

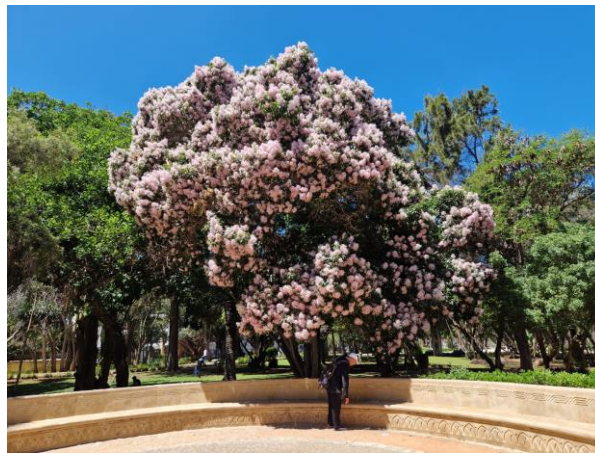
South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



May 2023

Oh dear! Yet again, I am starting to write this letter while looking at the rain coming down from grey and cloudy skies. At this rate, "No – mow May" will leave us living in an impenetrable jungle and several mountains of grass clippings. Consequently I am brightening up our newsletter with some blue sky and glorious blossom, sent to me by my daughters from Morocco!



Summer trip to Hidcote Manor and Kiftsgate Court Gardens, Chipping Camden

Wednesday 21st June

DON'T MISS OUT!!

This will be a wonderful day out and a great opportunity to visit two superb gardens, with no worries about driving or navigating! It is always fun to share your love of gardens with like-minded enthusiasts. Who knows? Some of us may even buy a plant or two!!

Now that club members have had the first opportunity to buy tickets, we have enough places left to open up sales to guests and non-club members.

National Trust members. Club members: £15. Guests: £20

Non NT members. Club members: £29. Guests: £34

Tickets are subsidised for members by the club and will be on sale at this month's meeting. If you are a National Trust member, entry to Hidcote is free, hence the different prices.

The coach will leave the Community College in Bishops Castle at 9am and return between 6.30-7.00.

Hidcote is a world-famous Arts and Crafts-inspired Garden where colourful and intricately designed spaces are full of surprises. Many of the unusual plants were collected from around the world by the horticulturist Major Lawrence Johnston who created the garden. You can have lunch at the café here or bring a picnic if you prefer.

Kiftsgate Court Garden has evolved organically under the care of three women, from the 1930s onwards. There are beautiful borders, wild areas, orchards, water features and woods to explore and enjoy.

Buy your tickets at our meeting in May. If you can't come to the meeting, you can pay using the bank details below (under membership paragraph) and then email sandy_burton@btinternet.com to let her know how much you have paid for your ticket(s). Annie will then be able to reserve your ticket(s) and add you to her list, ready to check when boarding the coach.

Membership

If you still need to update your membership or would like to join, you can come along to a meeting at Lydbury North Village Hall and give your details and payment to our Membership Secretary Sandra Bailey, who sits at the door ready to greet everyone. Alternatively, you can pay by transfer, using the details below. Please ensure you email your name, address and phone number to Sandy.

Membership normally costs £15 to cover attendance to all our meetings for a year; early access to trips and events with subsidised tickets; seed offers and plant sales. We are also affiliated to the RHS. Such a bargain! You can now join at the **reduced price of £10 – even more of a bargain!**

Payment can be made with cash or cheque at our meetings or by transfer to:

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

sort code 20-53-22

account number 80754803.

Please add your name as reference and email sandy_burton@btinternet.com to let her know.

Teas

Many thanks to Gill, Ruth and Debbie for manning the teas so efficiently last month. We have volunteers for May and July, which is reassuring (no meeting in June). We are now looking for help in September, so do please sign up on the rota as you come in to the meeting. Don't worry if you are not sure of your commitments – we can always rearrange nearer the time if there is a problem. It only involves coming a few minutes early (about 6.45) to set out the crockery – the committee bring the supplies of tea, coffee, sugar, milk and biscuits. We will also put on the urn to heat up. We are finding that most people prefer to wash up by hand as they go along rather than using the dishwasher.

Newsletters

If you are having any problems receiving the newsletter, please let me know. We aim to send the notification that it is live about a week before the meeting so news is fresh in your mind. You will also be in the right place to look at the website – if you have any contributions or suggestions that may be of interest, please let me know.

NGS Shropshire and Powys

There are so many beautiful gardens to visit during May that to list them all here would take me ages! Do have a look on the website ngs.org.uk or collect a leaflet from the table at the back of the meeting. Feel free to send any photos for us to share on the website or tell us about your experiences.

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust

...also has four gardens open in May and there are other gardens to visit by private arrangement with the owners. Their website is www.shropshirehct.org.uk

Next meeting

Wednesday 24th May

Hosta and Companion Plants – How to grow and make the best of your hostas - a talk by Robin Pearce

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



Hostas and companion plants
How to grow and make the most of your hostas
A talk by Robin Pearce
Wednesday 24th May 7.30 pm
Lydbury North Village Hall

FREE TO MEMBERS (annual membership £15), GUESTS WELCOME: £5
For more information contact Angie Salmon on 01588 661025 or email
angiejsalmon@btinternet.com
www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk Also on Facebook.

We are a friendly club of like-minded garden enthusiasts. We meet at
Lydbury North Village Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month: interesting
speakers, refreshments, forums, advice, outings, seed offers, plant sales.



South West Shropshire Gardening Club:
celebrating over 30 years of gardening in Shropshire



This May's talk is by Robin Pearce. Robin is a retired nurseryman living in Worcester. During their working life both he and his wife Christina developed and ran Worlds End Nursery and gardens. In retirement, he continues to grow a very wide range of hardy plants with a special interest in dahlias, hostas, Hemerocallis, pulmonarias, Galanthus, woodland plants, ornamental grasses and hardy ferns.

Robin is the former chair of the RHS Herbaceous Plant committee. RHS Floral Judge, exhibitor and speaker.....but will he know how to keep the slugs off my hostas. Come along and find out!

Sunflower competition (May-September)

At our May meeting, you will have the opportunity to take some free sunflower seeds to grow at home. These seeds are "Giant Russian" (please don't hold that against them!) and we are hoping for some massive results. In September we will ask you to bring a photo of your best sunflower to meeting, showing how tall it grew. Or you could email your photo to me angiejsalmon@btinternet.com. There will be a prize for the tallest sunflower. Even I managed to grow some of these giants a couple of years ago, so be brave, give them a try and join in the fun!

The seeds are from D.T.Brown www.dtbrownseeds.co.uk Here are the details and instructions from the packets:

An enormous and imposing variety, ideal for creating a dramatic show or as a useful summer screen in the garden. Hardy annual. Height 1.8-4.5m/6ft-15ft.

Sow outdoors, March-May, thinly 1.5cm/half-inch deep in flowering position. Place two seeds per position.

Thin out to the strongest seedling once established, 30cm/12in apart. It demands a sunny position. Large plants will require good soil and plenty of moisture. Stake tall plants, particularly as the main plant develops.

Flowers June to September.

Reading these instructions makes me realise how hardy these plants are – mine survived in poor soil and were definitely not kept moist! They were eventually level with my upstairs bedroom window, so don't be put off.

Sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine so maybe we can grow these giants in honour and support of that country.

RHS affiliation

The club is affiliated to the RHS. We receive the monthly magazine which can be borrowed, as well as back numbers. These are available from the table at the back of the hall where we display other items of interest and news.

Also, we have a discount card which can be used by up to two members of the club to gain 50% off entry to any RHS garden. Please ask me to borrow the card if you are planning a trip to an RHS Garden.

Plant Hunters' Fairs

Rather than going to pricey garden centres with limited variety on offer, these fairs are well worth a visit (or several!) The plant fairs bring together some of the best independent plant nurseries from across the country with a brilliant choice of plants to delight every gardener. The entrance charges on these special days are such good value, often up to half the standard garden entry price.

The fairs are also valuable fundraisers for our venues and every penny of the entrance fees goes to the venues to help them keep going after these tough times.

These fairs and gardens also make a great destination for group outings.

Plant Hunters' Fairs for May 2023

(The Fairs for the remainder of the year are published on the Resources page on our website)

Saturday May 13 Battlefield 1403, Shrewsbury, SY4 3DB 9:30am-4pm **Free Entry** **Returns after 3 years**

Sunday May 14 Capesthorpe Hall, Macclesfield SK11 9JY 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £4.00

Sunday May 21 Norton Priory, Runcorn, WA7 1SX 10am-4pm Plant Fair £1.00

Saturday May 27 Carsington Water, Ashbourne DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Country Park & Fair **Free Entry** (P&D Parking)

Monday May 29 Arley Arboretum, Upper Arley, Worcs DY12 1SQ 10am-4pm **Free Entry to Fair**

For more information contact janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk

Flower of the Month Competition

Well done to Heather Moakes who won our Flower of the Month competition in April, with a pasque flower.



Please bring a single cut bloom or spray from your garden, if you would like to join in The Flower of the Month Competition. Our choice of blooms is happily increasing and it is always interesting to see what people bring from their gardens.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on the 24th. Hopefully by then, I will have been inspired by visiting gardens in Northumberland!

Angie Salmon
Chair

PS Don't forget we are also on Facebook!