

Views from the Hill

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2019



Autumn colour on our streets

This year, for the first time, we have been able to enjoy the full autumn colours of our new street trees. Pride of place must surely go to the row of four Chinese Scarlet Rowans on Ringmore Rise, and the same Rowan at the top of Horniman Drive. Scarlet is the colour of their leaves and when they fall, scarlet will be the colour of the buds that even now are forming for spring. The berries, which are orange, may well stay on the trees through winter - unless of course the parakeets take a liking to them! And as our ornamental pears in Liphook Crescent become established, we are starting to see their full autumn glory. In October the leaves turned a deep burgundy red. In November some are red, some are orange, and a few are still light green. By Christmas, if they are still on the tree, all will be gold. Our Amelanchiers in Canonbie Road certainly have, and their leaves went orange nicely, while our Rudolph crab apples across the Estate all have golden leaves.

Looking ahead to the coming winter we are expecting another 14 trees to be planted on our Estate, bringing the total to 40. Most will have been funded by the generous donations of local residents, but two will be funded by a Greening Grant from the Council. This will be used to plant two different crab apple trees on the grassy verge at the top of Ringmore Rise. The grant will also pay for the removal of two dying trees and a metal pole which serves no useful purpose. The Association has agreed to plant

wild bluebells and snowdrops on the verge as a matched funding contribution to the grant.



Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have watered trees through the summer. This year we decided to water every week from the opening of leaves in the spring to their fall in autumn. The change has had an obvious effect as, unlike last summer, no tree has suffered stress in the hot dry spells. If anything they seemed to have put on an extra burst of growth.

For next year, we already have offers of funding for 6 more trees. If you would like to pay towards a new tree in your street, please contact me at stuart@streettreesforliving.org
Stuart Checkley

Chinese Scarlet Rowan

Inside this issue:

<i>Autumn Colour:</i>	1
<i>Carols and Songs:</i>	1
<i>Chairs report:</i>	2
<i>Keeping in touch:</i>	2
<i>Recycling:</i>	2
<i>Clean Estate:</i>	3
<i>Harvest Event:</i>	3
<i>Autumn Garden:</i>	4
<i>Bakerloo Line:</i>	5
<i>City Airport:</i>	5
<i>The Birds:</i>	6
<i>The Bees:</i>	6
<i>Horniman Museum:</i>	7
<i>Horniman Garden:</i>	7
<i>Committee List:</i>	8

Carols and seasonal songs by candlelight

By Sunday, 15th December, the Association will have once again festooned the Triangle (the enclosed green between Horniman Drive and Rocombe Crescent) with lanterns and fairy lights. We will have baked mince pies, mulled wine, and printed song sheets ready for our

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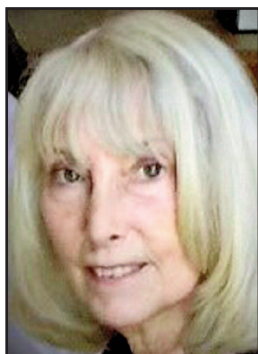


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Christmas event. Members and their families can join in singing traditional carols and seasonal songs from song sheets illuminated by hand-held candles in jars. We would love to have more singers and musicians to lead the singing, so if you would like to be involved

please call Bea Jackson on 020 8699 7143. All abilities/levels of singing/playing welcome.

The event is free to members and there will be a collection for the charity Crisis at Christmas. So come along between 5pm and 6.30pm and help us make this year's candlelight event even better.



*Valerie Ward
Chair*

Chair's report

Autumn – the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness according to Victorian poet John Keats. I look out of my window at a mist-shrouded view, and at our Autumn Harvest Lunch & Fruit Pressing event in October the mellow fruitfulness was very much in evidence! The apple crop on the Estate was so plentiful that the apple press could barely cope with turning the sheer amount of fruit brought by members into juice that no shop bought version could hope to match. Over 50 members and their children attended despite the threat of rain, and the sun even put in a brief appearance towards the end. My thanks to everyone who helped to make the event such a success.

Another huge thank you to Stuart Checkley who has worked so hard to make our Greening the Hill campaign such a success in such a short time - by next Spring, there will be 40 new trees planted on the streets of our Estate. Our thanks also to Dagmar Vesely who has been the Association's Treasurer since 2011 but will be resigning due to work and family commitments.

Finally, on behalf of the TLERA Committee, I would like to wish all our members a really happy Christmas and hope to see you at our annual Carols by Candlelight event later this month.

Valerie Ward

Keeping in touch

Do you want to know about the latest developments or get a recommendation for a good plumber? Our members-only Facebook group will put you in direct contact with a vibrant community of neighbours. Ask a question, let us know about something of interest, or find a tradesperson who has given good local results. Simply search for Tewkesbury Lodge Residents

Association or use the link at the bottom of one of our MailChimp messages and we will welcome you to the group.

Do you want more local updates? Follow us on Twitter @TewkesburyLodge for loads of news from the Estate and beyond.

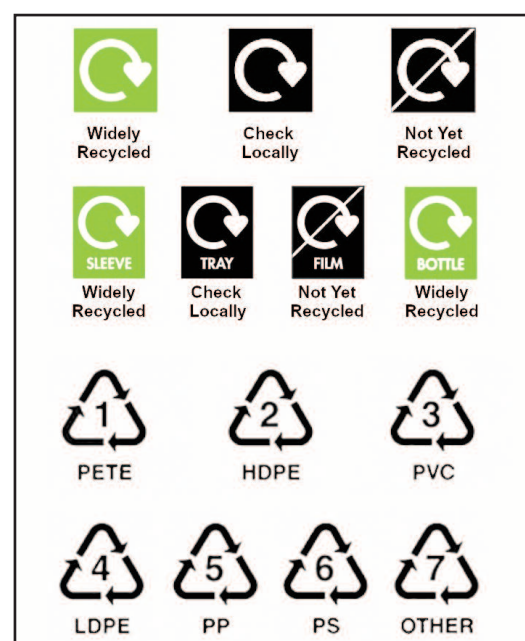
John Hudson

*Riddle me this...
Trying to solve the
puzzle that is "Urban
Kerbside Recycling"*

To recycle, or not to recycle?

Most of us are fine when it comes to recycling paper and metals, but plastic often presents something of a quandary. Some packaging is clearly marked with the 'widely recycled' symbol, others are labelled 'check local recycling', others with 'not yet currently recycled'. And others have no symbols at all...

So what can we put into our green bins? And what happens if we get it wrong? Will the load be treated as contaminated when it gets to the recycling centre and everything sent for incineration or landfill? These questions and more may be answered at our AGM early next year when we hope to have a speaker from Lewisham to take us through the do's and don'ts of recycling. Details in our next newsletter.



Valerie Ward

Keeping our Estate Clean

On 3rd November we carried out another litter pick, this time on Canonbie Road, Netherby Road and part of Westwood Park. Canonbie Road was closed for a Street Play session, so we were able to carry on without the hindrance of constant traffic. Despite rather unfavourable weather, about seven residents helped to collect three bags of rubbish - and we were able to introduce our newest 5-year old recruits!

We are planning to make litter picking on the Estate a regular event. The next one will be on 26th January. If you would like to come and help us keep our streets clean and tidy, we will meet at the Triangle in Horniman Drive at 2pm. In the meantime, if you notice a lot of litter on your street and would like to borrow the TLERA litter picks, call me on 07961 428303.

Dagmar Vesely



Never too young to learn how to "litter-pick"

Autumn Harvest event

The Autumn Harvest Lunch & Fruit Pressing went ahead in October despite an ominous sky threatening rain at any time. Although many might consider the key attraction of the autumn event to be the lunch, the star turn was actually the traditional community fruit pressing!

If last year there was a paucity of apples to press after a



prolonged drought, this year a hot summer followed by a great deal of rain meant there was a veritable plethora of locally grown fruit, with a constant stream of members arriving laden down with bags, bowls, and buckets full of apples to turn into juice. So it was all hands on deck to get the manual wooden fruit press up and running.

In previous years the apples had first to be peeled, cored, and cut up – a labour-intensive process. This time Dave Lowe had put together a device so that the apples could be crushed whole before being tipped into the muslin-lined barrel press, securing the lid and screwing it down hard. There was no shortage of eager volunteers of all ages to lend a hand feeding the hand-cranked crusher with chunks of apple to produce a pulp, and even operating the press



itself! The piles of fruit gradually diminished, so there were litres of fresh local apple juice to taste and take home. Even the left-over pulp was put to good use to feed the chickens, with the remainder going onto the compost heap.

The Tewkesbury Lodge Blend 2019 vintage was declared to be absolutely delicious - somehow sweeter than the apples themselves but still



retaining a hint of the original tartness and, of course, so much more flavoursome than shop-bought versions. Huge thanks must go to Dave Lowe for his crusher, and Maynard Firth, Dave Leslie, and Peter Bennett for valiantly manning the press for multiple refills.

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Apple processing with added ingenuity...



And who ordered the Quattro Stagione?

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But it wasn't all about apple pressing. Elsewhere, children were engaged in creative activities in and around the garden. They could choose from baskets of autumnal foliage, seed heads, and horse chestnuts to make paper plate leaf pictures. Others made lavender bags from local, fragrant dried flowers, while members of the Association's Garden Group were on hand to help those who preferred to plant a daffodil bulb in a pot to take home. The adults could also make floral decorations by spray painting dried



flowers and seed heads including teasels, poppy heads, honesty, twigs and berries.

All this activity meant that members were ready to enjoy a lunch prepared by the Association's talented team of cooks and bakers who had used seasonal produce to prepare a selection of soups with a choice of fabulous flavours: carrot and cardamom; spicy pumpkin; and broccoli and stilton. All accompanied by crusty bread, crudités, sweet potato wedges and English cheeses, and paired with our ultra-fresh apple juice or, for adults seeking something a little bit

stronger, a moreish mulled cider. The temptations of the sweet corner also proved irresistible with a scrumptious selection of cakes including: apple and almond, carrot, chocolate and beetroot.



Thanks to everyone who came along, and to all those volunteers who helped to make it such an enjoyable event. A special thank you goes to Frankie Locke for hosting it in her house and garden, and to Maria Branchini for organising the loan of that all important fruit press. Let's hope that next year's harvest is equally bountiful so that we can do it all over again!

Valerie Ward



My Autumn garden

For the most drama in the winter garden, my favourite is on the brightest of days when leaves turning colour from every shade of the richest yellows, oranges and reds put on an amazing display. It lasts for a long time as each plant has their own show to put on. When sunlight shines through the leaves you can just sit or stand and stare.

Purple berries are appearing on thin straight branches stretching out from the trunk at all angles from the Callicarpa Bodinieri shrub which my neighbour planted on the boundary line at the front a few years ago— lucky for me! Having been told it produces more abundantly if

you have a pair, we now have a pair – my neighbour planted a second one! My self-seeded hollies have red berries on this year for the first time so that is a lovely surprise. I keep them well pruned as they form supports for flowers and plants, and I put the cuttings down on beds to ward off cats and foxes. At the moment, dahlias are being supported on one side. They are magnificent with large burgundy heads, each with a yellow centre smiling out, and will continue until the frosts. I visited Gertrude Jekyll's garden with the TLERA Garden Group in early summer and was glad to see she had employed older plants as supports for the younger ones. I had a great

Bramley apple tree that had been around a long time but gave up last year. Most of it was cut down but I kept part of the trunk and have used it in situ as a support for a lovely white rose that is clambering up it as I write.

The very aromatic crimson pink salvia is sprawling about and full of flower and needs no attention at all. The variegated Fatsia Japonica with large finger-like leaves has produced clusters of cream pom-pom flower heads. I find anything white or cream at this time of year is of great value to lighten up a dull day and shine out until it gets dark. White Anemone Japonica is another gem in winter. The black leaves and large heads of Aeonium 'Zwartkop' is surviving well in a corner by the front door. The brick wall behind warms them during the day and holds the heat – you can see how happy it is with that! I have kept it there for several years now with a covering if it gets to below –5 degrees. And with winter now well and truly on its way,

I am looking forward to enjoying the view of my garden on a frosty morning, when bright sunlight magically turns the garden into a Winter Wonderland!

Alice Hutton



Callicarpa Bodinieri

Traffic and Transport Bakerloo Line consultation

Transport for London (TfL) is consulting the public about the Bakerloo line proposal until 22nd December.

As residents we should support this proposal, as it adds a new East/West interchange to New Cross Gate. The present consultation is about certain detailed changes to the proposal. In summary this now includes some extra tunnelling (from Lambeth North to Elephant), a

better interchange at Elephant with Thameslink and the Northern Line, a firmer proposal for an extension to Hayes and Beckenham, and a proposal to locate the tunnelling spoil extract works on the Sainsbury/rail site next to New Cross Gate station (which will therefore be closed for a few years). Please have your say on the proposals by logging in to the link below. <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/tube/bakerloo-extension/>

Dave Leslie

London City Airport consultation

In June, City Airport released its new draft Master Plan for consultation in which it proposed to:

- *Almost double the number of flights.* There are currently around 80,000 flights a year. The airport wants to lift the annual cap of 111,000 to 151,000 flights by 2030/35.
- *Get rid of the 24 hour weekend break.* Currently no flights are permitted between 12.30pm on Saturday and 12.30pm on Sunday.
- *Bring in more early morning and late night flights.*

These proposals raise significant concerns for the noise, air quality and carbon impacts on Londoners. Forest Hill already suffers more than many areas because we are overflowed by aircraft on approaches to both Heathrow and City airports at the same time on many days of the year. In 2016, City Airport introduced low

altitude, concentrated flight paths which has had a significant impact on many residents in terms of noise disturbance. In addition,

Heathrow, with or without a third runway, is undertaking a major reorganisation of its flight paths which could result in an additional 25,000 flights a year. The Association, together with concerned residents, took part in the Heathrow consultation process earlier this year.

If the City Airport proposals go ahead, the noise pollution will increase significantly with the near doubling of

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*More flights
= more noise
= more pollution*

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flights over our neighbourhood, planes flying throughout the weekend and more early morning and late evening flights. There are also concerns about the air quality and carbon impacts of the plan. The Association therefore responded to the City Airport consultation to object to any further increase in flight numbers until, at least, there are proposals to reduce the

The Birds and the Bees

You are being observed!

During the summer a pair of Peregrine Falcons took to using the Police aerial mast as a perch. These falcons have superb eyesight, and no doubt notice every activity in our neighbourhood as they search for their prey. Looking at one of them through high-powered binoculars, I



*Peregrine Falcons...
watch your backs,
Parakeets...!*

noticed that it was looking straight back at me - and was also very interested in our pet rabbit. These falcons are thought to be the fastest creatures on earth, capable of diving at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, as they swoop down to catch their prey in mid-flight. It was

crossing of low flying aircraft on flight paths to Heathrow. The loss of the 24 hour respite period at weekends and an increase in early and late flights was also opposed. The City Airport consultation ended on 18 October 2019 and it is expected that the final Master Plan will be published in January. Public consultation on flight path options will follow in due course.
Valerie Ward



reported by Wildlife London that they have been (amongst other things) preying on the growing local green parakeet population which may be one reason that they have become regular visitors to our area. Although Peregrine Falcons are widespread in the world, within London there are only 20 or so breeding pairs, so we can count ourselves fortunate to have such interesting visitors.

The best way to know when to look for them on the mast is to listen out for their distinctive and quite harsh call. When you hear it, please make sure your pet chickens and rabbits are safely locked away...

Dave Leslie

Let's hear it for the bees!

With its black and gold stripes, translucent wings and furry body, the bee is a common sight in our gardens buzzing from flower to flower pollinating our plants. We all know the honeybee and bumblebee, but may not know there are over 250 different types of bee in the UK. Bees are vital to pollinate many of our vegetables and fruits as well as the crops that feed our livestock. Unfortunately, bees are in decline as they face many threats, including habitat loss due to urban development and the use of toxic pesticides. Extreme weather is also a contributory factor as it disrupts bee nesting behaviour and alters the normal seasonal timings when flowers may bloom earlier or later than expected.

Providing shelter for bees by creating or buying a bee and insect house and hanging it up in a sunny sheltered spot in your garden is one way to help our bees, as is not using pesticides in

your garden. However, one of the easiest ways is to fill your gardens with a few types of nectar-rich plants such as lavender, rosemary, daffodils, crocuses, primroses, wallflowers, ox-



eye daises, penstemon, and foxgloves. Rhododendron, viburnum, and mahonia will also attract the bees as will the blossom of crab apple trees – the 13 planted as part of our Greening the Hill campaign is helping out there!

Valerie Ward

*Wait, wait, there's still
a bit in there... if only
I could squeeze...*

News from the Horniman Museum

Christmas is almost upon us, so for present ideas why not try the Horniman Christmas Market – a special, themed market on Sunday 15 December? This year there will be even more stalls selling fresh produce and Christmas treats, as well as sustainable design and craft stalls for Christmas gift shopping.



If you're minded to make your own gifts this year, why not take some inspiration from *Stages of Making*, which places the materials, acts and processes of making things centre stage? Exhibits are displayed at various points of production – from raw materials and experimental samples through to completed work, including a rag rug woven from more than 750 used t-shirts. You can even try your hand at some of the techniques used in the exhibition, at one of the free *Making Time* workshops, daily from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30 to 4pm – just drop into the exhibition in The Studio to join in. *Stages of Making* has a strong environmental theme, focusing on reuse and recycling – from the rag rug to composite plastic table-tops made from yogurt pots and refrigerator trays.

Similarly, the environment is at the heart of the Horniman's newest exhibition, *Meltdown*:

Visualizing the Climate Crisis (23 November to 12 January). Meltdown's photographs and artworks emphasise the importance of glaciers in a scientific, illustrative, and dramatic way. The featured works range in scale from the planetary level to microscopic biological detail, with artistic interpretations giving visitors unique insights into the world's cryosphere.

Head next door to the Music Gallery and you'll find Ed Sheeran's guitar on loan to the Horniman from the man himself. The guitar was played during the singer-songwriter's 2015 North American tour promoting his phenomenally successful album *x* (Multiply), and was used for songs such as 'Photograph' and 'One'. It's inlaid with multiplication symbols as well as a gecko made of abalone (a copy of one of Ed Sheeran's tattoos).

Finally, for this winter, check out our Christmas storytelling featuring *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. Sandal Sticks Theatre use song and puppetry alongside traditional storytelling in this magical retelling of the classic fairy tale. *The Elves and the Shoemaker* is on two weekends in December 7-8 and 14-15, and costs £5 per child and £2.50 for adults. Tickets are available now at horniman.ac.uk

And we'll leave you with a look ahead to 2020 and *Permian Monsters: Life before the Dinosaurs*. In this fascinating, family-friendly exhibition, you'll meet monsters from 250 million years ago – fearsome sabre-toothed predators, giant insects, and bizarre-looking sharks. Come face to face with fossil skeletons, full-size models and animatronics that bring the extraordinary creatures of the Permian period back to life. The exhibition also includes interactive dig pits, an adventure trail around the show, and an art area, and it opens on 15 February. Keep your eyes on the website for advance tickets.

Alison McKay
PR & Media Officer

Recycling from rags to rugs

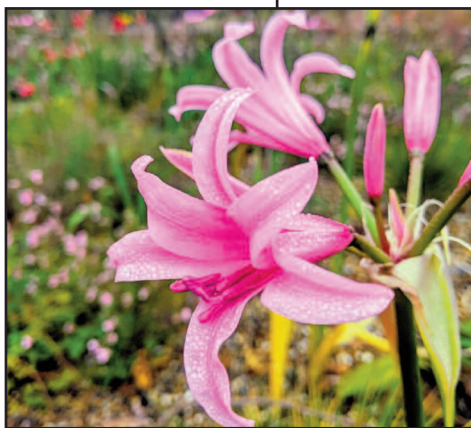
News from Horniman Gardens

At this time of year, the Horniman Gardens team is preoccupied with leaves! We love our trees, but the autumn leaf fall is time-consuming for us, keeping the site clear and tidy. Instead of getting out the leaf blowers we try and mulch the leaves into the grass with our ride-on lawn mower. This works really well because it not only saves us a lot of time but also provides a nice organic mulch that will break down and feed the grass.

The leaves we do collect (from pathways for example) get recycled through our brilliant compost heap along with all other green waste, not to mention food waste from the Café and animal waste from the Animal Walk. To allow the waste to break down quickly, we get in there with the tractor every few days to turn and mix it, which allows the addition of oxygen and water and speeds up decomposition. The heat generated kills most weed seeds and pathogens, and it

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Nerines flourishing in the Grassland Garden

even gets hot enough to cook a potato (really - Gardens Keeper Richard recently buried one in the heap and two days later he had a perfectly cooked baked potato for his lunch!). The finished compost is known to gardeners as black gold, and is used to mulch our borders, helping to suppress weeds, conserve moisture, and feed the soil. If you are lucky enough to have a garden, I hope this might persuade you

to start composting if you don't already.

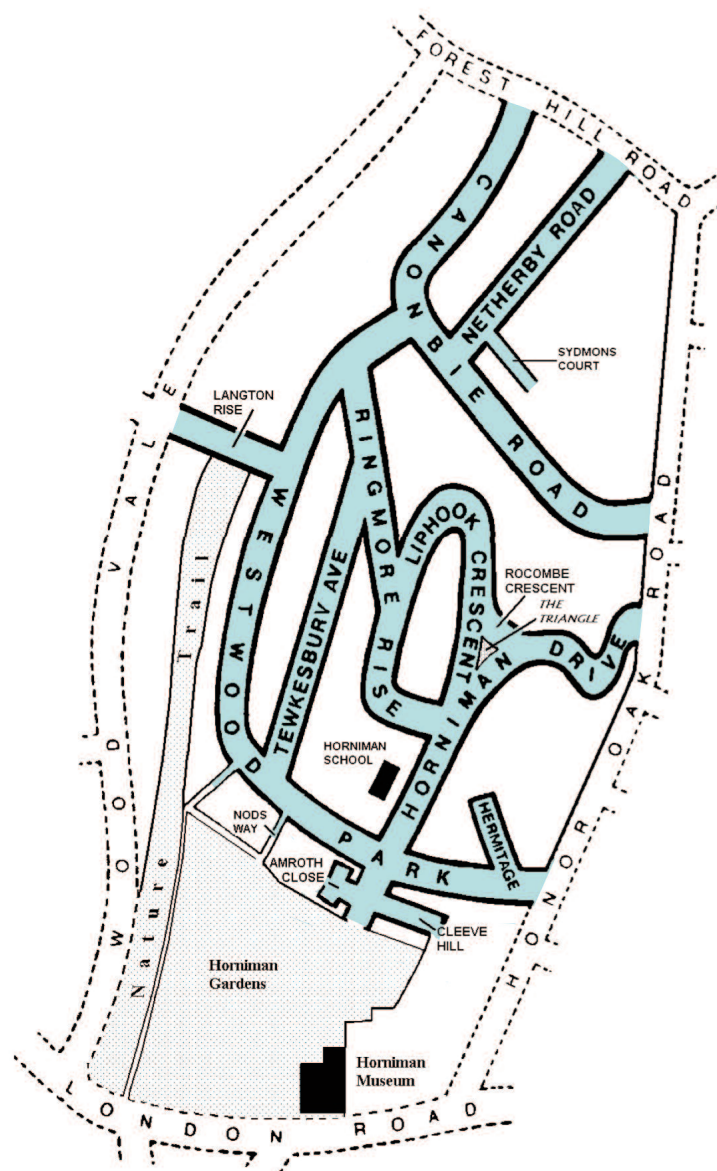
If you've been into the Gardens recently you will have seen that the Lego-inspired summer

bedding display in the Sunken Garden has been replaced with mixed forget-me-nots and about 5,000 tulip and daffodil bulbs, all done with the help of the awesome horticultural students from Capel Manor College's Crystal Palace campus. The planting should start coming into flower around February and carry on through to April and early May.

If you need some horticultural therapy while you wait for the first winter bulbs to appear, I strongly recommend you take a stroll round the Grassland Garden. There are a few species still flowering and the seed heads on the grasses and the North American prairie plants look stunning.

Wes Shaw

Head of Horticulture



This newsletter was compiled and edited by Valerie Ward, and proof read by Carole Abrahams. Design and layout by Michael Schlingmann. Contributions from members are very welcome and can be e-mailed to us at secretary@tewkesburylodge.org.uk