



Plant Hunters' Fairs Club and Society Newsletter 2011

"So much more than just a plant fair"

Plant Hunters' Fairs organise great garden events in your local area and beyond offering great value days out for both groups and individuals.

Each features a top class specialist plant fair with some of the most highly respected nurseries around, including RHS medallists, National Collection Holders and small specialist growers.

Each of our fairs is hosted by a great garden or countryside venue. In most cases there is free entry to the plant fair or reduced entry prices to the garden with the fair included. Some events offer free guided tours by the head gardener, free gardening talks, garden problem clinics and much more.

Pre-booking is only normally necessary if you decide to come as a coach party; you can contact us or the venue direct to make arrangements. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments. We hope you'll agree that Plant Hunters' Fairs make the perfect day out for all garden lovers.

Best wishes, Janet & Martin Blow, Plant Hunters' Fairs and Special Perennials Nursery, Phone: 01270 811443, email: janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk

Full details of all our events are on our website: www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk where you will also find details of more Plant Hunters' Fairs organised by our colleague Judy Jesse of Woodfield Nursery.



Consall Hall Landscape Gardens, Saturday 2nd April 2011 10am - 4pm

Consall, Wetley Rocks, Staffordshire. ST9 0AG

Phone: 01782 551947

We are really thrilled to be able to bring our popular Plant Hunters' Fairs to this dramatic and enthralling landscape garden in the heart of the North Staffordshire countryside.

There are over 70 acres of lakes, garden and landscape to explore via over four miles of paths (much tarmaced) with many covered areas to sit. You can truly make a day of it whatever the weather.

Visitors can enjoy the gardens and fair for the special event price of just £2.00 which must be one of the best value days out around.

Hodnet Hall Gardens

5th June 2011 10am - 4pm

Hodnet, Market Drayton, Shropshire. TF9 3NN

Phone: 01630 685786

Hodnet Hall has been the home of the Heber-Percy family since the 11th Century but the serious development of the gardens stems from 1921 and continues today. We were bowled over by the drama and beauty of this 63 acre Shropshire garden with its chain of lakes and cascades, borders, vistas and walled kitchen garden. There is an opportunity to take a highly recommended guided tour with head gardener Ross Underwood - free to visitors.



The garden and fair come at the **very special price of just £2.50**. What more could you want on an early summers day!

The Dorothy Clive Garden

24 & 25 April (Easter Sunday & Monday)

28th August & 29th August 2011 (Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday)

10am - 5.30pm

Willoughbridge, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4EU

Phone: 01630 647237

These have become two of the best loved garden events in the area wooing visitors with a winning line up of the best nurseries around, a most charming and beautiful garden and a truly relaxing and inviting atmosphere.

The 12 acre Dorothy Clive Garden features a superb woodland garden, an alpine scree, gravel garden, a damp garden and spectacular flower borders. It is equally famed for its dazzling spring display of rhododendrons and azaleas with massed drifts of bulbs and the stunning and colourful late summer flower borders.

Explore the gardens, sit and relax in the many seating areas, and enjoy the tearoom's home-baking on the terrace lawn, whilst enjoying the lovely views of the surrounding countryside.

We always have a long list of nurseries wanting to attend this event so we put together a really great mix of plants and specialities to delight plant lovers of every level of experience.

Free garden talks at this event:

For the Easter event we have a free talk by well-known plants women and 2010 Chelsea Gold Medallist, Vicky Fox. Together with husband Richard, Vicky runs Plantagogo a specialist nursery holding National Collections of Heuchera and Heucherella. Vicky will be entertaining visitors with the inside story of their RHS Chelsea Gold Medal successes and expert advice on the wonderful range of Heucheras and related plants they are introducing to the UK. Groups of 20+ can pre-book places on the talk to ensure their seats. If you wish to book Vicky for one of your meetings you can contact her on 01270 820335 or 07713518271.

We expect to arrange another great talk for the August event, details will follow.

The garden offers a great special event price on these days of just £3.00 (Normally costs £5.50 just for the garden!)



Adlington Hall

29th May 2011 10.30am - 4pm

Mill Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 4LF

Tel: 01625 827 595

Adlington Hall is one of the oldest and most historic Cheshire houses. The 2,000 acre Estate contains parkland landscaped in the 18th century in the style of 'Capability Brown' complete with ha-ha. The Lime Avenue dating from 1688 is one of the oldest surviving in Britain and leads to a woodland Wilderness with winding paths, temples, bridges and follies in a rococo manner. A path through the laburnum Arcade leads into the formal Rose Garden, then on to the Maze created in English Yew. The Father Tiber water Garden provides a peaceful haven with its ponds, fountains and water cascade and the parterre provides a colourful addition to the east wing. The plant fair will be held in front of the house again this year and will feature even more top quality nurseries specialising in a varied range of plants with something for every plant lover. There will also be free guided tours of the gardens throughout the day.

Entry to garden & fair is at the special low price of £3.00

The National Memorial Arboretum

22nd May 2011 and

10th July 2011 10am - 5.00pm

Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR

Tel: 01283 792333

This was a place we always intended to visit as a special place of memorial and inspiration. But it is so much more: secluded gardens to explore, a nature reserve, a lovely restaurant and now two brilliant specialist plant fairs.



The arboretum and fair are free to enter although there is a small charge for car parking.

The Arboretum is a unique haven of peace, contemplation and hope for the future and is the site of the Armed Forces Memorial. It consists of 150 acres of wooded parkland within the National Forest in Staffordshire where visitors can both enjoy and learn about the trees and their surroundings, and reflect upon their special symbolism. Many of the memorials are placed in peaceful gardens. Although still a 'young' arboretum, there are already in excess of 50,000 trees on the site which are rapidly growing into a unique living tribute.

The Arboretum has a lot to offer both young and old. Come for a day out to enjoy the peace and tranquillity, the trees, the memorials, the history, the sense of national pride. Have lunch or drinks in the Arbour Restaurant; above all enjoy the experience. The land train, which runs every 30 mins is an enjoyable way to explore the site.

Sugnal Hall Walled Garden

18th September 2011 10am - 4pm

Sugnal, Stafford, ST21 6NF

Phone: 01785 850820

The 2 acre Walled Kitchen Garden at Sugnal Hall near Eccleshall Staffs dates from 1738 and is currently being restored as a working kitchen garden producing fruit and vegetables to serve in the tearoom and for homemade jams and chutneys on sale at the garden. The garden has a large collection of heritage apples and a seasonal tasting will also be on offer to visitors.



For those of you who have caught the "grow your own" bug the garden will be an inspiration. We also have Dr Steve Reynolds at our drop-in clinic for your flower, fruit and veg problems. You can contact Steve on 01746 710101 or 07929 303 425 if you want to book him to visit your club.

Entry to fair and garden only £1.00. Free parking. Visitors can explore the walled garden and there will also be guided tours (separate charge) taking in the garden and kitchen wing of the hall and the grounds.

Bodenham Arboretum

Saturday 9th April 2011 and

Saturday 17th September 2011 11am - 5pm

Wolverley, Worcestershire, DY11 5SY

Phone: 01562 852444

What a wonderful setting for our new event in this area! From the mile-long approach drive to the heart of this 156 acre arboretum the beauty of the setting just keeps on unfolding. The arboretum features over 3000 species of tree and shrub from all over the world. Pathways wander through the landscape of trees, pools, meadows and farmland. You can explore the farm with its sheep, lambs, cattle and rare breed poultry. The visitor centre and lakeside restaurant serve a wide variety of home cooked meals and light refreshments including meats from the farm. Why not take your tea on the terrace overlooking the main pool whilst drinking in the beautiful surroundings.



Entry to the plant fair and access to the restaurant are completely free. Entry to the arboretum is optional and at normal prices: currently £5.50 for adults with a special price of £5.00 each for groups of 25 or more booking with the garden in advance (contact the arboretum direct to arrange).

Bramall Hall

10th April 2011 11am - 4.30pm

Bramhall Park, off Hall Road, Bramhall, SK7 3NX

Phone: 0161 485 3708

Bramall Hall is one of Cheshire's grandest black and white timber-framed Tudor manor houses with Victorian additions. The Hall is set amongst 70 acres of parkland, which have been landscaped in the style of Capability Brown. The plant fair featuring top quality specialist nurseries and growers will be held on the croquet lawn next to the hall.

Admission to the fair is £1 There is free entry to the parkland and tearooms. Parking on site involves a charge. Visitors can explore the grandeur and history of the hall (additional charge). Bramall Hall is a superb example of a Tudor Manor House with origins dating back to medieval times. The Hall, one of the most beautiful treasures of England, is of great national importance. The magnificent 16th Century wall paintings, Elizabethan fine plaster ceiling, the Victorian Kitchens and Servants Quarters all add to its unique charm.



Meet our Nurseries:

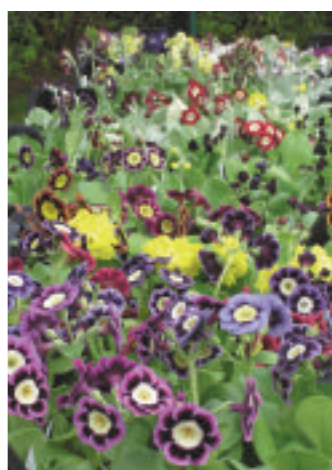
When you visit our fairs you will be struck by the variety of plants on sale – each stall is different; by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the nurserymen and women – all propagate and grow most of their plants and by the quality of the plants – our nurseries are family run businesses, small growers and specialist collectors, all doing what they do because they are passionate about their plants. We give priority



for places to RHS Medallists, National Collection Holders and small specialist growers. We expect each to add something special and unique to our events: we don't allow our fairs to become swamped by the same factory-produced plants bought in bulk from wholesalers.

We know from what you tell us that garden lovers appreciate the opportunity to discover the unusual and new and perhaps to rediscover those old and heritage varieties from the past, lost to cultivation but for the efforts of dedicated enthusiasts.

We have nurseries featuring plants from 10 full status National Plant Collections (plus 6 more ongoing applications) attending different events.



Many of the nurseries you will meet have demonstrated the skill and dedication to win coveted RHS medals, including two Chelsea Golds in 2010 – Hall Farm Nursery and Plantagogo. Plant Hunters' Fairs are a rare opportunity to see so many top class nurseries outside of the big (and expensive) shows.

We aim to bring plant lovers the best selection regardless of current fashion or fad all backed up by knowledge, enthusiasm and above all passion for plants.

You can discover which nurseries are attending each event on our website: www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk or contact us on 01270 811443.

To stop receiving these newsletters, update your contact details or give us your comments please email: janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk or phone 01270 811443