

# theme brochure

ARTEMIS P814 GARDENING THEME CRUISE 30 SEPTEMBER - 30 OCTOBER 2008



## AN AMERICAN GARDENING ADVENTURE

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Welcome onboard Artemis and to our Gardening cruise. We are delighted to welcome onboard Britain's most distinguished media gardening expert Stefan Buczacki, Organic Gardener Hannah Genders and Chelsea Flower Show Gardener Chris Collins. Brian Fisher, John Negus and David Fitton MBE, we are pleased to announce will also be joining us as our experts during this American adventure and they will be delivering a series of talks on the wonderful world of gardening. Whether your interest lies with Classic Gardens and the RHS Show Gardens or if you would prefer to learn about organic and eco gardening or our gardener's own gardens, we have it all for you. From shrubs of distinction to winning water gardens, there is something for everyone. So sit back, relax and enjoy the cruise...



# BIOGRAPHIES



## Stefan Buczacki

Professor Stefan Buczacki is probably Britain's most distinguished media gardening expert - and certainly the most experienced - with a huge following of devoted fans who appreciate his

knowledge, authority and easy, relaxed style of communicating. He was educated at the Universities of Southampton (First Class Honours in Botany) and Oxford (Doctorate in Forestry) and as well as being a media personality, he is also a scientist with an international reputation and has received accolades, honorary degrees and awards for his research, writing, broadcasting and photography. He has particular expertise in fungi and is Past-President of the British Mycological Society, the largest learned society in the world devoted to their scientific study. Stefan has published almost sixty books on gardening and natural history - many of them standard reference works and most translated into several languages - and he is believed to be Britain's second biggest selling gardening author. A recent natural history book, the encyclopaedic *Fauna Britannica* which described the entire wild animal life of the British Isles and for which HRH The Prince of Wales wrote the Foreword was short listed for British Illustrated Book of the Year. He has also written for most national newspapers and leading magazines. Among his numerous broadcasting achievements, he appeared most famously on BBC Radio's *Gardeners' Question Time* as panellist and chairman for a unique unbroken run of over 600 broadcasts in twelve years, just part of a portfolio of well over 1,000 radio programmes. For three years he presented *Classic Gardening Forum* on Classic FM and devised, wrote and presented six series of the hugely successful programme *The Gardening Quiz* on Radio 4. He has also appeared on or presented around 1,000 television programmes, many featuring his own garden, on every British terrestrial television channel - *Gardeners' World*, *The Chelsea Flower Show*; he has done them all - and has presented several series on satellite stations. Less expectedly, Stefan is also deeply interested in modern British political history and is recognised internationally as an authority on Winston Churchill and his home at Chartwell.



## Chris Collins

Chris Collins is one of the country's leading horticulturists and the Blue Peter Gardener. He is a regular presenter on our screens whose introduction to television came when he was asked to front the BBC2 series *The*

*Plantsman*. Since then he has presented the *Chelsea & Hampton Court Flower Shows*, *BBC Breakfast News*, *Castle in the Country*, *This Morning* and *UKTV Gardens*. Chris writes a monthly column for *The Londoner*, is the face of the RHS's Schools Gardening initiative, the Horticultural Trade Association Plant for Life campaign and is a spokesperson for the Trees For Cities charity. He has been head Gardener at Westminster Abbey, worked at Kew Gardens, as well as botanical gardens in Edinburgh, Japan and West Africa. Last year Chris received the Prince Philip Medal for his contribution to horticulture, the highest accolade from the City & Guilds.



## Brian Fisher

Brian followed in his father's footsteps and began his working career at the London University Field Station at Ascot at the age of 15. He then trained at RHS Wisley 1969-1971, gaining the Wisley Diploma with Honours, and winning the top student award. After leaving Wisley he worked at the Berkshire College of Agriculture firstly as Horticultural Superintendent and then as Lecturer in Horticulture. In 1975 he achieved the RHS Master of Horticulture qualification and remained at BCA until 1992. A change in direction led Brian back into practical gardening work and for the last 13 years he has worked in a beautiful private garden near Maidenhead. He offers professional advice and lectures to Horticultural Societies, being listed on the RHS Speakers Register. His garden has been open under the National Garden Scheme, and he has travelled widely and discovered many exciting plants and gardens. Brian is a recognised plantsman, and over the last few years he has specialised in tropical and sub-tropical plants and gardens.

## BIOGRAPHIES



### Hannah Genders

Hannah has been growing her own fruit and vegetables for nearly twenty years, starting with an allotment in South Birmingham where she learnt all the basics and now in her own garden in Worcestershire.

Her passion comes from a childhood growing up on a sustainable farm in Somerset where they produced all their own meat, milk, cheese, fruit and vegetables. As a consequence Hannah loves gardening but has a strong aversion to goats cheese and milk, having been fed too much of it when she was younger! In her current work as a landscape designer she includes fruit and vegetable gardens whenever she can.



### John Negus

John Negus started his long career in horticulture as a student at the Merrist Wood Horticultural College, Guildford, in 1956. He passed out of that establishment with distinction, and went on to RHS Wisley, where he

gained a Wisley Diploma in 1961. Between 1964 and 1967 he was sub-editor for *Home Gardener*, before taking up an appointment as Horticultural Information Officer at Syon Park, Brentford. He left there to become Technical Editor of *Popular Gardening* in 1972 and then, from 1985 onwards chose a freelance career writing for magazines as diverse as *Woman's Realm* and *Womens' Weekly*, for whom he is the Gardening Editor. He lectures regularly for Forest Mere Hydro and other gardening societies and in recent years has lectured on several cruise ships where he has achieved popular acclaim and he presents a range of talks with titles as diverse as *Going Dutch* to *Gardening with Distinction*, the *London Spectacular* (Chelsea Flower Show) to *Foreign Climes*, *The gardens of Madeira and Tenerife*, along with a host of others.



### David Fitton MBE

Born on the Fylde Coast in Lancashire, David established an early interest in plants and flowers. On leaving school in 1962 his career in Horticulture started as an Apprentice Gardener with Blackpool Parks Department gaining

practical experience in the nursery and gardens. He continued his training and education as a Student Gardener at the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at Wisley in Surrey, Writtle College in Essex and Alsager College of Education. His first position of responsibility was as a Lecturer in Horticulture at Reaseheath College in Cheshire teaching part time students in amenity horticulture and amateur gardeners. This was followed by a period as Horticultural Manager with Bournemouth Parks Department in charge of nursery production, planting schemes and fine turf areas. Moving on as a Senior Lecturer in Horticulture at Sparsholt College in Hampshire to run parks training courses and develop full time courses. For some ten years he held the post of Head of Horticulture at Plumpton College in East Sussex, responsible for staffing, curriculum development and management of practical facilities. In 1995 he set up a comprehensive Garden Advisory Service offering a garden planning and horticultural consultancy. He is Garden Adviser to Paradise Park, a large garden centre and tourist attraction on the South Coast and InfoGenie, a gardening helpline. David gives talks to garden clubs and horticultural societies, is a broadcaster on BBC local and regional radio, garden leader for specialist tour operators and a guest speaker on cruise ships.

## P&O CRUISES

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All artistes and programme are subject to change.