

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



October 2024

I feel slightly torn between loving the Autumn colours developing all around us but being sad as some garden favourites are now brown and soggy after the first frosts. Overall, I am grateful to live in a country which has distinct seasons, even if they are changing and causing confusion in our gardening calendars! The photo below shows my Hydrangea Paniculata Phantom which goes through a lovely range of colours from creamy white to mottled pink...to soggy brown!



Chiltern Seeds

We had an email from Nina Deadfield who is the Business Development and Customer Services Manager of Chiltern Seeds. She is offering us a discount on the website of 15% off (excluding gift vouchers, collections, postage; this cannot be used in conjunction with another offer). The code for our members is SWSGC15 and can be inserted into the discount code box at checkout, click apply and the value of the discount will show along with the edited totals. This discount is strictly for our members only and cannot be published for wider networks.

The expiry date for the moment is 31st October 2024 when the code and offer will be reviewed.

Email: info@chilternseeds.co.uk

Web: www.chilternseeds.co.uk

D.T. Brown Seed Order

Our usual company for seed orders has decided that it “can do better” for this season so it will be offering the following discounts, that now include so much more than seed, along with a 100pg autumn catalogue

Minimum £200 Spend (which our club manages collectively with no problem!)

50% off seed

20% off Grow Your Own (Potatoes, Onions, Shallots, Garlic, Veg Plants + Fruit)

10% off Darlac

10% off Bird Food

P&P free on just seed to just one address (ie to gardening club)

P&P £4.95 on live product orders per individual address

For the full range of flower seeds please visit the website www.dtbrownseeds.co.uk. Please note that the seeds at sale prices online, have to be ordered by individuals; not through the club.

Please bring orders to the meeting on Wednesday 23rd October or send to Elly Bibby, Cwm House, Clunton, Craven Arms, SY7 0QH by November 20th.

Pam's Plant Sale

Oh no! Apologies to Pam – I fear I put October instead of September in the last newsletter. I hope most of you realised and went to her sale anyway. I was trying to help...but suffering from covid at the time of writing; probably not at my best.

Wollerton Old Hall Garden Winter Workshops 2024/25

Propagation – Taking Cuttings - Wednesday 6th November 10.30am – 1.30pm

Using plants from the garden and nursery, learn about different types of cuttings, how to take successful cuttings and go home with a pot of cuttings to raise at home.

Propagation – Seed Sowing and Taking cuttings – Wednesday 20th November 10.30am – 1.30pm

A practical, introductory look at sowing seeds, saving seeds from the garden and a brief guide to taking cuttings from garden plants and their successful aftercare.

Make a Christmas Wreath - Wednesday 18th December 10.30am – 1.30pm

Make a Christmas wreath completely from scratch using foliage and materials foraged from the Garden. Take home your completely unique wreath ready to hang for the festive period.

Pruning Wisteria – Wednesday 15th January 10.30am – 1.30pm

A practical workshop learning how to summer and winter prune your Wisteria. Learn how to renovate old Wisteria and train new plants too.

Pruning Roses - Wednesday 5th February 10.30am – 1.30pm

A practical workshop learning how to prune different types of roses including climbers and ramblers, learn how to get the best from your roses in terms of health and flowers.

Pruning Clematis – Wednesday 19th February 10.30am – 1.30pm

Participants will learn about the different types (groups) of clematis and then have a practical session pruning the different groups of clematis in the garden.

Pruning Shrubs (incl. Hydrangeas) – Wednesday 5th February 10.30am – 1.30pm

A practical look at pruning shrubs including different types of Hydrangeas. A hands-on session working on the varied shrubs and hydrangeas in the garden.

Seed sowing for Cut flowers – Wednesday 19th March 10.30am – 1.30 pm

Learn about the half hardy and annual plants that can be sown now to provide a plethora of cut flowers for the year. Learn how to sow the seeds and go home with your own pot of sown seeds

All workshops will be led by the Head Gardener, Claire Tatler (MHort)

All workshops are £45 per person (non-refundable)

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Workshops will be held in the garden therefore suitable shoes and clothing should be worn for the time of year

All materials will be provided, please bring your own secateurs if you have them

Places are limited – please email head.gardener@wollertonoldhallgarden.com to book tickets and for payment details

“Going Wild in Bishops Castle”

Dan Hodgkiss, the Project Co-ordinator for the above project, would like to set up a Wildlife Gardening Group for Bishops Castle. Part of his remit is to work with local gardeners and he is hoping to team up with our club where possible.

I have told him that several of our members include wildlife areas in their gardens; are knowledgeable and that we have had talks on the subject at our meetings.

If anyone is interested in getting involved, I am sure Dan would be delighted to hear from you:

goingwild@lightfootenterprises.org His office hours are Wednesday 17.00-21.00

BBC Radio 4 – On Your Farm, For the Love of Plants

Thanks to Mandy for alerting me to this interesting listen. It features a nursery in West Wales which focuses on growing plants which will be suitable for growing in tough, local conditions (sounds like my sort of place!) The nursery has been running for forty years and the staff are encouraged to each have their own area to nurture – this includes the National Collection of Sarracenias and The Houseplant Place. We quite fancy a trip here – they will even supply cake, given enough notice! Let us know if you are interested.



Next meeting: Wednesday 23rd October

A short AGM will be followed by:

Irises in the Natural Garden – a talk by Alun and Jill Whitehead

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB



Alun and Jill Whitehead
Irises for the Natural Garden

Wednesday 23rd October 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



Jill and Alun Whitehead have created their three-acre garden at Aulden Farm over 20 years, selling a wide variety of plants from their nursery and they hold a large collection of Siberian Iris. Being keen plantaholics means that over the years a depth of knowledge has been built up especially in irises. In 2007 an old collection of Siberian Iris fell into neglect and they couldn't let the history just disappear so acquired the remaining plants and re-established it, with many additions, as a new National Collection. It now has approximately 150 cultivars and proves to be a useful resource for photographers as well as other irisiarians. They also act as the Collection Co-ordinators for Plant Heritage in Herefordshire and have been Hardy Plant Society members for over 20 years.

Treasurers Report

Feel free to check out the Treasurer's Report which will be presented at the AGM on Wednesday 23rd. If you have any queries, please ask Sandy.

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB					
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2024					
	2023/24			2022/23	
	DEBIT	CREDIT		DEBIT	CREDIT
	£			£	
GENERAL FUND					
RECEIPTS					
Membership fees		2,025.00			1,545.00
Visitors		180.00			325.00
Raffle		464.00			533.50
Seed order		335.60			430.47
June Trip		818.00			596.00
December show		0.00			580.00
Donations for refreshments		18.80			42.95
SUB TOTAL		3,841.40			4,052.92
PAYMENTS					
RHS Affiliation fee & Insurance through AON	125.00			120.00	
Hall hire	210.00			224.00	
Speakers fees & costs	1,219.17			939.20	
Raffle prizes	179.50			215.95	
Seed order	335.69			433.81	
Printing & stationery & training	140.70			343.81	
Postage	9.75			22.80	
Plant heritage	65.00			65.00	
Website	43.20			79.16	
June Trip	800.45			896.40	
August Trip (2022)	0.00			133.75	
December show	0.00			528.50	
Refreshments	30.63			21.40	
Miscellaneous	132.43			115.63	
December meeting	65.28			0.00	
SUB TOTAL		3,356.80			4,139.41
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		484.60			86.49
BALANCE SHEET					
Petty cash		66.60			66.60
Bank current account		5,045.19			4,660.59
Cheque paid in 27.9.24 but not cleared		100.00			
TOTAL		5,211.79			4,727.19
Represented by:					
Petty cash & bank balances as at 1 October b/fwd		4,727.19			4,813.68
General fund surplus/ deficit for the year		484.60			86.49
TOTAL		5,211.79			4,727.19
The foregoing Account has been prepared from original documentation and information collated. To the best of my knowledge and belief it represents a true record of the Club's financial activity during the year.					
Sandy Burton			Audited by		
Treasurer			Edward Cooper		

We are sadly losing one of our committee members in October. If you are possibly interested in joining our merry band, do chat to me or any of the committee. It's a great way to meet people and we would be very glad to welcome you. This time last year I was quite nervous because we were losing four members at once but fortunately we had some great new volunteers who have gone from strength to strength. One of them said she wasn't really a committee type of person (I felt the same way over ten years ago!) and another said he would help out if we were really desperate. I am happy to say that they are both thriving and seem to be enjoying the experience! If this mirrors your thoughts, perhaps you should give us a go!

November Speaker

Unfortunately our planned talk: "Centuries of Men and their Gardens" was cancelled by the speaker. However, our wonderful Programme Organiser Mandy, sprang into action and persuaded the speaker for November 2025 to come early! Consequently we will now have the delight of a visit from Andrew Fusek Peters with a talk entitled "The Wildlife beyond our Window – a Celebration of UK Butterflies and Garden Wildlife". Andrew is an internationally renowned wildlife and landscape photographer based in Lydbury North.

Birmingham Botanic Gardens



Thanks to Anne Shepherdson for these lovely photos taken earlier this week – plenty to see and a thoroughly enjoyable visit.

Pearl Garden

We need to have a tidy-up before Winter sets in. If anyone would like to give us a hand for an hour, we would be very grateful – nothing too strenuous, mostly weeding. The garden is in front of the hall on the left at the top of the slope, under the window.

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: burtionsandy106@gmail.com.

Flower of the Month



Congratulations to Mellie Lewis who won the September competition with her *Salvia Confertiflora*.

The points achieved from last October will be added up so that prizes can be awarded at the AGM/ next meeting on 23rd.

Please bring a single cut bloom or spray from your garden, if you would like to join in the next 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.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 23rd (unless there are terrible storms which keep me marooned on the Isle of Wight – previous attempt to visit my brother last month was prevented by covid).

Angie Salmon
Chair