



PlantNetwork

The Plant Collections Network
of Britain & Ireland

PlantNetwork Annual Conference

'Skills and Standards'

Tuesday October 11th, Wednesday 12th October 2016

The Monastery, Gorton Lane, Manchester, M12 5WF

Delegates information

Timings

11th October 9.30 – 10.00am registration in the Pantry in the Monastery. Entry via far visitor entrance to the right of the marquee. 17.15pm – Day one talks finish.

12th October 9.30 start, 4pm finish.

The Monastery

Directions and map attached, including public transport details. The Monastery is just 15 mins by bus from the city centre. For info, taxi fare from Piccadilly station is about £8. I'd advise clear directions to the taxi drivers, including postcode, the venue doesn't seem to be that well known. There is free car parking at the Monastery and surrounding streets. There is another conference at the venue on the 11th so the car park may be busy on the first day.

Meeting up on October 10th

Many delegates are staying the evening before the conference. I will look into local venues and suggest somewhere we can meet up for a meal/drink for those who would like to. For those arriving earlier on the 10th I can recommend Manchester Museum, en route from city centre to The Monastery. The Museum's natural history collections, including botanical collections, have been re-presented and have created an innovative and thought provoking displays. <http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/yourvisit/galleries/thestudy/>

Conference dinner and Silent Auction 11th October

Meet at 19.00 at the Fairfield Arms, Audenshaw, 92 Manchester Road, Audenshaw M34 5GB, 2 miles east (away from Manchester) from the conference venue. Conference dinner is included in the conference price. I will circulate a menu next week for you to make advance choices.

Many of us will be staying in the same local hotels and during the day's sessions we will give delegates the option to organise shared taxis from their hotels to the Fairfield Arms.

Silent auction

We'll be holding a Silent Auction at the Fairfield Arms before and during the Conference Dinner on 11th October

This is a fun event, but we rely on you all to supply the lots – desirable items of horticultural, botanical, literary, culinary, or fashion interest – or anything else you can think of. The idea is simple: each item is displayed with a sheet of paper on which interested bidders write down their bid. Other people can bid for the same item by increasing their bid on the line below yours, and you can outbid others. The auction lasts an hour or so, and during that time bidding may become heated – so you need to keep an eye on any item you do bid for. Generally, everyone goes away with a bargain, and in so doing raises valuable funds for PlantNetwork – so everyone goes away happy.

If you are able, please bring a few items (old or new) that you think will appeal to other delegates. Delegates usually bring items from their shop at the garden or books, prints, clothing, guidebooks, tickets etc.

Please be sure that any material, including seed and established plants, that is donated to the Silent Auction (or exchanged at meetings) has been collected in compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity. PlantNetwork cannot condone plant collecting in contravention of the CBD.

Then, all you need is a cheque book or pocket full of cash with which to bid for all the wonderful items that other people have brought. Please bring your items with you to Registration or the conference dinner.

Resources

All talks will take place in the private chapel in the Monastery. Delegates will receive a resource booklet on the day which will include the full programme, speakers' bios and useful websites, resources and articles relating to the topics discussed. If you have relevant information to share, websites etc. that you have found useful for skills and standards at your garden please let Pam know by 1st October 2016.

Forum groups

During the conference we will be introducing our forum groups – existing and proposed: plant records, trees, glasshouses, propagation and botanical heritage. This will be a chance to discuss the topics with fellow delegates, raise issues and identify opportunities for future PlantNetwork training days. Talk to colleagues at your gardens and see if you have any suggestions for future training, topics and venues that you can bring to the discussion.

Twitter

We're tweeting @plantnetwork #horticskills before and during the conference – please join in.

I look forward to meeting you all in October. My contact details during the conference will be 07708 248333.

Best wishes,

Pam

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