

# South West Shropshire Gardening Club

## Newsletter



July 2023

I hope you are all enjoying the lush vegetation in your gardens after the generous amount of recent rainfall. Thank goodness for the popularity of wild flower areas – I could never achieve a neat and tidy garden, even though I am constantly striving to impose some control, some of the time! I recently visited the family home of Alfred, Lord Tennyson on the Isle of Wight where the gardens were planted so beautifully (see photos below). I was in awe of the skilful combinations of colour and form and amazing attention to detail – especially when I discovered the gardens had only been restored six years ago! After ten years in my garden, it really is about time I sorted out the nursery bed which was supposed to be temporary....



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

We had a superb day visiting Hidcote and Kiftsgate gardens on 21<sup>st</sup> June. It was a great time of year to see the flowers, shrubs, trees, ponds and landscapes at their best. There was so much to admire and there is no better way than to share such a day with a group of like-minded friends. We all strolled around at our own pace without feeling rushed or pressurised. Our visit ended with refreshing tea and chat before filling the boot of the coach with several plants to be nurtured and treasured in our respective gardens. Many thanks to Annie for organising such a good trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



If any members have photos of the day they would like to share, please email them to [bonathanmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:bonathanmartin@hotmail.com). Have a look at the trips page on this website.

## **WhatsApp**

I mentioned last month that David O'Neill 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](mailto:sandy_burton@btinternet.com) to let her know.

## **Teas**

Happily, we have volunteers for July, which is reassuring (no meeting in 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**

We have been contacted by Susan Paynton who is the County Organiser and Regional Chair for Wales and The Marches. She is looking for new gardens to register for 2024, the deadline being mid Sept this year. Gardens can be all shapes and sizes; individual or part of a group. NGS does a tremendous job raising much needed funds for charities including Macmillan, Marie Curie and Hospice UK. If you think you might be interested or would like to find out more, please ring Susan on 01686650531

## **Purslow Sports Show and Gymkhana**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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, including Flowers, Handicraft, Photography, Cookery, Preserves and Garden Produce. There are also classes for children. Closing date for entries was 18<sup>th</sup> July but you could still enjoy the day just mooching around and taking in all that is on offer.

## **Clun Carnival and Show**

5<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Closing date for entries 31<sup>st</sup> July (midday)

Schedules from Richard Brights and Spar in Clun


Loads of horticultural and floral art classes amongst others. Entry fee to classes just 30 p. Trophies to be won!

## **Next meeting**

### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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  
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.  
We are also affiliated to the RHS. Come & join us!



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



This month's fascinating talk is by Ingrid Millington of Hillview Hardy Plants. Hillview Nursery is a family affair. Ingrid started the nursery on a one-acre plot in Worfield in 1987. Her husband John joined in 1992 and in 2002 their daughter, Sarah also joined the business.

The nursery is known for propagating and selling over 500 varieties of Primulas and Auriculas. They also specialize in rare and unusual herbaceous perennials. At the Spring Malvern Show she was awarded the prestigious RHS Master Grower status.

As holder of the national collection of Acanthus, Ingrid is truly an expert on the subject of the talk this month. She has travelled all over the world to see species in their natural habitat. A tough and essential part of the herbaceous border that thrives in both sun and shade, it will be fascinating to explore this surprisingly varied family in more depth. Not to be missed!

Ingrid will be bringing plants for sale which can be paid for by card or cash.

As there will be no newsletter in August, please also make a note of our September meeting:

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Philip Aubury

*Keep them in shape - Pruning - the why, when and how? A practical demonstration.*

More information will follow in the September newsletter

## **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. Jackie Beaumont used the card when visiting RHS Bridgewater this month and had a great day out. She enjoyed the large, densely planted beds; the Chinese garden with a stream and lovely walks through meadows and woods. In the cultivated area there were good, wide paths which would be good for people with mobility issues and there were scooters available too.

## **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 August/September 2023**

### **August**

Wednesday 2 Cholmondeley Castle, Malpas, SY14 8AH 10am-5pm Gardens & Fair £5.00 **SPECIAL MIDWEEK DATE**

Sunday 6 Southwell Minster, NG25 0HD 11am-4pm Plant Fair £2.00

Sunday 13 Capesthorpe Hall, Macclesfield SK11 9JY 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £4.00

Sunday 20 Carsington Water, Ashbourne DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Country Park & Fair **Free Entry** (P&D Parking)

Sunday - Monday 27 - 28 Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton TF9 4EU 10am-5pm Gardens & Fair £5.00

### **September**

Saturday 2 Bodenheim Arboretum, Kidderminster DY11 5TB 10am-4pm **Free Entry to Fair**

Sunday 3 Ness Botanic Gardens, Wirral, CH64 4AY 10am-4pm Plant Fair £1.00

Sunday 10 Weston Park, Shifnal TF11 8LE 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £4.00 **TICKET REQUIRED\***

PLEASE always check event status before travelling at [www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk](http://www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk)

**\*** For Weston Park advance purchase tickets are at the special discounted price of £4.00 (plus small booking fee). Tickets not on sale after 9am on the day of the fair. Without a ticket, venue entry price of £8.00 applies.

**For more information contact [janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk](mailto:janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk)**

## **Flower of the Month Competition**

There was no competition last month due to our trip but I am looking forward to seeing all your beautiful entries next week. Please bring a single cut bloom or spray from your garden, if you would like to join in.

**New Hope Day Lilies Open Day**  
**Colebatch Farm**  
**SY9 5JY**

Final open weekends: 22/23 July and 29/30<sup>th</sup> July. The fields are packed full of blooms to enjoy plus homemade cake, tea and coffee. Potted cultivars are available to buy.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

From 1pm there will be live folk music from This Way Up, plus Mr T's Pies serving yummy savoury food including barbecue, pasties, pulled pork baps and salads. You may want to bring a chair if you want to sit and listen to the music. Dogs are welcome so long as they are kept on a lead and not allowed to trample over the lilies. Entry is free but food will need to be paid for.

Sounds like fun – I'm planning to go so if anyone else fancies a jolly afternoon perhaps we could car share?

Follow this link for the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewHopeDaylilyNursery>

**Joining the committee**

In October we have a brief AGM before our talk, when committee members are elected or re-elected. In September we will be putting details of each role on the website so you will be able to see what is involved. We meet a few times a year in some of our homes, when we have a good natter and delicious homemade cake, before getting down to business. We also have occasional trips – we recently froze on a visit to David Austin Roses, which was fun, despite the weather! If you think you might be interested, then please let me know or chat to any of the committee members. If you are not sure who we are, have a look on the website under biographies.

Hope to see you on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at our next meeting.

Angie Salmon  
Chair

PS Don't forget we are also on Facebook!