60 seater tearoom which will be accompanied by more opening times towards the end of the year.

We look forward to seeing you this year and hope you enjoy seeing the changes as much as ever!

With Best Wishes
Ursula Cholmeley.

Garden Repairs:

I always thought that if we had left the garden project another five years it would be too late. Sure enough, in our fifth year of opening, enormous holes appeared in the wall by the snowdrop bank. To make the wall good enough to outlast us all, Robin, Stephen and David are working on a slope to repair the damage.

Thanks to the Friends of Easton Walled Gardens, one rickety and beautiful ironwork gate has gone to Mervyn for repair. (Mervyn Thorpe works from a barn on the estate, if you need any ornamental ironwork his number is 07786 000664). It has now been reinstated and it is a relief to know that such fine ironwork is now safe from the elements for a bit. As all the gates need urgent work, we have also been quietly working on the top gates above the stable yard.

The Poppy Borders:

These are the two 40m borders over the river. For the last two years we have filled them with Pictorial Meadow seed and they looked wonderful in high summer but tended to attract comments about 'weeds' in the spring. We are now planting these beds with permanent plantings, interspersed with yellow Pictorial Meadows seed mix. The thujas behind these beds have been felled opening up a dramatic new view.

We are testing a technique in the Cedar Meadow this year. When it had a late summer cut, we left big piles of the hay to smother the grass. This knocked back the vigorous varieties. Then we sowed the area with meadow flower seed and now await the results. The great thing about this technique is that you have an excuse to leave piles of grass until you have the energy to move it!

**Opening Hours 2008: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from March 21st
– September 28th PLUS Thursdays in July and August. Sundays in October**

**Snowdrops – Saturday February 16th
– Sunday February 24th - 11.00 – 4.00 pm:**

As well as spectacular drifts of snowdrops and aconites along the river banks, there are also displays of blue and white hyacinths in the glasshouse, an indoor display of rare and unusual snowdrops and a winter indoor floral display. Plantswoman Jackie Murray will be giving free short talks at 12.30 and 2.30 daily. Have a look at our website, under events, to see last years' blog.

Easter – Good Friday (21st March, in aid of NGS), Easter Sunday (23rd March) and Easter Monday (24th March) – 11.00 – 4.00 pm:

This Easter we have a wonderful show of narcissi and bulbs with 100 fully labelled daffodil varieties grown in beds, a dwarf bulb collection in the Cottage Garden, and the Woodland Walk full of spring snowflakes. Historic daffodils stud the turf and 1000s of bulbs have been planted in the Cedar Meadow. This really is a lovely time of year for a relaxing visit with family and friends.

Spring Plant Fair – Sunday May 4th – Monday May 5th – 10.00 – 4.00 pm:

An opportunity to come and buy top quality plants from the nurseries themselves, ranging from perennials and cottage garden plants through to auriculas, herbs and unusual alpines. Talk to the growers directly and pick up some tips on how best to grow that plant you have just bought.

The Gardens will be in their spring glory with narcissi, tulips and irises in bloom, along with the wildflower meadows showing off their pasque flowers and cowslips. Treat yourself to a lovely day out!

Advance Dates:

Sweet Pea Week this year will be from Sunday 22nd June – Friday 27th June, 11.00 – 4.00 pm daily. This will include an RHS

workshop on Tuesday 24th of June. If you would like further information please call the RHS on 0207 821 3408

The Autumn Gardeners' Market will be on Sunday 14th September, 10.00 – 4.00 pm.

Volunteers

Volunteer days for bulb planting, meadow maintenance and glasshouse work, such as seed sowing, happen on the first Tuesday of every month. Please call Maggie on 01476 530063 if you would like to join us.

Lincolnshire Tourism Awards

Easton Walled Gardens is a finalist for Lincolnshire's '**Best Tourist Attraction Under 50,000 Visitors**'. We are proud to have made it to the last three and are expecting the judges this month before prize-giving in February.

Photo Corner



This is the only known image of my children's great-great-great grandfather, Sir Hugh AH Cholmeley, 3rd Bt.

It shows him seated in the carriage outside the front door of Easton in around 1895. The two girls on the right are his daughters, Winifred and Aline. Their descendants showed us this picture.

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