

South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Newsletter



January 2025

Happy New Year to you all! Hope you have recovered from the festivities and are looking forward to all the challenges and joys of your gardens during the coming year. As Monty Don says: "British gardeners are blessed. We have fabulous weather. We never have too much rain, it's never too dry, never too cold. We just think it is. It is cold and it is hot, it is dry and it is wet, but the extremes are nothing compared to other countries." The article in the Sunday Times featuring his new TV series (British Gardens 8pm BBC2) reminded me just how fortunate we are to live where gardening is such a national passion; this leads to an endless supply of beautiful, diverse and inspirational places to visit. I was pleased to see that Monty describes Wollerton Old Hall as "a great garden and one of his favourites of the series".



Not too snowy...

D.T.Brown Seed Order

Your seed orders are ready for collection at our January meeting. Many thanks to Elly who has emailed everyone with an invoice and organised all the orders. You can pay with cash or in advance of the meeting by BACS. See under membership in this letter for our bank details.

Lights at the village hall

At the time of writing this newsletter, some of the outside lights at the village hall are not working. You might want to bring a torch to the next meeting! There is an electrician trying to sort the problem.

History of the club

I have recently received a large box of photos, newspaper cuttings and records of various sorts related to the history of the club. I know these will hold precious memories for many of you so my aim is to transfer them on to the website where they will be safe for the future and generally accessible. This will take time but I will let you know when it is ready. Many thanks to Anne Shepherdson, one of our founder members, who has agreed to help me.

December meeting



Our Christmas celebration was full of sparkle, smiles and festive spirit. Debbie was thrilled to win the bee-themed hamper which had been lovingly created by Mellie. The mulled wine, apple juice, mince pies and nibbles were tasty and the decorated tables added to the sociable atmosphere (especially when the speaker requested all the front lights should be out!)

If you were unable to attend and have not yet received your gift of bee friendly seeds, please collect them at the next meeting.

Many thanks to the committee and everyone else who helped the evening to run so smoothly.

Posters in Bishops Castle

A kind member volunteered to distribute our publicity posters in Bishops Castle but unfortunately, we do not have your name or email. Please will you let us know who you are at the next meeting or contact David on nickyanddavid40@gmail.com Many thanks.

Old Hall Garden Winter Workshops 2025

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

Gardening Workshops at Westhope College

We have received a request from Rachel Buchanan of Westhope College to share details of some gardening workshops they are running with our members. There are three coming up this spring, with more in the pipeline, all led by Vicky Thornton.

They are:

Where do I start with my garden? on Thursday 6th February

Vegetable Growing for beginners on Thursday 6th March

Grow your own salads all year round on Thursday 27th March

Each one is £75 for the day, including lunch and all refreshments, run 10am - 4pm and further details are on their website here:

<https://www.westhope.org.uk/courses/homeandgarden.html>

All workshops are accessible for complete beginners, but people with gardening experience will still find inspiration, new ideas and other fellow gardeners in the group.

A complete dictionary of practical gardening

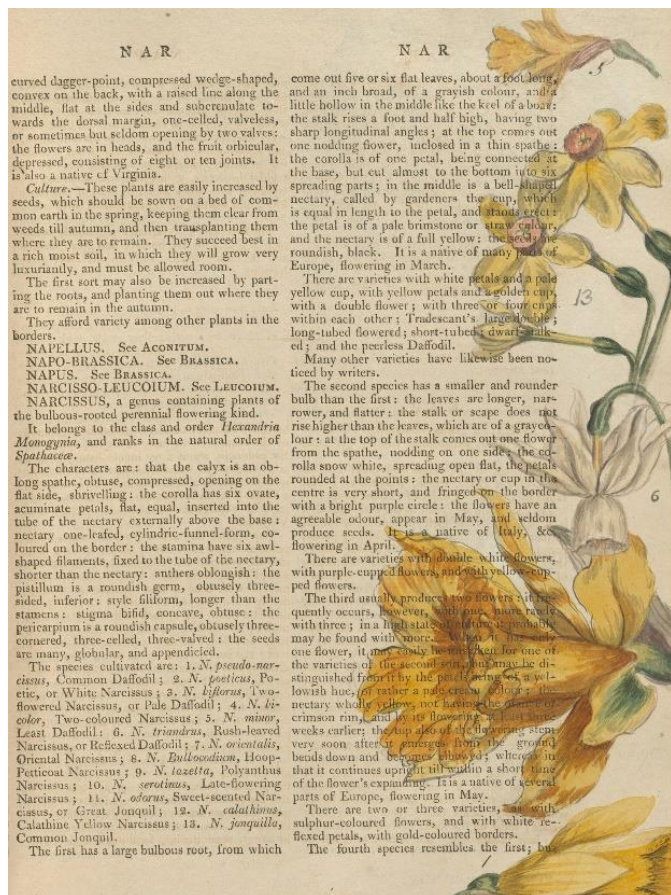
We saw this on the RHS Facebook page. If you follow the link and open up the digital copy of the Dictionary and you scroll through the pages, lots of them are illustrated by these flower paintings. Something cheerful to look at on a dark winter night perhaps....

To mark [The National Lottery Heritage Fund's](#) Heritage Treasures Day, we're sharing this copy of Alexander McDonald's 1807 'A complete dictionary of practical gardening', hand-painted with watercolour marginalia, from the RHS Lindley Collections 🇬🇧

Thanks to an assortment of clues throughout the book as well as the meticulous detective work of the library team, we managed to track down and identify the artist as Sophia MacKenzie. Born near Richmond in around 1762, Sophia's family had a number of interesting links to the horticultural world, including landscape designer Humphry Repton, who employed to redesign her family's estate at Whitton Park, as well as William Chambers, who designed the pagoda at Kew where it is said that Sophia took the book to paint her illustrations.

Discover the fully digitised version of McDonald's dictionary on RHS Digital Collections:

https://collections.rhs.org.uk/browse?q=facet,metadata.Record_Type.en.keyword,equal,Book&q=must,any,contains,dictionary&limit=12



Pearl Garden

We are having a working party to weed, mulch, refresh the planting and possibly install some Everedge to prevent erosion in the bed in front of the village hall. If you could spare an hour from 2pm on Wednesday 12th March, any help would be much appreciated.

Next meeting: Wednesday 22nd January

Garden DIY using just a wooden pallet – a talk by Adam Kirtland

SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE GARDENING CLUB

**Garden DIY
Using Just a
Wooden Pallet
by Adam
Kirtland**
(Host of the chart
topping podcast,
Tales From The
Potting Bench)



Wednesday 22nd January 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.



South West Shropshire Gardening Club:
celebrating over 30 years of gardening in Shropshire



Adam Kirtland, otherwise known online as View From The Potting Bench, is a gardener, professional writer (Amateur Gardening Magazine, Garden News and Garden Answers) and podcaster with a passion for budget gardening, but on a big scale. Budget doesn't always mean boring!

Over the last few years, Adam has created a garden at his home in Birmingham, that is filled to the brim with thousands of spring bulbs every year, hundreds of containers and more dahlias than he can count. All done on a budget!

On top of this, Adam crafts his own raised beds, planters, potting benches and all manner of things...you guessed it, on a budget! And in this talk he'll be showing you just what you can make yourself and exactly how you can do it!

Membership

There are several members who have not paid yet so please attend to this asap.

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, cheque or card 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 Alleyne to let him know: aandpcopetake@hotmail.com

Flower of the Month



Congratulations to Elly Bibby (our Club Secretary) who won our special “Baubles and Berries” competition with her beautiful table decoration in a basket.

Flower of the month is back to normal now. Please bring a single bloom or spray from your garden in order to participate. Points are awarded each month and then an overall winner is announced and rewarded in October.

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

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 22nd January.

Angie Salmon
Chair