

overview of each fruit or vegetable crop, whilst part five deals with pests and diseases. Part six looks at crop rotations, looking after the soil and caring for the structure of the tunnel, whilst the final part is a DIY chapter on compost making, liquid feed, hotbeds and the like.

The information is presented in a clear, concise fashion. It's pretty comprehensive, and the photographs are attractive and encouraging; all in all, a helpful and useful addition to my kitchen bookshelf.

**Joyce Russell will be our guest author in January*

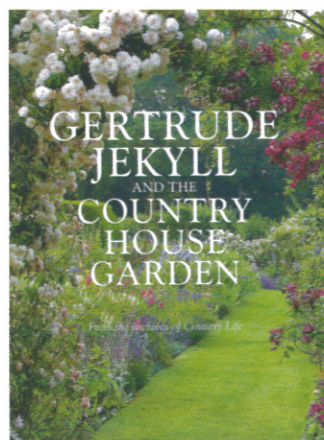
PHLOX

James H Locklear

**Published by Timber Press
hardback, 316 pages, £35
ISBN 978-0-88192-934-8**

Subtitled 'a natural history and gardener's guide', this book claims to be the first comprehensive horticultural account of the genus *Phlox*, which, I discover to my surprise, contains 61 species, all but two of them native to North America. Curiously, Jim Lockyear has been a Director of two arboreta in the US for most of his horticultural career, though he has written extensively on the plants and ecology of the Great Plains for gardening and natural history publications.

Lockyear's book begins with an overview of the genus



– botanical history, horticultural history and a key to the genus – and then plunges into accounts of all 61 species. For each there is a delightful description of the plant in its natural habitat, a thorough botanical description, some taxonomic notes and a description of the geographical spread, environment and plant associations in which it grows. Finally there are cultivation notes to help growers to duplicate the natural habitat of the plant in question.

Although this is a scholarly work, Lockyear writes in a gentle style, his descriptions are full of enthusiasm and he is clearly charmed both by the genus and the landscapes in which it grows. Even if you don't have any *Phlox* in your garden (and you will want some after you've read this book) it makes a fascinating and enjoyable read.

GERTRUDE JEKYLL AND THE COUNTRY HOUSE GARDEN

Judith B Tankard

**Published by
Aurum Press
hardback, 208 pages, £30
ISBN 978-1-84513-624-6**

Gertrude Jekyll was one of the most influential gardeners of the twentieth century, a writer and designer who collaborated with Sir Edwin Lutyens and other important Arts & Crafts architects to produce some of the finest gardens in the

country. This new book about her work, which includes extracts from some of her writings, is produced in the *Country Life Archives* series, detailing garden plans together with many fine black and white photographs from the time.

There are five themed chapters – Home & Garden, Gardens Old & New, Gardens for Small Country Houses, Colour in the flower Garden, and Garden Ornament – where numerous gardens are described, including Hestercombe, Lindisfarne Castle, Mount Stewart and Munstead Wood, Jekyll's own garden. Some she wrote about in articles for *Country Life*, whilst others were designed by her and are described by the author.

Compiled by Judith Tankard, a landscape historian, author and preservation consultant, this is an easy book to read, full of interesting anecdotes, quotes and other details but frustratingly lacking in any in-depth information on the plants that Jekyll used to create her trademark effect. For that, you will have to read some of Gertrude Jekyll's own books...

Quiz answers



Photo challenge

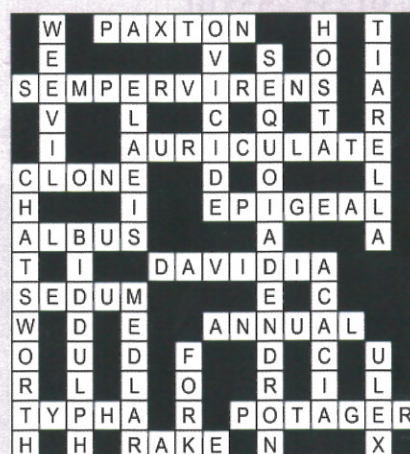
In the April *Journal*, George Thorpe asked members to guess the purpose of these tools, spotted during a recent PGG visit to King's Seeds in Essex. The answer is that they are dibbers, made specifically for sowing runner beans (you only get the points if you got the whole answer right).

Plant Identification

Answers see p43

- 1 *Anchusa* 'Loddon Royalist'
- 2 *Cynara cardunculus* – cardoon
- 3 *Cirsium rivulare*
- 4 *Eschscholzia californica*
(award yourself an extra point if you spelled it correctly!)
- 5 *Inula hookeri*
- 6 *Penstemon* 'Heavenly Blue'

Crossword solution



**Answers to
puzzle on
page 14**