



MALMESBURY and DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Sept/Oct NEWSLETTER 2016

www.malmesburygardenclub.org.uk

Chair and Secretary – Ellie Church

Contributions for the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor: argoodall1952@hotmail.co.uk



JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR

During our summer recess we had a wonderful horticultural show, with many prize specimens of fruit, vegetables and flowers. The judges, Keith and Margaret, did a splendid job. The show was well organised by Derek, with help from the committee and club members. Thank you all for working so hard to give us such a good show, and not forgetting Louise for feeding and watering everyone.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting in September.

Ellie Church – Chair

MEETINGS – EVENTS – ACTIVITIES

<p>Monday 12 September 2016 7.30pm in the Charlton Village Hall <i>'Container Gardening'</i> John Mason</p> <p>John is company director of Highfield Garden World near Gloucester. He has 30 years' experience in horticulture and has been giving talks to clubs for 20 years. All talks are demonstrations – no slide shows.</p>	<p>Monday 10 October 2016 7.30pm in the Charlton Village Hall <i>'Bonsai Basics'</i> Geoff Hobson</p> <p>Geoff has been involved in horticulture for 50 years and has been interested in bonsai for 12 years. He previously gave us a talk on Easy Orchids in October 2013.</p>
<p>Saturday 22 October 2016 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Charlton Village Hall <i>Harvest Supper</i></p> <p>For details see below or contact Ellie on 01666 510490</p>	<p>Monday 14 November 2016 7.30pm in the Charlton Village Hall <i>'Easy Alpines and Low-growing Perennials'</i> Julie Ritchie</p> <p>Julie has run a nursery specialising in perennials and alpines for over 25 years and for 10 years has grown all the plants peat-free. The experience of growing and propagating these plants is shared through her talks and demonstrations.</p>



Harvest supper

We will be holding our annual **Harvest Supper** on **22 October 2016** in Charlton Village Hall at 7.00 pm for 7.30 start. We will be having a three course meal. The cost will be £7.50. Numbers are limited.

To reserve a place please see me at our monthly meetings or contact me by telephone: 01666 510490 or email: ellie352@btinternet.com.

Ellie

Other events

OAKSEY AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Saturday-Sunday 17-18 September 2016

Flower Festival in All Saints Church, Oaksey, Produce Show in the village hall on Saturday 17th, and scarecrow trail throughout the village all weekend. Refreshments in the village hall. In aid of Oaksey Church and village hall.



JESSIE MAY FUN DAY

Sunday 11 September 2016, 2.00 – 5.00 pm

A family Fun Run, Fun Day and People's Grand Prix at the Castle Combe Circuit, Chippenham SN14 7EY, in aid of the Jessie May children's hospice at home.

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

DEMONSTRATION BY JONATHAN MOSELEY

Wednesday 12 October 2016, 6.30 – 7.30 pm

At Country Baskets, Nova Way, Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9DJ. Tickets £5, from Jenny Payne, tel. 01666 577455, email jenn.pyne23@gmail.com, in aid of Breast Cancer Care and Prostate Cancer UK.

ngs gardens open
for charity

Further details of these open gardens can be found in the 'Yellow Book' or on the NGS website: <http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/find-a-garden.aspx>

Sunday 3 July

Horatio's Garden
Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre,
Salisbury Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Odstock
Road, Salisbury SP2 8BJ

Sunday 18

Cantax House, Lacock SN15 2JZ
The house front featured in TV productions of
Cranford, Emma and in Harry Potter

Wednesday 14

Hazelbury Manor Gardens, Wadswick, Box SN13
8HX



Tasks for September/October



- Continue to spray roses
- Take Hybrid Tea and Floribunda rose cuttings
- Prepare ground for new rose beds
- Continue to dead head perennial plants
- Spray Michaelmas Daisies against mildew
- Prune back flowering shrubs i.e., Weigela, Philadelphus, Senecio etc.
- Sow Sweet Peas in pots and place in frame
- Sow hardy annuals—Nigella, Godetia, Candytuft
- Place prepared Hyacinths in bowls for Christmas
- Sprinkle 2oz per sq yard of bone meal around perennials and shrubs
- Plant Wallflowers, Polyanthus, Bellis and Pansies for spring flowering
- Sow lettuces—Arctic King or Winter Density
- Spray brassica against caterpillar and whitefly
- Plant out spring cabbage plants
- Store main carrot crops
- Order fruit trees and bushes
- Cut out old fruiting raspberry canes
- Prune blackcurrant bushes
- Pick apples and pears for storing
- Spray outdoor peach and nectarine against peach leaf curl



FROM THE GARDEN by KEITH

Comments from the garden

I was busy watering and weeding in one of my gardens when suddenly someone said 'Good morning' and continued on along the driveway. A few minutes later three more people, then two more, came walking by. 'Excuse me' I said, 'this is private property'. The bridle way was at least a half mile away. Thankfully this does not happen very often.

Summer turns to autumn

As I write this letter we have some summer sunshine; let's hope for an Indian summer. The garden is still giving us a lot of colour. The year passes quickly, I hear everyone say. It's true. Already we move into the season of autumn with its amazing colour display on trees, shrubs and in the borders. A trip to Westonbirt Arboretum would be a visit to remember. In late autumn they light it up and I have been told it is quite a sight. The acer glade has colours ranging through many shades of red, yellow and orange and it is surrounded by other trees with similar coloured leaves. There are many small trees that give wonderful autumn tints. The leaves of *Malus* or crab apple can give shades of yellow, orange and



red, and the many bright coloured crab apples are an added bonus. The *Rhus* or sumach needs to be seen to be believed. There are a number of varieties worth trying. *R. typhina*, also known as the stags horn sumach, has velvety shoots and in the autumn the deeply-cut leaves turn a brilliant orange red. *R. aromatica*, the fragrant sumach, has deeply-cut colourful leaves which are



pleasantly fragrant when crushed, and small yellow flower clusters which are followed by hairy red fruit in late summer. Shrubs can also give a brilliant display. *Euonymus alatus* or winged spindle has amazing red leaves, while the leaves of *Cornus* var. *alba kesselringii* (dogwood) are reddish purple. Both of these shrubs stand out well in the garden. Blueberries, although needing a lime-free soil, give us another marvellous colour change as autumn approaches, the green leaves slowly turning a pale orange then a bright red; the blueberries are a bonus. Remember to cover bushes to protect them from birds.

Keith's choice plant

***Acer Palmatum* var. *sango-kaku*:** This Japanese maple has leaves of yellow-orange in spring, green in the summer and pale yellow in the autumn. The branches are coral red. Height and width up to 10ft.

Pests' Paradise

Leaf weevils: irregular holes are eaten on many low branches of deciduous trees and shrubs in late spring and early summer. A small green or golden brown beetle is probably the cause. Infestation is not always detrimental, however if severe spray with a pesticide and again two weeks later.

Plants to enjoy in September/October

Dahlias, *Chrysanthemums*, *Gallardia*, *Symphoricarpos* (*snowberry*), *Nerine*, *Rudbeckia*, *Pyracantha*, *Solidago* (*golden rod*).



FROM THE VEGETABLE PLOT by KEITH

Comments from the veg plot

Listening to the radio over the past few months, there has been talk of bird populations declining in numbers. If my garden is anything to go by they must have all come here. I have had robins, blue tits, swallows, pigeons, sparrows and house martins all nesting in my garden. I have even had the great spotted woodpecker paying a regular visit.

Know your onions

There have been some very good onions at the shows I have judged this year. Now we have moved into autumn how many of you have planted or sown autumn varieties of onions and shallots? While the ground is moist and still reasonably warm, planting an autumn variety of onion sets would give you an early crop next year. A good Japanese variety called Senshyu yellow, gives you a medium sized semi-globe shaped onion, white fleshed inside with a yellow outer skin and a mild flavour. Other good autumn onion sets include Electra, which has red skin and flesh, and again is medium sized with a mild flavour. Snowball is a more common variety. It is very winter hardy, has white skin and flesh, is mild in flavour and keeps well. Radar is a good severe winter variety with golden skin, medium size and mild flavour. Autumn-sown shallots will also give a good early crop. The variety Germor A.G.M. (Award of Garden Merit) is a French type shallot, its copper skin covers pink flesh and it has a sweet taste. Griselle is another French variety, known by the French as the French grey shallot. It is long with purple-pink flesh and a grey skin with a strong flavour. Lastly the shallot Hative-de-niort is a good variety for the show bench with elongated brown-skinned bulbs with excellent flavour. A good spring onion to sow in the autumn is Winterover, a version of white Lisbon with good length and mild flavour. Some onion seed varieties worth sowing in the autumn include



Hiball F1, which is juicy with good flavour, and Tough ball F1, which is a medium to large round onion with firm flesh and mild flavour.



Seasonal activities

Some harvesting should now have been completed (early September) and the ground cleared, shallots and onions have been lifted and are drying. Broad beans have performed well, plenty to eat and for the freezer. The cabbage white butterflies have been numerous this year, so spray for the caterpillars with a pesticide spray that kills on contact for crops that are being used now, such as cabbage, green sprouting broccoli and cauliflower. They will need spraying two or three times – watch for new hatchings of caterpillars. Crops that will not be used until late autumn or winter, such as curly kale, savoy cabbage, brussels sprouts and purple sprouting broccoli, can be sprayed with a systemic insecticide, which is absorbed into the plant and kills the caterpillars as they hatch. Two sprays only of this insecticide should be used, as directed on the label. If a late variety of pea was sown, spray with a fungicide to prevent mildew, also spray outdoor tomatoes. Mildew can also affect the leaves of courgettes. Mid to late September is a good time to lift main crop potatoes. Should you suddenly have a problem with blight on the top growth of potatoes (haulms), cut off all top growth and lift immediately as blight will travel down into the potato. Continue to sow cut-and-come-again salad varieties and radishes at three weekly intervals.



Keith's choice vegetable

Cucumber var. La-Diva: an outdoor, small, smooth-skinned cucumber, very prolific with a good flavour. No pest or virus problems.

No vegetable nightmares

Onion rot: Storage of onions can sometimes cause rot at the roots if not dried off properly. Dust the roots with yellow sulphur after hanging or placing in final position for winter.

Some vegetables to enjoy in September/October

Carrots, onions, runner beans, cabbage, potatoes, salad, courgettes, cucumbers, leeks, curly kale, cauliflower, beetroot, dwarf French beans, early brussels sprouts (October cropping), sweet corn, spinach, Swiss chard, celeriac.

Recipe

Cooked beetroot with orange

This recipe was given to me by my friend Pam Jenkins.

Method

Boil the beetroot until tender (I use a pressure cooker and it takes 20 mins). Peel it and slice it while still warm. Add orange marmalade to taste and allow it to melt over the beetroot. It can be eaten either hot or cold.



Ellie

Editor's postscript



In my garden, at least, butterfly numbers seem to have been down on previous years, but the bees are certainly holding their own. The lavender and teucium bushes in particular, and now the sedum, have been covered with literally dozens of bees of all varieties, shapes and sizes, and the garden hums with their buzzing.

Alison