

# South West Shropshire Gardening Club

## Newsletter



### May 2024

If you happen to find yourself on the northwest coast of Scotland, I strongly recommend a visit to Inverewe Garden. These Trillium are a symbol of the three founders: Osgood Mackenzie who was given 12,000 acres of barren, rocky land on the shores of Loch Ewe in the 1860s; his daughter Mairie who committed to enhancing the garden from



1922 and finally the National Trust which was given the garden in 1952. We might grumble about flooding, soil types, pests and diseases but we should take heart from people who have created a wonderful garden in such a challenging and exposed situation, on the same latitude as Labrador!

#### **Minsterley Meadows Appeal**



*Green-Winged Orchid*

Two flower-rich meadows on the eastern outskirts of Minsterley, designated by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest have come up for sale. The Middle Marches Community Land Trust has had an offer of £190,000 accepted and is now trying to raise the funds by October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Trust is dedicated to helping create an ecologically healthy and sustainable countryside and has developed a reputation over recent years for purchasing and managing areas for conservation including Cudwell Meadow, Norbury Hill and High Leasowes. The Minsterley Meadows are the largest site for Green-Winged Orchids, *Orchis morio*, in Shropshire. If you would like to find out more, go to [info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/minsterley-meadows-appeal](mailto:info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/minsterley-meadows-appeal). I then clicked on "land".



The appeal aims to raise a total of £240,000 to cover the cost of the purchase, Land Management work and support development of the community group. Our club committee is keen to support the appeal and would like to know your views. Please let us know your thoughts by talking to any of the committee at our next meeting or you can email me [angiejsalmon12@gmail.com](mailto:angiejsalmon12@gmail.com)

### **Elevated Gardening Beds**

John Hunter from Pentre contacted me with news of the elevated beds he has created specifically for gardeners with mobility issues or wheelchair users. They are made from galvanised steel and are individually built to the customer's required dimensions- height, width and bed depth. They can come with organic and peat-free growing medium. If you know anyone who could benefit from these, please contact [john.b.hunter@btinternet.com](mailto:john.b.hunter@btinternet.com) or phone 07899946643. John has recently joined our club so if you would like to talk to him in person, that can easily be arranged.

### **Clun Open Gardens Weekend – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>/Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

This is a lovely occasion right on our doorstep which I hope many of you will enjoy this year. As I mentioned before, our club is participating by producing a floral display as part of the exhibition in the church. We have chosen to represent Percy Thrower as a famous and influential gardener based in Shrewsbury for many years. The committee is keen for us not to buy flowers for the occasion so I am requesting donations from members' gardens - especially (but not exclusively) roses, fuchsias and chrysanths which were among Percy's favourites. Interesting foliage would also be welcome. I am making a large pedestal arrangement so need a good selection to work with! I would need to prepare the flowers on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, ready to arrange on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. I would be happy to collect or if you could deliver to me in Clunton, that would be really helpful. If you think you could contribute, please let me know at our May meeting or by email [angiejsalmon12@gmail.com](mailto:angiejsalmon12@gmail.com) or 01588 661025.

Thank you to all those who have leant me books by Percy and a pipe!

### **Plant Hunters' Fairs Calendar 2024**

When a plant fair takes place within a garden, we arrange a special reduced entry price to the garden. Some gardens on these days are half-price (or better) entry to the garden and entry to the fair is included. Other fairs are free or with a small charge or donation that all goes to maintaining the venue.

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

If you need any further information, you wish to organise a group visit to an event, or you are able to display posters at your meetings, please contact us for:

- Our 2024 calendar and event posters for you to print (also on our website)
- Assistance with booking in a coach to an event
- Full details of each fair including nurseries attending (also on our website).

These are the plant fairs taking place over the next two months:

Sunday 19 May Norton Priory, Runcorn, WA7 1SX 10am-4pm Plant Fair £1.00

Saturday 25 May Carsington Water, Ashbourne DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Country Park & Fair Free Entry (P&D Parking)

Monday 27 May Arley Arboretum, Upper Arley, Worcs DY12 1SQ 10am-4pm Free Entry to Fair

Saturday - Sunday 8 - 9 June Hodnet Hall, Market Drayton TF9 3NN 10am-5pm Gardens & Fair £5.00

Saturday 15 June Sugnall Walled Garden, Eccleshall ST21 6NF 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £1.00

Sunday 23 June Middleton Hall, Tamworth B78 2AE 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £4.00 TICKET REQUIRED

Sunday 30 June Whittington Castle, Oswestry, SY11 4DF 10am-4pm Plant Fair & Castle Grounds Free Entry (P&D Parking)

Saturday 6 July Thoresby Park, Newark NG22 9EQ 10am-4pm Plant Fair & Country Park Free Entry (P&D Parking)

Sunday 28 July 1620s House, Donington Le Heath, LE67 2FW 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £1.00 TICKET REQUIRED

Wednesday 31 July Cholmondeley Castle, Malpas, SY14 8AH 10am-5pm Gardens & Fair £5.00 SPECIAL MIDWEEK DATE

If you want more information about a particular plant fair, please contact [janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk](mailto:janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk)

CALLING ALL OUR GARDENER FOLLOWERS\*

This year, we are once again entering into the brigades 'Stations in Bloom' competition.

The theme is 'Food for Thought' and we need your help.

We are looking for donations of edible plants, salads, vegetable and fruits to grow around the station grounds. We aim to produce a pretty display, with anything grown donated to a food bank after judging in July.

So, if anyone would be kind enough to send any surplus you may have our way, we would be very grateful. Please message the page, or drop anything off at the fire station if you can help.

### **Summer Trip: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

#### **Hereford Cathedral and Kencheste Water Gardens**



Leaving BC (lay-by at the Community College) 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 for £7.50, no need to book in advance). There are also tours of the Tower at 11.30 and 1.30 but these timings would not fit with the garden tours (no need to book in advance; £8) 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.






There are still some tickets left: £20 for members and £23 for non-members, available at our May meeting. Payment can be by cash, cheque or BACS (details in membership paragraph of this newsletter). They are non-refundable. Please email Sandy to let her know you have paid ([burtionsandy106@gmail.com](mailto:burtionsandy106@gmail.com)) and supply a reference of "Trip" for a payment by BACS

**Next meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Dark and Desirable – a talk by Paul Green**

**SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB**




**Dark and Desirable!**  
**A talk by Paul Green from**  
**Greens Leaves Nursery**


**Wednesday 22nd May at 7.30 pm**  
**Lydbury North Village Hall**

FREE TO MEMBERS (annual membership £20), GUESTS WELCOME: £5  
 For more information contact Angle Salmon on 01588 661025 or email  
[anglejsalmon12@gmail.com](mailto:anglejsalmon12@gmail.com)  
[www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk](http://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



Paul Green of Greens Leaves started supplying plants back in 1994 and rather than emulate many other nurseries already in existence, decided to specialise in rare and unusual plants from around the world, suitable for growing in the UK. By far the majority of plants the nursery supplies are grown in in the Gloucestershire nursery and any new varieties are always tested for hardiness given the UK's demanding climate.

### **Membership**

Membership 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 to let her know: [burtionsandy106@gmail.com](mailto:burtionsandy106@gmail.com)

## Flower of the Month



Congratulations to Pauline Edie who won our April competition with this strikingly marked tulip. 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 have in their gardens!

Please note that in order to be fair, we can only accept **one** entry from each participant.

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Angie Salmon  
Chair