

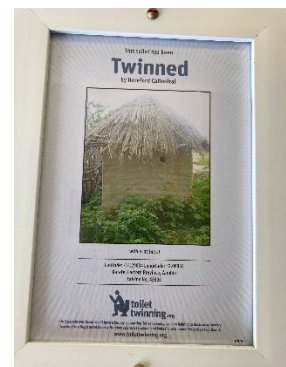
South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



July 2024

We had a perfect sunny day for our trip to Hereford Cathedral Gardens on 19th June. The tours were interesting and informative with plenty of beautiful views, plants, trees and shrubs to admire. Some people enjoyed a tasty lunch at the cathedral café while some of us might have regretted bringing picnics! There was also time for some to visit the Mappa Mundi and the Chained Library which members found fascinating. We broke our journey home with tea and cake at the Kenchester Water Gardens on the way home – a lovely end to a really relaxing and enjoyable day! Many thanks to Sandy and Mellie for all the organisation which made the day run so smoothly.



Percy Thrower display – Clun Open Gardens weekend 22nd/23rd June



As you can see from the photos, I needn't have worried about not having enough flowers! It was a real treat to work with such a beautiful selection – not to mention the fun of going round raiding members' gardens. A huge thank you for all your generosity – Steve Reynolds even let me have his dahlias and prize fuchsias which he usually keeps for showing. Several members kindly lent books and other artefacts which all helped with our attention to detail. Finally, a massive thank you to Elly Bibby (our committee Secretary) who met with me several times to discuss our plans; spent ages researching and printing photos; put up with all my emails and spent all of Friday in the chilly church helping to assemble everything (plus watering mid week and helping to dismantle the display)



10o'clock in the morning....



The finished display at 5pm.



After all the hard work, it was so relaxing to walk round the gardens over the weekend. They were varied and delightful as ever. It was fun to see how one garden recycled unusual items...



Purslow Sports Show and Gymkhana / Handicraft and Produce Show: Saturday 27th July

If you miss the garden club show of years gone by, you can still enjoy entering a wide variety of classes at the Purslow show, including flowers, flower arranging, handicraft, photography, cookery, store cupboard (jams etc), garden produce and classes for children.

You will need to decide quickly because the closing date for entries is Tuesday 23rd July (30p per adult entry or late entries on the day are 50p, only accepted on the door from 8.30-9.30).

Enquiries about the show tent entries to Becky Huffer 07811 187048

Enquiries for the show: Jack Huffer 01588 660539

Email: purslowshow@gmail.com

White Rosebay Willow Herb

If anyone is digging this up or could spare some, Annie Frost would love to hear from you: annie.frost@icloud.com

Glyphosate

I have been contacted by Alison Rios who is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Drugwatch. She is certainly taking the "outreach" part of her title seriously – she lives in Orlando! She was looking for information about organic gardening and found our website.

She writes: " Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is one of the most commonly used herbicides in the world by commercial gardeners and farmers. It is found to be highly toxic and can cause many short-term and long-term health effects. Not to mention it can be harmful to important pollinators such as honey bees and other animals.

If you would like to know more have a look at: www.drugwatch.com/roundup/glyphosate
www.drugwatch.com/roundup/alternatives

Mandy researched the above and discovered that the USA is hot on stopping the use of glyphosate – people have been claiming millions in the courts due to illness after using it. Further links which may be useful are:

Glyphosate: Potential Health Concerns Linked To a Common Herbicide (drugwatch.com)

Alternatives to Roundup: Safer Ways To Control Weeds and Pests (drugwatch.com)

Minsterley Meadows

our last two newsletters, I have featured the appeal to raise funds for purchasing and managing these important SSI meadows. If you would like to know more you might be interested in this talk:



The poster features a photograph of purple flowers in a meadow. The text is as follows:

Middle Marches Community Land Trust
Marches Meadow Group

MINSTERLEY MEADOWS APPEAL

FUNDRAISER EVENT

SSSI MEADOWS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

Minsterley Parish Hall, Tuesday 23 July, 7-9pm

Join Simon Cooter, Senior Reserve Manager, Stiperstones and Downton Gorge NNRS for a talk on the importance of SSSI meadows and in particular Minsterley Meadows.

SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) are the finest sites for wildlife and natural features in England, supporting many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features (they can be almost any kind of habitat - woodland, parkland, coastal and meadows, like Minsterley Meadows).

Simon will explain what this designation means and why it is important.

Doors open at 7pm with tea/coffee; talk starts at 7.30, followed by Q&As.

Can you help us purchase Minsterley Meadows for future generations?

We have an exciting opportunity to purchase two flower-rich meadows on the outskirts of Minsterley, Shropshire to safeguard them for future generations. Amongst many other species, the meadows support the largest colony of green-winged orchids in Shropshire which has led to their designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by the government's nature conservation body, Natural England.

The meadows adjoin Colline Lane and are well used by local people. The meadows should be owned by the Middle Marches Community Land Trust, a local community-led Trust dedicated to helping create an ecologically healthy and sustainable countryside. The Marches Meadow Group would help manage the meadows.

This appeal is supported by Minsterley Parish Council, CPRE Shropshire, Friends of Pontesford Hill and other local groups.

Donations to the Minsterley Meadows Fund can be made here or in cash on the day

"Plotting" – a talk by Alice Fox – Thursday 15th August, 7.30

Moor Hall Farmhouse, The Studio, Bettws-y-crwyn, Newcastle on Clun, SY7 8PH

Alice lives in Saltaire, West Yorkshire where she grows fibres for her artistic practice and explores the creative potential of what grows on her allotment – planted and wild. The materials are produced, gathered and processed seasonally. She is an extremely knowledgeable and interesting speaker and offers courses around the same theme. Anyone interested in gardening, design and textiles and in community practise would gain a great deal from this talk.

Useful links: <https://alicefox.bigcartel.com/>
<https://www.instagram.com/alicefoxartist>

Half the tickets have already been sold (and there is limited space available) so if you are interested please contact Bobby to book and pay for your ticket (£7.50): www.bobbybritnell.co.uk bobby@britnell.co.uk or 01547 510664.

Shrewsbury Flower Show – Friday 9th / Saturday 10th August

This is one of the country's Premier Flower Shows with events attracting top exhibitors from all over the country. It features TV personalities, celebrity chefs, singers and spectacular arena acts which entertain the crowds for twelve hours each day, ending with a magnificent finale and firework display. Tickets are £30 per day or £15 from 6pm and can be bought in advance or on the gate.

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. The July 24th talk is entitled '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.

As there is no meeting or newsletter in August, I am including the details of our meeting in September:

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



Salvias
A talk by Teresa and Ian Moss

Wednesday 25th September 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
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Ian and Theresa have around 2000 salvias for sale – they will struggle to bring large quantities to our talk in September so they would love us to see them growing in situ as well as having a larger choice to purchase. They are open by appointment only so feel free to email them teresajmoss1066@gmail.com or contact via their website:

www.hardyandunusualplants.wordpress.com.

Mention that you are a member of the club and I am sure you will receive a warm welcome.

IAN AND TERESA MOSS
RARE AND UNUSUAL SALVIAS



CALLING ALL SALVIAHOLICS!!

Plants ready now to buy from our own Salvia
Collection of over 150 varieties. Only available
for a limited period.

Please contact us via our website
www.hardyandunusualplants.wordpress.com
We are open by appointment ONLY.
(We are based between Ellesmere and
Whitchurch)

Membership

Membership costs £20 to cover attendance to all our meetings for a year (from October); early access to trips and events with subsidised tickets; seed offers and plant sales. 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

There was no competition in June due to the trip. This month you will have plenty of beautiful blooms to choose from so I hope we will have lots of entries to admire. Please bring a single cut bloom or spray from your garden, if you would like to join in the 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 at our next meeting on Wednesday July 24th.

Happy gardening!

Angie Salmon
Chair