**Details of Gardening Club meetings for Hartest Website events pages**

**January 6th 7.30pm**

**“Digging for Victory – The Wartime Garden” – Dr. Twigs Way**

Twigs is a researcher and writer and has worked in the historic landscape field for over 30 years. She is a regular contributor to Gardens Illustrated magazine and the BBC's Countryfile programme. She also works closely with Historic England and Natural England as well as designing courses for the Cambridge Botanic Gardens. Her talk will use images to explore the campaign that got everyone growing during the war and explore the characters, the slogans, and the humour from ‘Cloches versus Hitler’ to corsets in the compost. Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**February 3rd 7.30pm**

**“Winter Plants” – Helen Worvill**

Helen has a small nursery where she grows and propagates winter interest shrubs, sub-shrubs and herbaceous perennials to give year-round interest. She sells her plants at sales in Norfolk and Suffolk. She has been in horticulture for around 30 years and describes running her little nursery, named 'Helen's 4 Seasons Plants', as her dream job. Helen will bring a variety of plants with her. These will be laid out as a border to demonstrate her talk which will also be accompanied by slides. Plants will be available to buy. Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**March 2nd 7.30pm**

**“Designing an Herbaceous Border – Helen Hillier**

Helen trained as a florist and had a business in London doing event and corporate floristry. She moved to Norfolk to study Horticulture at the Study Centre at Seamere and started her small Nursery growing herbaceous plants alongside a garden maintenance business.  The nursery isn't open to the public but she sells at Plant Fairs and hosts nursery visits from Horticultural Societies, Flower Clubs etc. She will be discussing the design and construction of an herbaceous border and will include a demo of propagation techniques with the cuttings donated to the raffle.  Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**April 6th 7.30pm**

**“Easy Ways to Better Gardening” – Adam Pascoe**

Adam is a very well-known and respected garden writer and broadcaster. He launched the BBC Gardener's World Magazine in 1991 and was editor for 22 years. He now edits the Waitrose Garden magazine. He works across all media including radio, television and online as well as attending live events. He will be talking about how to make gardening easier. Something we will all benefit from so don't miss hearing top tips from an expert in his field. Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**May 3rd 2.00pm**

**PLANT SALE**

Our main fund-raising event. Bring your surplus vegetable, fruit and flower plants along, and then buy some new! Refreshments and a tombola. Free entry

**May 4th 7.30pm**

**“Wish I’d Known When I Started Out” – Sally Hepher**

Sally is a lifelong keen gardener. She joined the RHS in 1986 and has been to every Chelsea Flower Show since. She is now on her third garden which she designed herself from scratch on part of an old apple farm. She did a horticulture degree at Writtle College after working in the city. She then worked for a decade, part-time, at 'The Place for Plants'. Sally will be talking about practical gardening covering some elements of garden layout, soil, compost, mulch, tools, safety, horror plants, weeds, etc. This will be an amusing as well as informative look at the trials and tribulations of being a gardener.

Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**June 1st 7.00pm**

**West Lodge, Bradfield St. George, 7.00pm**

A south facing 2 acre garden surrounding a house built in 1870 with Wellingtonia trees thought to be the same age. Herbaceous beds surround a large lawn which falls away to a lake which is home to ducks, kingfishers and geese. There are dedicated wildlife areas, a bog garden, and willow arch and igloo structures. There is also a small orchard with bee hives, a large walled kitchen garden, a 'Secret' garden and Bertie's garden which Bertie the horse can see from his stable window! This is a lovely garden, full of interest so please do come along. £7.50 entry includes drinks and cakes in aid of the Church.

**July 6th 7.00pm**

**Moat House, Little Saxham - 7.00pm**

This is a 2 acre garden developed over 30 years into formal areas edged with box and more relaxed beds that curve round the garden. Other features include a pool, a secret garden, lovely trees and ornaments, from pans of succulents, out-sized pots to sculptural weathered wood. And there are lovely views across the moat to the pastures of Ickworth Park. And all this achieved whilst trying to combat honey fungus and box blight. A really inspiring garden. £9.00 entry includes drinks and cakes in aid of the NGS.

**August 3rd 7.30pm**

**“Self-Sufficiency from Your Garden” – Nigel Start**

Nigel has previously given great talks to our group and this is bound to be another one not to be missed. He has been producing all his own fruit and vegetables for the last 30 years so if we want to know how to do self-sufficiency he's our man! And, even if you don't want to go that far, being able to grow even a small amount of what you eat is a very satisfying experience knowing exactly where your food comes from. Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**September 7th 7.30pm**

**“Late Summer/Autumn Colour” – Ben Thomas**

Ben's passion for plants began at the age of 12 years old. He has worked, for the last 20 years, as the Manager of a large, local wholesale plant nursery but he and his wife and also run a business called 'Ben and Lulu's Plants' in East Harling. He will bring several of his favourite plants to demonstrate his talk and they will be for sale. Ben has come highly recommended as an engaging and lively speaker so do come along for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening. Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**September 11th 6.00pm – 7.00pm**

**FLOWER, VEGETABLE & PRODUCE SHOW**

Come along and have a go - there are classes for everyone: Vegetables, Fruit, Grown Flowers, Flower Arrangements, Handicrafts and Baking & Preserving.

Exhibits can be brought to the Institute this evening from 6pm to 7pm.

The list of classes will be available from April, at Gardening Club meetings, or on their website

**September 12th 9.30am – 4.00pm**

**FLOWER, VEGETABLE & PRODUCE SHOW**

Come along and have a go - there are classes for everyone: Vegetables, Fruit, Grown Flowers, Flower Arrangements, Handicrafts and Baking & Preserving.

Exhibits can be brought along today from 9.30am until 11am. We are open again in the afternoon, for prize giving, a raffle and refreshments.

The list of classes will be available from April, at Gardening Club meetings, or on the website

**October 5th 7.30pm**

**"Dry Shade” – Jay Williams**

Jay is one half of the very successful partnership that is 'Hedgehog Plants' based in Risby. After a variety of jobs Jay and Simon moved in 2003, into horticulture full time. In 2015 they decided they needed their own nursery where Jay has specialised in shade-loving plants and Simon in Viburnums and Cornus. They had a visit from Roy Lancaster, for an article in the RHS Garden Magazine (Aug 2018), and have been featured on BBC's Gardener's World whilst showing at the Malvern Flower Showground. (May 2019) They have won many medals, at shows around the country, and this will be a very informative and useful talk as our weather seems to get drier every year. Entry £2 for members, £3 for non-members.

**November 2nd 7.30pm**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by “The Poor Man’s Garden Encyclopedia” – Brian Aket**

From the late 19th Century to World War 2 cigarette companies produced thousands of sets of picture cards covering a multitude of subjects. Many of these included cards associated with plants and gardening. Brian will speak about the history and development of these cards and show examples of those with a gardening subject. Cigarette cards collectively were known as The Poor Man's Encyclopedia. This talk will illustrate the accuracy of this label as it relates to gardens and gardening. All members are invited to bring along any cards of any subject they own to have them dated and informally valued.

Brian has lived in Suffolk for 35 years and was a headmaster in Horringer for 20yrs. Not only does he collect cigarette cards he also has a passion for a rather larger items in the form 3 vintage pre-war cars.

Free entry.

**December 7th 7.30pm**

**CHRISTMAS MEAL**

Including the “Gardening Brain of Hartest” Quiz!