

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



June 2024

Is anyone else falling back in love with their garden? Having been away for three weeks in April/May, we returned to a jungle and I hardly knew where to start. However, there are now some areas which are weed-free (ish!) and I am relieved to see plants which have recovered from the winter and are thriving again. Although I have tried to keep a diary of my garden, there are several plants I forget from one Spring to the next so there are often surprises to delight me: *Silene maritima* (memories of Northumberland), *Deutzia Strawberry Fields* (from our trip to Kiftsgate last year) and *Saxifrage Sibyll Trelawney* (because we are great Harry Potter fans and it is very pretty too!) My "to do list" of twenty-seven tasks is gradually shrinking but for every few completed, I seem to add two or three more – it is just that time of year...and I would not have it any other way!

You will be glad to know that Wollerton Old Hall Gardens are as beautiful as ever this year...



Pearl Garden



Many thanks to Sandy and Sara who joined me in a maintenance session recently. As you can see from the before and after photos, much weeding was sorely needed! Buttercups are very pretty and good for wildlife but may not impress



visitors to the hall, especially as we are a gardening club! The garden was designed to be low maintenance so we only need to have a tidy-up about four times a year, ideally in early March, May, end of July and end of October. If you are a relatively new member of our club, you may be unaware of the Pearl Garden. It was created to celebrate thirty years of our club from 1987 to 2017. One of our ex-committee members Sara Metcalf, kindly designed the space and chose the plants, using her experience as a garden designer. We commissioned a local artist Nick Burns, to create a sculpture for us



We have lost quite a few of the original plants over the years so I think we will need to fill the gaps soon. Perhaps members could keep an eye open for plants from their own gardens which could be split and donated? I fear part of the problem is caused by the bed being on top of the bank so some soil may be washed down the hill. Perhaps we need some edging to keep the soil in place? Sandy, Sara and I definitely felt the bed would benefit from a good mulch this Autumn. If anyone more expert than me has some suggestions – they would be gratefully received.



After our hard work!



Minsterley Meadows Appeal

I have included this again in case you did not see it last month. We asked for a show of hands at our last meeting and received a positive response. If you have any thoughts, please let me know (by email, phone or on the trip).

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 19th. 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. 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

Clun Open Gardens Weekend – Saturday 22nd/Sunday 23rd June

Sorry, I am including this again because I have had no response to my request for flowers from other members and I am beginning to lose sleep... I am hoping you are waiting to see what you have in your gardens on Thursday 20th.

Anne Shepherdson and Steve Reynolds have kindly offered to donate some blooms but I cannot strip their gardens, so I need some more people to come forward.

Could anyone spare a few small sprigs of *Ceanothus* for my small arrangement representing the children's programme Blue Peter (or anything else blue)?

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, dahlias and sweet peas which were among Percy's favourites. The colour

scheme is mainly pink/purple/blue/white but other colours would also be welcome. I can manage foliage from my garden but I don't have enough flowers suitable for cutting. I am making a large pedestal arrangement so need a good selection to work with! I would need to prepare the flowers on Thursday 20th, ready to arrange on Friday 21st. 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 on the trip or by email angiejsalmon12@gmail.com or 01588 661025. Thank you to all those who have lent me books by Percy and a pipe!

I also had a lovely chat to Percy Thrower's oldest daughter Margaret, who used to be an honorary member of our club. She kindly donated several books, photos and items from the Shrewsbury Flower Show organisers.

Summer Trip: Wednesday 19th June – it is not too late!

Hereford Cathedral and Kenchester 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 Kenchester 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. 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) and supply a reference of "Trip" for a payment by BACS.

Next meeting: Wednesday 24th July

Wildlife in the Garden - a talk by Jim Almond

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



**Wildlife in the Garden
A talk by Jim Almond**

**Wednesday 24th July 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
angiejsalmon12@gmail.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



Jim Almond is an experienced Horticulturist and Speaker based in Shrewsbury. He is also a keen lover of nature with a special interest in Birds, Butterflies and other Insects. Channelling his interests in the form of a Presentation, the July 24th talk is titled 'Wildlife in the Garden'. Jim will cover a wide range of 'creatures' and offer tips on how to make your garden more interesting by encouraging them with suitable plants and habitats. Expect close up images of Good Guys and Bad Guys! Even the latter have a place in your garden and will help to create a balanced Eco-system.

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

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:

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

Sunday 4 August Southwell Minster, NG25 0HD 11am-4pm Plant Fair £2.00

Sunday 11 August Capesthorpe Hall, Macclesfield SK11 9JY 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £4.00

Sunday 18 August Carsington Water, Ashbourne DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Country Park & Fair Free Entry (P&D Parking)

Sunday - Monday 25 - 26 August Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton TF9 4EU 10am-5pm Gardens & Fair £5.00

Saturday 31 August Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster DY11 5TB 10am-4pm Free Entry to Fair

Sunday 1 September Ness Botanic Gardens, Wirral, CH64 4AY 10am-4pm Plant Fair £1.00

Sunday 8 September Weston Park, Shifnal TF11 8LE 10am-4pm Gardens & Fair £4.00 TICKET REQUIRED*

If you want more information about a particular plant fair, please contact janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk

Membership

Membership usually 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. At this time of year, you can join for £10 which would mean avoiding paying £5 as a guest for July and September meetings and would give you a subsidised ticket for our trip. We are also affiliated to the RHS so you are able to borrow our discount card which provides 50% discount for two people to any RHS garden. 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: burtonsandy106@gmail.com.

Flower of the Month

Congratulations to Annie Frost who won our May competition with this beautifully scented *Syringa vulgaris* "Sensation".



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 is 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 19th June (if you are coming on the trip) or at our next meeting on July 24th.

Angie Salmon
Chair