

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



September 2023

Welcome back! I hope you have all enjoyed our weird Summer. I fear our trees, shrubs and plants are all as confused as the rest of us but we battle on. I am particularly pleased with the colour combinations in my "hot bed" this year – you might hate it but each to their own...



The most pressing thing on my mind right now is the fate of our committee...and therefore our club.

Your Club needs YOU!



At our October meeting, we will have a short AGM before our talk. Sadly, four of our committee members are going to stand down so we will need some new volunteers to join us. I have been assured that this is nothing to do with me being Chair! Those leaving have done wonderful work over several years but feel

like having a rest; two have moved further away. They deserve our heartfelt thanks – without their enthusiasm and commitment we could not function.

It would be particularly helpful if you have any level of IT skills – nothing fancy or too demanding and there are kind and patient people able to help you or fill any gaps in your knowledge (I have learnt a lot!)

Myself and Mellie (Chair and Vice Chair) are willing to continue in our roles if re-elected. Mandy could continue booking speakers but is happy to swap. Sandy could continue as Treasurer but is also willing to swap. Sue is looking into the role of Membership Secretary. Potentially we need a Secretary and a Publicity Officer but nothing is set in stone until we see who comes forward to help.

Our constitution allows us to have ten members on the committee and two extra people could be co-opted for specific roles such as managing the teas or the seed order. We have had one offer of help but we need more! If no-one else comes forward, the Gardening Club will fold, which would be extremely sad, especially when it is thriving and so successful.

All the job descriptions can be viewed on the home page of our website. Please have a look at any role you might be interested in if you would like to join us. We meet about four times a year in one of our houses where we enjoy lively chats, aided by tea, coffee and homemade cake.

Please contact me if you have any queries or would like to express an interest.

Membership

Due to the increased cost of speakers, we have had to raise the cost of membership to £20 per year. We still believe this is excellent value, covering attendance to all our meetings; early access to trips and events with subsidised tickets; seed offers and plant sales. We are also affiliated to the RHS and a member of Plant Heritage. 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 is due in October but if you would like to miss the rush, you can choose to renew at the meeting in September.

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

Happily, we have volunteers for September and October which is reassuring! Do please sign up on the rota as you come into the meeting if you can help. 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.

Next meeting

Wednesday 27th August

Keep them in shape – Pruning – the why, when and how? A practical demonstration by Philip Aubury

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



A practical talk by Philip Aubury,
(former Director of Birmingham's Botanical Gardens)

**'Keep them in shape' - Pruning - the why,
when and how?**


Wednesday 27th September at 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



This month's talk has a title that is self-explanatory. All your questions about the art of pruning answered by an expert. Wonderful!

Phillip Aubury is the former director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Phillip began as a student at the gardens, before training at Pershore college. He went on to work in both the nursery and commercial sector before returning to the Midlands to lecture at the Parks Department and on the R.H.S. National Diploma Course. He was appointed Director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens in 1987 and retired in 2007. Since then, he has devoted more of his time to giving talks and demonstrations. We could not be in more capable hands.

Philip will be bringing plants for sale (cash only please).

Please note that the D.T. Brown seed catalogues will also be available at the September meeting.

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.

Commemorative Plaque

We had a request from Trevor Chalkley for a donation towards a commemorative plaque to honour the late Sir Albert Howard, a local landowner who is considered by many to be a leading forefather of organic farming. We felt this was a worthwhile cause of local interest to many since Sir Albert was born in Bishop's Castle, so we donated £50.

Mynd Hardy Plants at Delbury Hall

After ten years of running the nursery, Richard and Jill have decided to retire. They are having a sale of plants and equipment from 2nd - 6th October from 10-4pm. After all their hard work restoring the garden, it will be sad to see them go. We wish them well in their retirement.

Greenhouse heater for sale

Eileen (our committee secretary) has a Parasene Superwarm 5 Paraffin heater for sale. It is unused and still in its original packaging. £10

If you are interested contact Eileen at eileenlmattey@gmail.com

Garden Arch for sale

Harrod Horticultural Roman Garden Arch. 8' 2" w; 9' 8" h; 3' 5" d. pre-galvanised, extra strength steel, matt black powder coated finish. RHS endorsed with 10-year guarantee. Ideal for all climbing plants, veg and fruit trees. £200

I bought three of these but sadly my husband insists that two are enough in our garden. The arch is still in its original packaging. The arch also has ground sockets. If you look on the website, you will see that these



arches cost £685 new, plus £35 for the ground sockets, so this is a bargain for someone! Buyer will need to collect because the top section is large. Angie

Flower of the Month Competition

This was Annie Frost winning in July with her lovely clematis Tye Dye.



Please bring a single cut bloom or spray from your garden, if you would like to join in. There are only two more opportunities to enter this year before the winner is announced at the October meeting, so make the most of it.

November club competition

As well as the flower of the month competition at our November meeting there will be an extra competition!

We ask you to bring to the meeting a mixed bouquet of dried flowers or seed heads or a mixture of both from your garden and, or local landscape. There will be a prize for the most appealing bouquet chosen by the guest speaker. No particular rules here but hope this gives you plenty of time to gather some plant material together for a dried 'tussie mussie'!

Hope to see you on Wednesday 27th September at our next meeting.

Angie Salmon
Chair

PS Don't forget we are also on Facebook!