

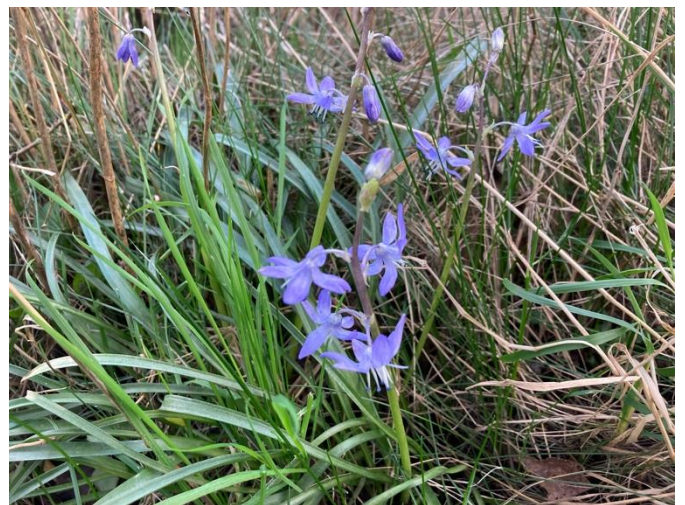
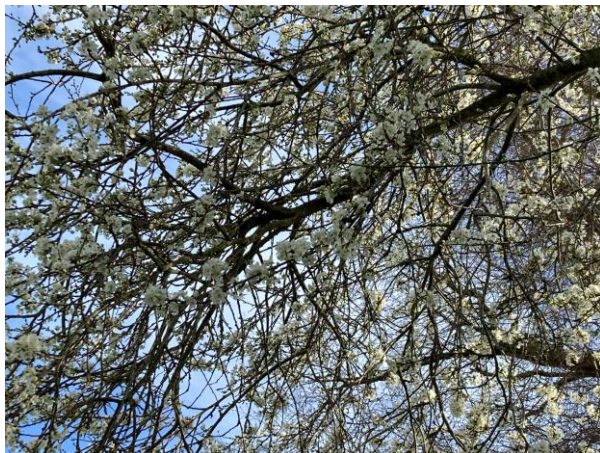
South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



February 2024

"The sun has got his hat on; hip hip hooray!" This song popped into my head this morning as I was wandering around my garden – at least it makes a change from "raindrops keep falling on my head" ... There are several signs of life peeking through the soil which is always encouraging. I have never been a fan of planting bulbs in flower beds (as opposed to grassy areas) where I inevitably chop through them by accident. However last year, I had to admit that I had gaps that needed filling and from observations in other gardens, tulips seemed to be a possible answer. I had forgotten about them so it was exciting to see them appearing for the first time. My pond is also waking up with sightings of a newt, a toad (or was it a frog?) beetles and snails. The most exotic visitor recently was an egret which sadly did not stay long enough for anyone else to see – fingers crossed for a return visit!



I also found these little beauties in my garden, which was a complete surprise. Does anyone know what they are?

For those of you who still feel like hibernating inside, Mandy saw this piece of advice at the end of last month:

Don't SPRING into garden clean-up too soon...

WAIT until temperatures are consistently above 10 degrees centigrade.

Many butterflies, bees and other pollinators are currently wintering in dead leaves and hollowed out stems of last years plants.

LET THEM BEE!

Teas

Thank you so much to all those who signed up to help with refreshments over the next few months. I don't have to plead in this newsletter – hooray!

Newsletters

If you are having any problems receiving the newsletter, please let me know. We aim to send the notification that it is live on our website, about a week before the meeting so news is fresh in your mind. All you need to do is click on the link. You will also be in the right place to look at the rest of the website – if you have any contributions or suggestions that may be of interest, please let me know.

Summer Trip

A date for your diaries: Wednesday 19th June

Hereford Cathedral and Kencheste Water Gardens



Leaving BC at 9am. Private tour of the 15c Cathedral Gardens spread over four acres, includes Courtyard, Cloister & Vicars Garden, Choral Garden, Deans Garden and Bishops Garden. Split into two private tours 11am and 12 pm. The latter two gardens are not usually open to the public. Extra time for enjoying other areas of the cathedral such as The Mappa Mundi and Chained Library (optional - tickets to be bought by individuals). There is an excellent cafe or you could bring your own packed lunch, but save room in your tummy for afternoon tea included in the price at:

2.15 pm we make our way to Kencheste Water Gardens which is justifiably proud of being the Holder of the National Collection of Hardy Water Lilies. There are over two hundred varieties, most of which are available to buy as potted plants. We will have time to relax with tea/coffee and cake and stroll around the beautiful water gardens, visit the nursery and shop before leaving at 4.30. Arrive back at BC approximately 5.30 pm.



Tickets will cost £20 for members and £23 for non-members and will be available from our meeting in March.

Thanks to Mellie and Sandy for all their hard work in researching and arranging this lovely day out.

Next meeting

Wednesday 28th February

Plant Propagation – by Kristian Hickson-Booth

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



Plant Propagation
A talk by Kristian Hickson-Booth

Wednesday 28th February 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 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



Kristian Hickson-Booth is a garden adviser, speaker, and former head gardener at English Heritage's Brodsworth Hall, and at Combermere Abbey. As a 16-year-old, she worked at Powys Castle while completing a year-long horticultural course at Myerscough College. Today, she combines her love of helping people with her love of horticulture to take them and their gardens to the next level. In 2020 Kristian set up her Group Page, Garden like a Master which supports gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

Membership

Membership subs were due in October so if you have forgotten, please renew as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who replied to my recent email – it is reassuring to see our numbers remaining strong. You can come along to a meeting and give your details and payment to our new Membership Secretary Tina McAra, who will be sitting 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 now costs £20 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.

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.

Open Gardens weekend – 22nd/23rd June

As I mentioned before, we have been asked to represent our club in an exhibition of floral displays in the church over this weekend. Elly Bibby (our new Club Secretary) has kindly agreed to help me and we have both been busy researching. The theme is “Shropshire Legends” so we have chosen to represent the famous gardener and broadcaster, Percy Thrower. He has many local connections including being Park Superintendent in Shrewsbury from 1946-1974; he helped the post war revival of The Shrewsbury Flower Show and was Chair of The Shropshire Horticultural Society. His fame spread through appearances on television and radio programmes including Blue Peter and Gardener’s World – the latter being presented from his home “The Magnolias” in Merrington, near Shrewsbury. In 1970 he and a partner bought a local nursery, Murrell’s of Shrewsbury. This was later sold and demolished to be replaced by the Percy Thrower Garden Centre we know today.

This is a brief flavour of our research but we would like some input from Members:

Does anyone know Percy Thrower’s daughters- Margaret, Susan and Anne- and how to contact them? Margaret (the eldest) was an honorary member of our club!

Does anyone have any books written by Percy Thrower?

He has three plants named after him: a rose, an aster and sweet peas. Does anyone have these which we could incorporate into our display? Would anyone like to grow the sweet peas for us to use?

Does anyone have a pipe we could borrow?!

Or old garden tools?

Or any other memorabilia/ possible props/photos?

We want to do our club proud so please support us in any way you can. The committee was very keen that we should not have to buy in flowers (as many exhibitors do) so once we have worked out our colour scheme, we shall be asking for donations of flowers and foliage from your gardens in June – particularly roses, fuchsias and chrysanthemums, which were among Percy’s favourites.

Flower of the Month Competition

Congratulations to Mandy who came first in our January competition with this beautiful clematis.



Please bring a single cut bloom or spray from your garden, if you would like to join in The Flower of the Month Competition. It's always interesting to see what people bring from their gardens.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on 28th.

Angie Salmon
Chair

PS Don't forget we are also on Facebook!