

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



November 2023

I have a wry smile on my face as I remember the poetic start to last month's letter – all that idyllic "time to stand and stare" stuff seems to have passed me by, unless you count admiring the beautiful colours of the beech and larch trees in local woods as I hurtle past, being walked by the dog! It has been a manic month and I still haven't managed to plant all my bulbs – so if you are in the same boat, try not to fret. At least I had time to enjoy our red oak in the early morning sun (while hoping the neighbours weren't wondering why that mad woman was wandering round the garden in her dressing gown – but being farmers, I am sure they had far more important things to do).



Our new committee

I am very happy to report we have four new members on the committee. We had our first meeting yesterday and agreed who was going to fill our vacant roles.

David O'Neill lives in Brockton. He is going to have a go at the role of Publicity Officer from January. He is also keen to set up a WhatsApp group for members to share gardening tips, queries, spare plants, seeds etc. If you are interested in joining, please speak to David or me.

Alleyne Copestake is a neighbour of David's. He is going to help us by organising the chairs at the end of meetings so they are easier to put away.

Sara Roberts moved to Clun a year ago from Cornwall. She is going to organise the tea rota and supply of refreshments each month.

Elly Bibby lives on the outskirts of Clunton. She is going to be our new Secretary. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend the meeting due to a nasty accident. We wish her a speedy recovery.

A HUGE thank you to these new volunteers – I am so delighted (and relieved) that our club will continue to thrive for us all to enjoy.

Membership Subscriptions

If you have not paid/ renewed your subscription yet, our new Membership Secretary Sue, will be able to help you at our meeting next week. You can pay by cash, cheque or online (see below).

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.

If you pay by transfer, please add your name as reference and ensure you email your name, address and phone number to Sandy: sandy_burton@btinternet.com

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

sort code 20-53-22

account number 80754803.

Teas

Happily, we have volunteers for November. December will be a treat manned by the committee instead of usual teas and coffees. Our new committee member Sara, will be hoping to sign you up for next year, so please give her your support. 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.

Update on Tony's fundraising

Many of you will know that a previous committee member Seonaid, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Her husband Tony, has achieved the amazing feat of doing a supervised, eleven-minute plank hold and twenty four push-ups, in order to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK. This charity has given tremendous support to Seonaid and Tony. So far, Tony has raised £4,068 – if you would like to help him achieve his goal of £5000, please go to fundraiser.pancreatic.org.uk/fundraisers/tonyakkermans



I asked Seonaid to choose a new plant for our Pearl Garden. Her main passion is growing vegetables but she remembered a lovely hellebore from Ashwood Nursery, so Mellie and I had the perfect excuse to go shopping!

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. Apologies for being late this month – I wanted to have our committee meeting first so I could tell you about our new volunteers.

Next meeting: Wednesday 22nd November

Gardening on a Slope

an illustrated talk with slides looking at the fun and challenges of working in a steep garden, and plenty of well tested solutions!

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



**Gardening on a Slope: Looking at the fun
and challenges of working in a steep garden
by Margaret Herbert**

**Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 7.30 pm
Lydbury North Village Hall**

FREE TO MEMBERS (annual membership £20), 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



Margaret Herbert is a qualified, experienced and passionate plants person, gardener and garden designer. For over 10 years, she managed the plant area of a large garden centre in Wiltshire. Margaret often gives talks to local groups on a range of horticultural topics; she has also manned garden advice stands for The Garden Centres Association at The Chelsea Flower Show; and participated in a panel of experts to answer listeners' questions on local radio.

More recently she has been designing gardens as a self-employed garden designer.

Coming soon – a festive special....

Mistletoe and Myths – a talk by Michael Jones on Wednesday 13th December 2023



SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB

*Mulled
Wine and
Nibbles*

*Christmas
Raffle*

Mistletoe and Myths!
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For our Christmas offering this year our December meeting will be a festive talk looking into the myths surrounding the iconic Christmas plant decoration mistletoe.

The talk will be given by Dr Michael Jones, now retired as Head of Science at Newman University, Birmingham. He is an enthusiastic botanist with a particular interest in parasitic plants. Mistletoe is a strange, parasitic plant. It is poisonous yet used in the treatment of cancer. There's so much more to know about the folklore and use of this unusual plant, other than getting caught under it at Christmas! This talk will be accompanied by a festive drink (tea and coffee also available), and of course, a mince pie. Everybody welcome. Christmas starts here!

Please note this is earlier than our usual date, so we do not clash with your other Xmas arrangements.

Feeling unwell?

Please can we ask that if you are feeling unwell, you do not bring your bugs to gardening club, especially as we sit in close proximity to each other and there is little ventilation as the weather turns colder? Covid is still circulating and flu is no fun either. Not everyone is eligible for a booster vaccination. Several of our members have vulnerable loved ones at home and we really don't want to help spread more illness this winter. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

Flower of the Month: Congratulations to the winners of this year's competition

1st place: Dorothy Morris

2nd place: Mandy Ford

3rd place: Heather Moakes

Thank you for sharing your beautiful blooms with us throughout the year. Hope you enjoyed spending your well-deserved winnings.

Well done to Mandy who won the October competition with this beautiful dahlia.



Please bring a single cut bloom or spray from your garden, if you would like to take part in November.

Dried Tussie Mussie

We are having an extra competition in November, for a bouquet of dried flowers and/or seed heads from your garden/ local landscape. There will be a prize so have a go!

Hope to see you on Wednesday 22nd November at our next meeting.

Angie Salmon

Chair

PS Don't forget we are also on Facebook!