



Growing together™

Yorkshire Show triumph for HG

The Yorkshire Growers Group of the NFU have coordinated the display this year that has included ornamentals with their usual 'produce'. Their great efforts have been rewarded with a prize from the judges.

Home Grown growers have displayed their beautiful flowering plants at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate. The display organised by the Yorkshire Growers group combined the range of fine ornamental flowering plants with the produce from many growers throughout the country. In order to spread the word about the Home Grown initiative the show will feature new and interesting plants from a number of growers, especially those from within Yorkshire and tell something about the production methods used. You can read more about them on a separate page devoted to this information:

<http://www.homegrownplants.org.uk/home/great-yorkshire-show-2016>

The growers who produced the plants for this display are making the highest quality flowering plants for gardeners all over the country. Several companies have got together at this

year's Great Yorkshire Show under the Home Grown banner to show what they can do and tell visitors about their modern, environmentally sensitive production methods. Such a company is Coletta & Tyson of Woodmansey near Beverley (East Yorkshire); they are suppliers to B&Q for bedding and other seasonal plants. They have supplied their **easyecoplant™** and this has been incorporated in the display. Also from the area, plants have been donated from:

Aldby Field Nursery
Earley Ornamentals
Ravensworth Nurseries

Who have also supported the effort with staff to build up and manage the stand on show days.

Plants have also been supplied by:

Toddington Nurseries
Binsted Nursery
Hill Brothers
Pinetops Nurseries
Cobbins Nurseries

We are very grateful to all the companies for making this possible and to Mike Prest and his colleagues in Yorkshire for coordinating the design and construction.

Jamie 'S'

Jamie Satterthwaite (Peter Seabrook Bursary student from 2014, seen here trying out his kilt before an evening for student gardeners at Cultivate 16) writes of his experiences during his internship at Raker's Acres in Michigan:

First week at Rakers!

Wow!! was my initial reaction on my



morning tour. With 11 acres of climate controlled greenhouse and almost the same again in trial gardens, Rakers is truly a wonder to behold. After my watering and moisture management training, which is very good, it was straight to work on as an official legal alien. Happy to be in the grow team, my week's activities included watering edges with the Wander Wand!! feeding benches, inserting feed sticks, mixing up fertiliser, fixing irrigation equipment, performing water quality checks and helping with crop walk rounds.

A description of the floor layout might

(Continued on page 4)



Chairman's Notes



Greg Hill

So, what does a grower association affiliated to the NFU do for the ornamental horticulture industry?

It is always a challenge to fully align our priorities with those of the fruit and veg sector: getting people to fully appreciate the importance of freshness and quality outside of the edible produce sector is hard, no matter how much happiness ornamental plants bring.

But as a wise Chinese scholar one said,

"when you have only two pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one and a lily with the other."

Our remit is to ensure that we champion all the serious issues affecting British growers of protected ornamental plants, whether produced under simple glass or high tech plastic, as well as the needs of its allied trade members throughout this diverse area of horticulture.

The strengths of the association lie in the dedication of its technical committee, which aims to ensure that R&D priorities remain focused and relevant and, in its marketing strategy, to help members businesses stay informed in what continues to be a challenging sector.

The BPOA's close relationships with the AHDB and ADAS ensure that the latest industry knowledge is shared with members either online, via our newsletters, or at our annual conferences and technical seminar days.

It's never an easy task to try and be the voice of an entire industry and the BPOA recognises that there are always different views across its membership. Where it succeeds is through its tireless efforts to unite the industry through support of both regional and

national events, such as promoting the industry through displays at the RHS shows and the Great Yorkshire Show.

It also works with the NFU and its national horticulture board to lobby for change on political issues affecting all its members' day to day business activities: from plant health to supporting seasonal workers and the national living wage.

There has rarely been a more collaborative part of the industry. This close working relationship between members means that as an organisation we strive to help navigate the challenges that the sector faces and regularly organise visits and study tours to seek out best practice at home and abroad.

Last year's study trip to the USA helped demonstrate how a very different approach to marketing can yield positive benefits to both growers and retailers alike. These learning experiences will ensure that the industry continues to evolve and remain successful.

With the continued support of the NFU, this colourful part of the industry should be in a good position to rise up and face the coming challenges.

Greg Hill

US Study Tour 2017

After the successful AHDB/BPOA study tour of the Eastern coast of the USA in 2015,



Northwest Horticulture - Mount Vernon WA

a second week-long study tour has now been finalised for 19th-27th February 2017. This time it will be to the North Western coast of the USA (Washington and Oregon states) and Canada.

(once again in association with The

Independent Traveller).

Bedding & Herbaceous

The study tour will feature both bedding and herbaceous plant production and cover a diverse range of businesses supplying both independent garden centres and 'box stores' along with retailers of various sizes. The businesses which will be visited as part of the study tour will be of a scale of production and technical sophistication that UK growers will be able to readily relate to. Visits are planned to all the key nurseries in the area including North West Horticulture, Rainbow Greenhouses Inc., Smith Gardens and Terra Nova.

The tour itinerary has been planned by Mike Smith with the support of Wayne Brough.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/863456190457284/>

Booking information

The total cost of the study tour is £1,739.00 per person, based on two sharing a room, with a single supplement of £525.00 per person. A deposit of £500.00 per person will be required upon booking, with the full balance payable by 16 November 2016. Any bookings made after this date (subject to space) will require payment of the full cost. There will be a monetary discount per person applied, as the cost of the coach will be covered by AHDB Horticulture, this will be issued as a credit note or deducted from the final invoice.

Booking :

If you want to join the 2017 study tour or have questions about it, please phone Tracey or Malcolm at The Independent Traveller on 01509 618800. They can answer any queries and go through the necessary booking procedure. For out of hours contact, email holidays@unitravel.co.uk.



Grace Hurrell, Tesco Stores Ltd, receives the Home Grown Retailer Award 2016 with David Ball and Greg Hill

Tesco takes retail Home Grown prize

This year's award was presented by Andy McIndoe at the National Plant Show to Grace Hurrell representing Tesco Stores Ltd. **Tesco Stores says** "British Growers are the lifeblood of the UK horticultural industry and we are very proud of the quality, service and value that our growers deliver. It is hugely important that we support our British growers, in order that they are able to continue to invest and grow. In turn this enables us to deliver

such fantastic quality plants to our customers whilst being close enough to the range to have insight into future developments, ideas and trends." **Richard Priestley of Neame Lea Nurseries commented that the success of this season has been due to the hard work of their own staff and the commitment of Tesco and their Plants Buying Manager, Harriet Turnbull, in promoting and merchandising UK grown bedding.**

AGM 2017 & Spring Conference

BPOA, APL and HTA are collaborating by holding conferences and a seminar together at Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire, on 17 and 18 January 2017 bringing growers and landscapers together.

HTA Contact Conference, the BPOA Spring conference and AGM and the APL seminar will run alongside each other at the same venue for the first time. Participants will get the chance to attend the dinner as well as talks, presentations and workshops at each organisation's respective events.



Details and booking forms will be sent out shortly.

Members are keen that the industry be seen to be working together for the benefit of all; there are also a number of areas where there will be synergies that result in economies for our organisations and enhance the experience for attendees.

Upcoming events

- ⇒ **Spring Conference & AGM 2017—**
Tuesday January 17th & Wednesday 18th Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire
- ⇒ **Plantarium** - 24 to 27 August 2016, Boskoop, The Netherlands.
- ⇒ **Four Oaks Trade Show** - 6-7 September 2016, Lower Withington, Macclesfield, Cheshire.
- ⇒ **AHDB/BPPC South coast study tour** - 14 & 15 September 2016
- ⇒ **IPPS European Region Conference 'From start to finish'** - 28-30 Sept. 2016, Park House Hotel, Telford.
- ⇒ **South West Growers** - 5 October 2016, Matford Centre, Exeter.
- ⇒ **Gro South**— Wednesday 9th November 2016, Roundstone Nurseries, Chichester, West Sussex.
- ⇒ **IPM Essen 2017**— Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th January
- ⇒ **Burston Nurseries Primrose Festival** February 2017
- ⇒ **Western US & Canada Study Tour**: 19th-27th February 2017

Bendt Nielsen

Bendt H. Nielsen passed away peacefully on 29th June at Eastbourne Hospital, aged 82, following a short illness.

A leading horticulturist before retirement, Bendt Nielsen ran Nielsen Plants at Danecroft Nursery in Hellingly, East Sussex for many years and was a pioneer in growing pot plants in the UK. He was a well-known face in the industry and prominent in plant producer organisations.

Pioneer

Starting his career in the UK growing tomatoes, with his switch to pot plants became a major success in the plant production industry. He grew plants including the first Rieger begonias in the UK, campanula, pot roses, pot chrysanthemum, schlumbergera and poinsettia; he was an early producer of decorated mini Christmas trees for multiple sales. He was supported by his wife Pat, who looked after marketing. Danish by birth, Bendt used his many contacts to increase the range of products available as well as the technological improvements in glasshouse automation and environment control. He was a supporter of the Pot Plant Growers Association (which combined with the Bedding Plant Growers in 1992) and received the Kentia Palm Award in 2001 for his efforts in the industry.

Biological

He was also advanced in the use of predators for insect pest control and developed a labelling scheme to tell consumers about the methods being used to produce plants with less chemicals.

Legacy

Bendt was acknowledged as a skilled grower and one of his major legacies to plant production was the training and development of a good number of today's nursery crop managers who have gone on to work in this sector's leading businesses throughout the country.

Simon Davenport

(Jamie S- Continued from page 1)

better help the reader's understanding; the site is split into three main areas of grow space along several main laterals. The West (+ far west), The East (+ Far East) and the Amazon (+ukon). Around these areas is the shipping, start facilities and the propagation house.

The management of the grow team is a little different from what I am used to. Firstly there are several levels of growers: a new grower, basic and advanced, they all fall under three section leaders; one for each area and a head grower oversees all processes. The nursery has three pesticide mixing areas and two chemical cupboards....Read more of Jamie's blog at <http://www.homegrownplants.org.uk/blog/jamie-s-gives-a-first-impression-of-rakers-acres415>

Burston Primrose Festival

Burston Nurseries Plc & Rudy Raes Bloemzaden invite you to their Primrose Festival February 2017

The festival will be held at Burston Nurseries Plc in St Albans. The purpose of the festival is to provide visitors the opportunity to view primroses from *Rudy Raes Bloemzaden* in a true commercial environment.

More than 100 different primrose varieties will be displayed in a range of containers; Jumbo, D6 packs, 2 litre, 10.5cm & 9cm pots. Our Off We also have some festival sponsors from the horticultural trades who will be represented and will be pleased to see you.



British Protected Ornamentals Association
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Growing together™



AHDB/BPPC South coast study tour - 14 and 15 September 2016

Various nurseries in W. Sussex and Hampshire. The study tour will focus on labour efficiency and automation in the supply chain and will include visits to Cobbins Nurseries, Farplants Distribution Centre, Roundstone Nurseries and Hill Brothers (day 1) and Pinetops Nurseries and Double H Nurseries (day 2).

New AHDB Horticulture EAMU -

EAMU 1810/2016 'T34 Biocontrol' (containing 12% w/w *Trichoderma asperellum*, strain T34) for use as a fungicide applied as a drench, peat/soil incorporation or via irrigation to control fusarium and pythium in container-grown ornamental plant production and forest nursery crops under permanent protection with full enclosure.

New AHDB project report - The final report for PO 016a - 'The role of environmental factors in the incidence of Pansy mottle syndrome (PaMS)' is now available on the AHDB Horticulture website.

AHDB information on the use of glyphosate - The Chemical Regulations Directorate (CRD) confirmed on 29th of June the approval for glyphosate use within the EU has been extended for a maximum of 18 months.

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