

COMING UP

After the glamour of Alan Titchmarsh, the Christmas Season, and the coldest winter for thirty years, normal service is now resumed with the Society's continuing programme of speakers.

Thursday 18th February at 7.30 pm in The Coronation Hall

We are very pleased to welcome Martin Kelley of Fairwater Ltd, Ashington who will talk about Water Gardens. The company works closely with a number of today's eminent garden designers and leading landscape architects to create a wide range of features from small domestic ponds to large informal lakes and streams across both the UK and into Europe. It sounds a promising evening for us.

Thursday 18th March at 7.30 pm in The Coronation Hall

For our final speaker of the current programme we are delighted to have another experienced Head Gardener – Garry Liddle – from the National Trust estate of Petworth. Garry has been in post for some ten years at the renowned and extensive grounds and formal gardens. He has also collected many memories of the former Head Gardener, Fred Streeter, a famous radio gardener of the 50s and 60s.

Thursday 22nd April. Garden Visit to Cookscroft, Earnley PO20 7JG

at 2.00 pm. Charge £7 to include tea.

This interesting and developing five acre garden was created from fields in 1988 by the owners, working at weekends. They have collections of eucalyptus, birch and snake bark maple trees, as well as unusual shrubs, three ponds with water falls, a cottage garden and a Japanese garden and, recently, a woodland area.

Directions: the garden is six miles south of Chichester. At end of Birdham Straight on A286 from Chichester, take left fork to East Wittering B2198. After a mile, before sharp bend, turn left into Bookers Lane and Cookscroft is second house on left.

RAINFALL

The very wet November continued into December, giving us overall the wettest year since 2002 and a prelude to January's serious snowfalls. No sign of climate warming, and we are naturally concerned about the survival of semi-hardy plantings we have enthusiastically embraced in recent years!! We shall just have to wait and see. (1 inch= 25.4 mm).

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2004	108.0	19.8	47.9	101.1	57.2	28.1	42.5	103.8	42.2	147.8	157.0	76.4	931.8
2005	53.7	25.6	48.7	48.3	39.4	39.3	105.7	53.2	53.9	114.6	70.1	85.7	728.2
2006	24.0	53.6	70.4	51.0	83.7	5.7	32.4	49.8	88.0	146.3	81.1	101.4	787.4
2007	63.9	131.0	58.5	1.8	114.5	104.3	99.0	56.0	22.5	39.4	111.5	65.0	867.4
2008	112.3	20.2	87.0	75.8	87.0	32.3	65.6	88.7	100.1	72.7	106.7	49.6	898.0
2009	117.5	83.5	39.5	57.5	43.3	29.2	103.9	18.2	21.3	76.4	235.4	144.4	970.1
Total	479.4	333.7	352.	336	425.1	238.9	449.1	369.7	328	597.2	761.8	522.5	5183
Mean	79.9	55.6	58.7	56	70.85	39.8	64.2	52.8	46.9	85.3	127.0	87.1	863.8

Patron: John Brookes MBE President: Anne Hewat Vice-Presidents: Jacintha Hutton, Faith Harris

Executive Committee Chair: Anne Hewat Secretary: Phil Berry Treasurer: John Clark

Speaker Programme: John Clark Membership Secretary: Brian Lloyd Outings Team: Anna Fulford-Brown, Lindy Owen-Ellis

Committee Members: Sally Cathrall, Peter Forster, Mike Imms, Wiets Botes

Quarterly Editor: Jill Gurney jgurney@doctors.org.uk or 01243 543 502