

# South West Shropshire Gardening Club

## Newsletter



### December 2023

My poor soggy garden has taken a backseat with all the Christmas preparations beginning in earnest. It feels rather surreal sitting in my kitchen surrounded by piles of decorations so early in December. We have a festive do in our village hall on the 9<sup>th</sup>, quickly followed by our Christmas themed club meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> so I have to retrieve various bits and pieces from the loft to use on those occasions. That's my excuse anyway...



#### 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](mailto:sandy_burton@btinternet.com)

South West Shropshire Gardening Club  
sort code 20-53-22  
account number 80754803.

#### Seed order

The seeds have arrived and will be ready to collect at our December meeting. You can pay by cash or cheque on the night or if you prefer to pay by BACS, please:

1. Email [eileenmattey@gmail.com](mailto:eileenmattey@gmail.com) Or phone 07428198203 to find out how much you owe
2. Pay by BACS (see bank details above) and give your name and surname as payment reference

3. Email [sandy\\_burton@btinternet.com](mailto:sandy_burton@btinternet.com) to tell her how much you have paid

If paying by BACS is your preferred method, it needs to be done **before** collecting your seeds at the meeting.

## **Next meeting: a festive special.... Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

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



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!

## **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.

### **Flower of the Month:**

Well done to Annie Frost who won the November competition with this beautiful rose.



### **Dried Tussie Mussie** Competition

Well done Helen for producing such a colourful and well-presented Tussie Mussie. My shades of brown contribution were definitely out-classed! Thanks to Anne Shepherdson for judging and choosing such a worthy winner.



Hope to see you on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at our next meeting. Look out for the Christmas elves!

Hope you have a very happy Christmas. Keep warm and safe. See you in 2024!

Angie Salmon  
Chair

PS Don't forget we are also on Facebook!