

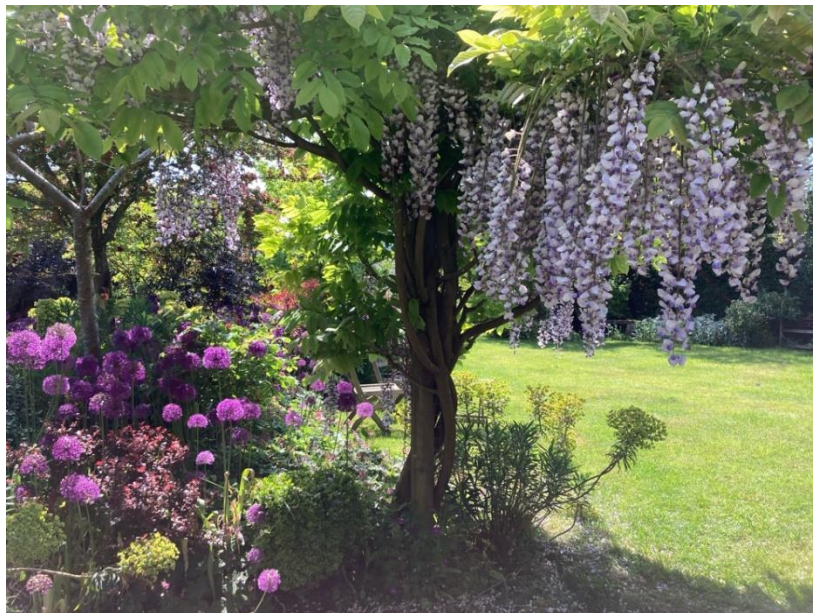
South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



June 2023

I hope you are enjoying the many opportunities to visit beautiful gardens in our area and beyond. In addition to some wonderful gardens on holiday in Northumberland, I visited old friends in Oxfordshire recently and was blown away by their beautiful wisteria covered pergola and forests of alliums (see below). While walking round the garden, the owner mainly saw all the things she wanted to correct or improve while all I could see was the beauty before me. Perhaps it's a good idea to have fellow enthusiasts with fresh eyes telling us that actually, we are doing a good job!



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

Wednesday 21st June

I am so looking forward to this trip! The coach is now full so please don't turn up if you have not got a ticket. Annie has asked me to remind National Trust members to bring your membership cards because they will need to be scanned at Hidcote for you to gain entry. We will leave from the lay-by outside the Community College in Bishops Castle at nine o'clock, so it would be helpful if you could arrive before that to ensure a prompt departure. We hope to be back between 6.30 and 7.00.

Sunflower Competition

Good luck to the few people who took advantage of free Giant Russian Sunflower seeds available at our last meeting. I am sorry if you were disappointed to find only three seeds in your packet but I was trying to give them away to as many people as possible! I have lots of packets left which I will bring to the trip but it may be a little late for sowing – maybe worth a try...

WhatsApp

David O'Neill has made a great suggestion of setting up a WhatsApp group for members of our club. If anyone had a problem in their garden and would like to tap into all our expertise, this could prove a really helpful resource. I appreciate you can google things but sometimes it's difficult to know the quality of the advice and it's not as specific as you might need. If anyone could spare a little time to administer such a group, please let me know.

Membership

There are only two meetings left this year (July and September) before membership is due for renewal in October. You are welcome to attend those meetings as a guest or you could join at the reduced fee of £10. If you 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 from October will cost £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!

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 Pauline and Seonaid for manning the teas so efficiently last month. We have volunteers for July, which is reassuring (no meeting in June or August). 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 June 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 eight gardens open in June, including a garden trail round Bishops Castle on June 18th, 1-5pm. There are other gardens to visit by private arrangement with the owners. Their website is www.shropshirehct.org.uk

Clun Open Gardens

24th and 25th June, 1-5pm. This is their 39th year and features fifteen gardens, three of which have never been opened before. Flower arrangements depicting Commonwealth countries will be in St George's Church and harpists will play on Sunday and instrumentalists on Saturday. Teas and a plant stall will be available at Hightown Community Room, Vicarage Rd. Tickets are £6, valid for both days, will be sold at the Memorial Hall and the garden opposite the bridge car park. All proceeds go to St George's Church.

Purslow Sports Show and Gymkana

Saturday 22nd July from 12.00. Admission £5.

Don't be put off by the title of this show – there is actually plenty to entertain keen gardeners too! If you are missing our annual show, you may like to enter one of the many classes at Purslow including Flowers, Handicraft, Photography, Cookery, Store Cupboard (preserves) and Garden Produce. There are also classes for children. Closing date for entries is 18th July, enquiries to Becky Huffer 07811 187048.

Next meeting

Wednesday 26th July

An exploration into the world of Acanthus and other plants in the Acanthus family. A talk by Ingrid Millington from Hillview Hardy Plants.

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



Exploration into the World of the Acanthus family
A talk by Ingrid Millington
of Hillview Hardy Plants (RGS Master Grower)

Wednesday 26th July 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 angiesalmon@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.

We are also affiliated to the RHS. Come & join us!



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



Ingrid Millington started Hillview Hardy Plants nursery on a one-acre plot in Worfield in 1987 and since then it has become well-known for its collections of plants.

Her husband, John, joined the nursery in 1992 and their daughter, Sarah Millington, decided to go into horticulture and the family business in 2002.

The nursery is known for propagating and selling 300 different types of Primula Auriculas Alpines and 200 different varieties of Primula Auriculas bred by Richard Austin, from the New Forest. It also specialises in rare and unusual herbaceous perennials at the nursery.

Her talk to the Club will be an exploration into the world of Acanthus and other plants in the Acanthus family.

Ingrid was awarded RHS Master Grower status at the Malvern Show this Spring.

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

Sad news

I am sorry to report that Judith Kinsey and Mike Wall, two of our much-valued members, have recently died. We would like to express our condolences to their families and friends.

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 June/July 2023

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

June

Saturday - Sunday 10 - 11 Hodnet Hall, Market Drayton TF9 3NN 10am-5pm Gardens & Fair £5.00

Saturday 17 Sugnall Walled Garden, Eccleshall ST21 6NF 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £1.00 **NEW SUMMER FAIR**

Sunday 25 Middleton Hall, Tamworth B78 2AE 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £3.50 **TICKET REQUIRED**

July

Saturday 1 Thoresby Park, Newark NG22 9EQ 10am-4pm Plant Fair & Country Park **Free Entry** (P&D Parking)

Sunday 2 Whittington Castle, Oswestry, SY11 4DF 10am-4pm Plant Fair & Castle Grounds **Free Entry** (P&D Parking)

Sunday 30 1620s House, Donington Le Heath, LE67 2FW 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £1.00 **TICKET REQUIRED**

For more information contact janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk

Flower of the Month Competition

Well done to Dorothy Morris who won our Flower of the Month competition in May with this beautiful Flag Iris.



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 on Wednesday 21st June if you are coming on the trip or on 26th July at our next meeting.

Angie Salmon
Chair

PS Don't forget we are also on Facebook!