



# MALMESBURY and DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

## July/August NEWSLETTER 2019

[www.malmesburygardenclub.org.uk](http://www.malmesburygardenclub.org.uk)

Chair and Secretary – Ellie Church



### JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR . . . .

We had a very successful Plant Sale raising enough money to pay for the Show in July. Thank you Graham and everyone else to contributed in any way.

Summer is almost here! Our garden is doing well at present. I planted a packet of 50 sweetcorn seeds and found a half open packet of doubtful age but decided I might as well chuck them in as well. What happens? I ended up with 59 sweetcorn plants all, I am very pleased to say, now growing in the garden. Fingers crossed they ripen and we get to eat some.

Just a reminder that we have our Annual Show on 27 July. We look forward to having lots of your entries.

Our next meeting is on 9 September when Jenny Tidman will be talking to us on 'Small Gardens and Containers'.

*Ellie Church – Chairperson*

### SOME NOTES FROM DEREK . . . .

#### SHOW TIME!

##### Friday 26 July: Last day for entries

Please leave your entry forms at the Club Post Box in E & S Shop or in the big green box at the Garden Centre, but remember to leave them in plenty of time – they will be collected at 3.00pm. Alternatively you can bring your entry form to the Riverside Centre between 6.30 and 8.15pm where we will be busy recording all the entries and writing up the benching cards – if anyone would like to help please give me a call.



##### Saturday 27 July: Show Day!

We will be ready at the Village Hall in Charlton to receive your exhibits between 9.30 and 11.00am. The way plants have been growing I hope we will have lots of entries this year. Please try to bring something extra this year.

##### Open garden

Derek and Margaret Bayliss (you will all know Margaret, she Judges the Floral Art at our Show) are opening their garden at Wisteria House, Corston SN16 0HF on Sunday 30 June, from 2.00 to 5.00pm, with refreshments, a raffle and a free quiz with a prize!

Derek and Margaret would like you to see what they have done to a field in 20 years!

The drive to the house is on the right after the Radnor Arms going from Malmesbury, the drive is opposite Radnor Park.

##### Thanks to all

I have been inundated with offers from ladies offering to crawl into my water barrel – I regret I am unable the thank you all individually.



*Derek*



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## Tasks for July/August



- Spray roses against pests/diseases and dead head
- Prune shrubs that have finished flowering: spire, broom japonica etc.
- Continue to tie in tall-growing perennials as necessary
- Prune hard back bearded iris and apply general fertilizer a 2 oz per sq yd
- Prune winter flowering heathers, to promote new growth for the coming winter
- Feed tubs and hanging baskets at ten day intervals
- Protect ripening fruit from birds
- Raise mower height in dry weather
- Complete planting of half-hardy annuals
- Prune back one or two blackcurrant canes to promote new growth (pick crop first)
- Tie in new growth of loganberry and blackberry
- For yellowing of raspberry leaf, water in sequestrene of iron as directed
- Complete brassica planting, protect against pigeons
- Spray all brassica plants against caterpillars
- Complete late plantings of leeks, peas, beetroot and spinach
- Sow spring cabbage seed

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### ***Thank you and well done . . . .***

The Club had a very successful **Plant Sale** on Saturday 25 May. After being told the Market Cross was due to be repaired, we made preparations for a quick move to the Bird Cage Walk but in the end this was not needed.

It was a beautiful sunny morning and we had the Market Cross set up by 6.30am and, soon after, the members were turning up with their produce and putting on a good variety of plants for the sale.

The supply of plants was up on previous years and by 8.30-9.00am the sale was in full swing and trade was very good. There was a big demand for runner beans

and other vegetables. Also flowers such as chrysanthemums, lilies bedding plants sold well. raffle raised over £60.

The takings on the day came to over £650, so to everyone who helped in way "WELL DONE"!

Thanks once again, *Graham, Plant Sale Organiser*



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## **Recipe**

### ***Strawberry Gin . . . .***

#### **Ingredients**

1 litre bottle gin  
500g ripe strawberries  
150g sugar

Glass container large enough to hold the ingredients. A large jar with a watertight lid is ideal (I have used a Kilner jar)

#### **Method**

Hull the strawberries and put them into the container. Add the gin then the sugar. Shake well to mix. Place into a cool dark place. Every day shake the contents until the sugar is dissolved. Leave it to stand for three weeks, then sieve through muslin into bottle. Reserve the strawberries, they are delicious with ice cream.



*Ellie*

## **MEETINGS – EVENTS – ACTIVITIES**

<p><b>Saturday 27 July 2019</b> 1.30 – 4.00 pm Charlton Village Hall <i>Annual Open Show</i></p>	<p><b>Monday 9 September 2019</b> 7.30pm in the Charlton Village Hall <i>Small gardens and containers</i> Jenny Tidman Jenny worked at Kew Gardens and is now the plant expert at Malmesbury Garden Centre. She has given us many good talks in the past</p>
<p><b>Monday 14 October 2019</b> 7.30pm in the Charlton Village Hall <i>Marvellous Moths</i> Bob Smith  Bob is very keen on moths and will bring some to the talk</p>	<p><b>Monday 11 November 2019</b> 7.30pm in the Charlton Village Hall <i>Penstemons and other summer sun lovers</i> Julie Ritchie  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>

### ***Members visit to Hortico . . . .***

After a truly awful day of cold rain, and a miserable evening, 19 hardy members dug out their warm coats to make the much-anticipated trip to visit the Hortico Garden Centre at Sherston. The owners, Piers and Sarah Lavan, welcomed us to their business and very soon Piers continued giving us the talk which he began at Charlton. He explained everything about his philosophy – it really was infectious as he showed us the solar panel which provided the only electricity to power the till, but not enough to boil a kettle! Piers' passion is controlling the feed we give to plants – small doses and in loose compost which allows the plants to make vigorous roots which then

seek nutrients. Thankfully we were under cover from the awful rain – and most of us went home with some plants which they kindly offered at a 10% discount.

Members will have seen the displays for Malmesbury and for Cricklade in Bloom which Hortico supply, and for those visitors to WOMAD, Piers sends much of his unsold stock to decorate the festival.

*Derek*

### ***Editor's Bit . . . .***

#### ***Not one for the show bench . . . .***

I love the flavour of freshly pulled home-grown carrots. They are so much better than the sugar-water taste of supermarket varieties. But now, after several years of trying to grow them, I have decided that carrots really don't like my soil. Manured/not manured, dug/not dug, raised bed, added sand – it's always the same: tiny, mis-shapen dolls' house carrots!

*Alison*





## FROM THE GARDEN by KEITH

### **Comments from the garden . . . .**

It seems some plants don't like wet and frosty winters. I always seem to lose one or two plants which means I can try some new ones or leave the space for something different.

### **Tulips . . . .**

With September being the time to start planting bulbs, it gives you time to decide which bulbs to choose if you need any! Here are some different types of tulips that might help you decide. My word! Where do you start? Tulips have so many different divisions, let alone varieties. Let me give you some idea of the divisions you can choose from: triumph or mid season, double early, single early (short stemmed), fosteriana, greigii, kaufmanniana, flag, Darwin hybrid, single late or cottage, viridiflora (green), fringed (crispa), lily, parrot, multiflowered, and species tulips. There are hundreds of varieties amongst these divisions. Over the years I have tried a



number of varieties from each division. Some are ideal for tubs and hanging baskets: these include, kaufmanniana, greigii, fosteriana, single early (short

stemmed), and species tulips. The species tulip is also ideal for rockeries with some varieties only reaching 8 to 10 cm in height. With so many to mention and with the tulips coming in so many colours and shades, I will just mention some exceptional ones I have tried: parrot 'Webers parrot', ivory white, light purple at the edges, yellow anthers and fully frilled petals, flowering mid May, height 50cm; fringed varieties 'honeymoon', pure white, and 'Huis Ten Bosch', vivid pink with a white base, both varieties well fringed at the edge of the petals, flowering April/May, height 50cm; lily-flowered 'ballerina', fully reflected flowers, strong stems, good for cutting, a vivid orange colour flowering early May, height 55cm; multi-flowered 'Inferno' producing up to six heads per stem, deep red, flowering April/May, height 40cm. Some for your tubs: kaufmanniana variety 'Ancilla', lemon/ivory

with dark rose band on outer petals, flowering late March, height 15cm; greigii variety 'little girl', light salmon pink, flowering March/April, height 20cm; and 'Pinocchio', outer petals scarlet edged ivory white, blotched fern green, striped foliage, flowering March, height 20cm.



### **Keith's choice bulb . . . .**

**Camassia var. Esculenta:** quamash, a hardy bulbous plant with bright blue flowers on strong stems ideal for naturalising in grass, flowering May/June, height 30 to 40cm.



### **No disease please . . . .**

**Tulip fire:** foliage emerges above ground withered and distorted, foliage then produces grey fungal growth. Tulip fails to mature or buds fail to open, stems are weak and collapse. Plant will rapidly be covered in fungal growth and rot. A fungus is the cause. Remove infected foliage, bulb and soil beneath, do not plant in same place or area for several years. Tulip bulbs dusted with sulphur will have some protection from disease.

### **Plants to enjoy in July/August**

*Meconopsis, Solidago, Pervoskia, Sidalcea, Potentillas, Hydrangeas, Buddleias, roses, lavender*



## FROM THE VEGETABLE PLOT by KEITH

### **Comments from the veg plot . . . .**

I am trying an Actinidia or kiwi fruit for the first time. It's reported to be hardy in a sheltered spot, has fragrant flowers and is self-fertile (does not need a mate). The variety is Oriental delight. Could be a while before I produce any although it's quite vigorous in growth.

### **Parsnips . . . .**

A Sunday roast without parsnips is unthinkable, although not everyone likes them. If I go back a number of years the variety 'Tender and true' was the one I always grew; believe it or not, this variety was introduced in 1897. I remember germination was very good that year and it rained all summer? Nowadays I tend to change varieties every year. Canker is the one problem I seem to get most. Sowing in June helps as it produces smaller parsnips; it seems the bigger the parsnip the more problem with canker. There are now varieties with strong resistance to canker, e.g. Panorama f1. This is a good showbench and long-rooted variety with large sized roots and good flavour. Gladiator f1 hybrid is another variety with good resistance to canker, a good smooth skin and a nutty flavour. Countess f1 hybrid is also a good one for the showbench, it has smooth pale coloured skin with a sweet flavour and good disease resistance. Javalin f1 AGM is one I grow the most. Again it has good canker resistance, slender creamy roots and good flavour, excellent for roasting and the showbench. The variety Guernsey is a heritage variety originating in France, also known as half long because of its shorter roots; it has good flavour and smooth white skin. A new one for me is the variety Kral Russian; it has a root similar to beetroot. The round white-skinned parsnip is smooth and sweet and is easy to just pull out of the ground. Last but not least, those well-tested varieties which are just as good and, as I said, I have tried many times over the years: Tender and true, long with little core and good flavour; White gem, cream coloured skin and good flavour; Hollow crown, reliable in hard winters with good flavour. They all require deep well-dug ground with fertilizer, compost or farmyard



manure added; thin seedlings to about 8ins and keep well weeded.

### **Seasonal activities . . . .**

We should all now be quite productive in the vegetable plot. I hope any new varieties you are growing give you a good crop. Watch out for blackfly on climbing beans and broad beans; I had blackfly on my broad beans in early May. Pinching out the tops will stop blackfly, but they were not tall enough to do that. Asparagus beetle at this time, with the top ferns fully developed, will have little red beetles; these will decimate the fern tops if not sprayed. Caterpillars on all brassicas will also need spraying; the caterpillars emerge over a number of weeks so will need 2 or 3



sprays. Bug clear will be suitable for the above plants. Wet weather will give us slugs, dry weather flea beetle (shows as small holes on seedlings). Sow all peas by mid July, any later than this mildew is a problem. Spray potato haulms (foliage) with a fungicide to help prevent blight, also outdoor tomatoes. Should blight get a hold on your potatoes dig up as soon as you can; the blight will travel through to the potato which will rot in storage. Continue sowing salad leaves and radish at two week intervals for a continuous crop.

### **Keith's choice vegetable . . . .**

**Fennel var. Chiarino:** known as finocchio in Italy, a fast-growing variety producing large tight white bulbs with an aniseed flavour, small amounts of foliage can be added to salads.

### **No vegetable nightmares . . . .**

**Parsnip viruses:** yellow markings or patterns on leaves, leaves become stunted and distorted. Yellow fleck virus spread by aphids could be the cause but there are other viruses. Remove infected plants, control aphids by spraying.

### **Some vegetables to enjoy in July/August**

Carrot, spinach, salad leaves, peas, beetroot, courgette, early potatoes, self-blanching celery, onions, runner beans, radish, Swiss chard, cabbage, cauliflower, greenhouse tomatoes, green sprouting broccoli.

