



# EASTON WALLED GARDENS

[www.eastonwalledgardens.co.uk](http://www.eastonwalledgardens.co.uk)

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## Newsletter No. 15, August 2007

Dear All

This last season has been a challenge. Drought in April followed by rain for two months has really stretched us but I am proud of how we have managed to present the garden all season. A garden that looks great on Friday can look tired by Sunday so we need to be constantly adjusting our mowing, strimming, pruning & planting schedules.

This week everything has started to take on an Autumn feel and we are deep into planning Autumn & Winter events. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best Wishes  
Ursula Cholmeley.

### Garden News:

The sweetpeas have held up surprisingly well against the weather. Only the scarlet varieties, particularly 'Henry Eckford', struggled to keep their colour. A new sweetpea 'Kingsize Navy Blue' from Thompson & Morgan has been superb and is set to join 'Mars' as one of our strongest peas.

The new viewing platform has been a great success. The double hand-rail staircase means even our less mobile visitors have been able to climb and look over the turf maze and the pickery.

The pictorial meadows sowing has been moved this year, next to the turf maze. This is to provide an area where the young seedlings are only noticed once they flower, otherwise we tend to get comments about 'weeds'. They have looked beautiful for six weeks now, with more to come. The poppy borders were due to be planted with shrubs in the Spring but it was so

dry, we did not do it. Needless to say, with all this rain, it would have been fine.

The pots under the cherries have been really good this year. In the spring we underplanted them with Tulipa 'Prinses Irene' and then in the summer with Salvia patens. The orange tulips and the intense blue salvia under the rusting onion shapes look fantastic, have drawn lots of comments and are easy to plant up. Try putting some supports in your pots, they add height to plantings and create structure in the winter.

We sometimes have visitors who think we don't advertise enough. In fact, it just takes a long time for word to get out! Here is a short list of publications and media who have written/talked about us this year:

BBC East Midlands Today, BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire Life, Leicestershire and Rutland Life, Grantham and Stamford Exclusive magazines, Country Life, The Guardian, 1001 Gardens you must see before you die, Gardeners World, Country Living, Good Gardens Guide, NGS Yellow book, Garden News, Gardens to Visit, The Garden etc.

**Extended Opening Hours 2007: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from April 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> PLUS  
Thursdays in July and August, and Sundays from October until December 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## Events

We have some great things planned for the Autumn so we hope you will join us.

### August Bank Holiday Monday:

There is no official 'activity' happening on this day but the gardens will be open for a peaceful walk, Café Leo's homemade, fresh produce, and Lucy's indoor flower displays.

If you have not visited for a while, come and see our glasshouse display, rudbeckia trial and tender annuals like *Salvia patens* and Zinnias in flower. The shop has an extended range including bulbs for Autumn planting.

Open Sunday and Monday 11.00 am -4.00 pm

### Gardeners' Market – Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>: 10.00 – 4.00 pm

Local produce, plants and bulbs for Autumn planting. This is like a really good WI market with homemade cakes, beer, honey, chutneys, puddings, cheeses and lots of perennials for sale. Friends, of course, come in free. Otherwise, normal admission applies. The café will be open all day so bring your friends and family for a good day out.

### Christmas Shopping: Sundays in November & up to December 16<sup>th</sup>. 11.00 am – 4.00 pm. (Shop open until 5.00 pm)

For seven Sundays we are opening the gardens for FREE!! We are offering Winter walks, lunches & teas, and a whole coach house full of gifts for Christmas. The emphasis is on British made fair trade and good quality presents you We have our own range of bulbs and seeds, advent calendars, Swedish birdhouses, Christmas decorations, childrens presents, soaps and local produce. Lucy will be decorating the coach house so come and see us!

## Advance Dates:

Snowdrops next year will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February daily, 11am – 4pm.

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.

## Photo Corner



The Cholmeley family have two crests. The griffin (shown here) is the original crest which they share with the Cholmondeley family from Cheshire. The helmet in its claws reflect the family motto "cassis tutissima virtus" The other crest is the wheatsheaf that is depicted in stone around the gardens. This is the crest that we have adopted for the gardens and which you can see in the logo at the top of this newsletter. The image above is taken from a nineteenth century bookplate.

Finally, thank you for visiting us this season if you made it through the rain, your support and kind comments in the visitors book are much appreciated.

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