



GARDEN/VISITS GROUP

Meeting held on 14th December 2016

37 people attended. 2 new members, Pat and Stella were welcomed. There was a good turnout despite clashing with an event at The White Lion.

Christmas treat – free entry to the meeting!

The trip to Chatsworth RHS next June is all paid up for those who put their names on the list. Seems to be a very popular day. Other companies are also running trips.

Sandra thanked her 'helpers' Lynne, Jan and Jenny. She would welcome any other helpers who wanted to volunteer.

The sponsored Christmas tree at Beeston Parish church is to be decorated in the afternoon 3pm. The U3A have paid for the tree. Some people had already volunteered to decorate, others welcome. Jane has collected some natural decorations and Jan has made some Christmas tree labels to hang advertising the Garden Visits group. The trees are for viewing between 16th and 19th December if anyone would like to pop in.

Sandra has been really disappointed to be let down by the speaker for January who is unable to come. She has received apologies and a suggestion that we visit Brackenhurst instead. Sandra didn't think it was a suitable time of year to visit and has managed to get Sandra Hart (Bee Lady) to speak at the next meeting instead. The talk will be on 'The History and Folk Lore of Bees'. Sandra Hart has spoken to us before but 4 years ago and this is a different talk and she is always entertaining. She will be selling honey. This will be a joint meeting with the Practical Gardening Group.

Lucy Beardsley still has availability for the February visit to Hodsock, a Tour and Taste package costing £24.50. Contact Lucy direct.

Also availability for the trip to Blenheim Palace 16th-17th June, £90 but no single rooms left. Contact Lucy Beardsley

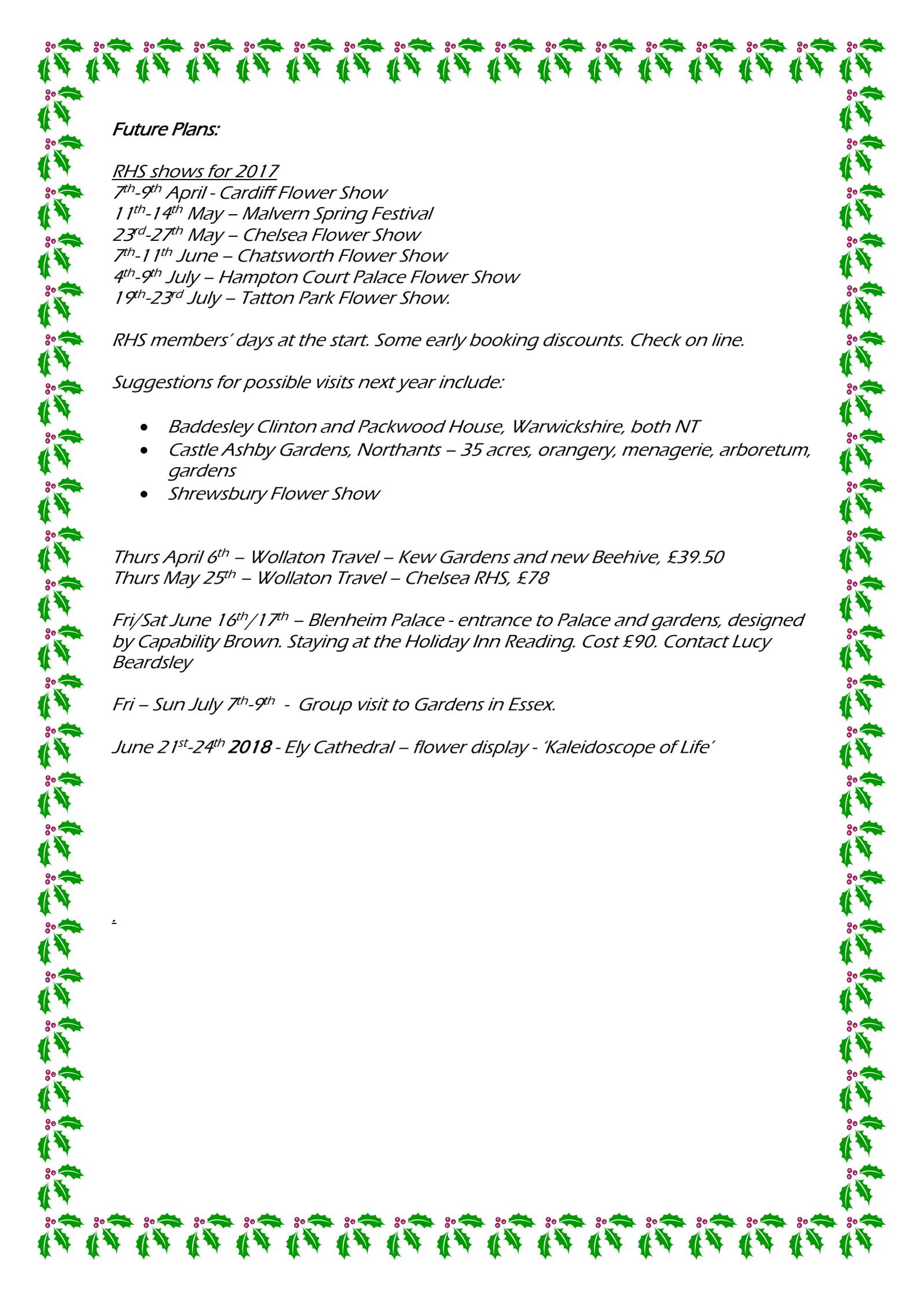
The weekend trip next year will be to Essex, 7th – 9th July, staying at the Novotel, Ipswich. 2nights DBB + coach £159, single supplement £65 (£224) 24 single rooms are available. It is proposed to visit 5 gardens during the weekend, the cost for Beth Chatto garden is included in the holiday price.

Other gardens could be Audley End, Bridge End, perhaps en route or way back, Mark's Hall –RHS?, Hyde Hall – RHS, Anglesey Abbey and Lode Mill near Cambridge. 40 people are needed if possible. Members were invited to put their names down if they are interested.

We all then enjoyed the fuddle. Thanks to everyone for their lovely and varied contributions.

I would like to say a big thank you to Sandra on behalf of the members for her hard work, enthusiasm and great visits throughout the year.

*Merry Christmas to everyone and all good wishes for 2017.
See you in the New Year.*

A decorative border of holly leaves and red berries surrounds the text.

Future Plans:

RHS shows for 2017

7th-9th April - Cardiff Flower Show

1st-14th May – Malvern Spring Festival

23^d-27th May – Chelsea Flower Show

7th-11th June – Chatsworth Flower Show

4th-9th July – Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

1st-23^d July – Tatton Park Flower Show.

RHS members' days at the start. Some early booking discounts. Check on line.

Suggestions for possible visits next year include:

- *Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House, Warwickshire, both NT*
- *Castle Ashby Gardens, Northants – 35 acres, orangery, menagerie, arboretum, gardens*
- *Shrewsbury Flower Show*

Thurs April 6th – Wollaton Travel – Kew Gardens and new Beehive, £39.50

Thurs May 25th – Wollaton Travel – Chelsea RHS, £78

Fri/Sat June 16th/17th – Blenheim Palace - entrance to Palace and gardens, designed by Capability Brown. Staying at the Holiday Inn Reading. Cost £90. Contact Lucy Beardsley

Fri – Sun July 7th-9th - Group visit to Gardens in Essex.

June 21st-24th 2018 - Ely Cathedral – flower display - 'Kaleidoscope of Life'



DECEMBER

Sun Dec 18th

NOTTINGHAM ARBORETUM – Christmas Event 4pm-6pm

Tues Dec 20th

GRADUATION PLANT SALE - Nottingham University Greenhouses. 10:30am - 2:30pm Usually plants include cyclamen, poinsettias, and some indoor plants e.g. begonias and coleus. Best to go early.



JANUARY

Wed Jan 11th

GARDEN VISITS MEETING – Sandra Hart – ‘The History and Folklore of Bees’ 10am
Joint meeting with the Practical Gardening Group

Sat Jan 28th

POTATO DAY



FEBRUARY

Fri Feb 24th

HODSOCK PRIORY – Taste and Tour Package to see the Snowdrops £24.50 Contact Lucy Beardsley