

# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER.

## Contact Information.

Committee officers can be emailed via the website:  
blackpeargc.org.uk



The  
**Black Pear**  
Gardening Club  
*Sharing a love of gardening*

### **Chair:**

Brian Skeys.

[blackpeargc@icloud.com](mailto:blackpeargc@icloud.com)

01684 311297

### **Secretary:**

Leonie Creighton.

### **Treasurer:**

Cathy Snelgar.

01905 831541

### **Membership:**

David Wackett.

01684 892802

### **Webmaster:**

Douglas Gregor.

Contact in Website.

**Indoor meetings 2.30pm**

**Powick Parish Hall.**

**WR2 4RT**

### **Newsletter:**

Larry & Mary  
Gleaves

01905821736

### **Membership £5/year.**

*Please note* membership renewal is from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 unless you joined after the 1st July 2020

Your membership is still only £5/year.

Entrance to meetings cost:

Members £1.50

Visitors £3.00

Meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of each month.

## Programme.

**SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>** "English Roses their history and how to use them in the garden". An illustrated talk given by Michael Marriot of David Austin Roses. For more details see below.\*

**OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>** The Gardens of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. An illustrated talk by Glyn Jones. For more details see below.\*

**NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>** AGM followed by Quiz. See Below.\*

**DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Dinner 12:30 for 1pm at the Worcester Golf and Country Club, Boughton Park Worcester. WR2 4EZ. See Below.\*

**\*Postponed due to latest Government Advice.**

## Brian's Notes

Dear Members

Thank you to those of you who have been able to join me in our virtual meetings on Skype also those of you who supported the plant sale, at Pirton, in aid of St Richards. The total raised including the sale of face masks made by ladies in the village was £1171.20, which I think is an amazing amount.

The committee have been discussing, by email, what to do regarding the programme for the rest of this year, sadly our conclusion is:

We will now cancel the rest of the programme for this year, including the Christmas lunch.

The AGM. Our constitution states: "An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held within two months of the date of the financial year-end."

The governments' guidelines regarding AGM's only goes as far as the end of September, however it does allow for AGM's to take place using technology where possible.

Cathy has started to prepare the accounts for the year. (End of September).

We plan to hold an AGM in November by email.

The present committee members who agree too will continue in post for the next year, following your approval.

The Accounts and the names of the committee will be posted on our website in 'Member's Matters' AGM 2020 at the beginning of November for members to view and then approve by email to me by November 21st. (If you are on our membership post list I will post the above to you on request. Brian. 01684 311297)

We plan to start meetings again in January, the programme is booked for that year with membership being paid from the start date.

We will produce another newsletter in November 2020.

I will endeavour to continue with online/Skype meetings, the next one will be a slide show of the Bishops Place Garden, Wells, Somerset, which was the destination of this year's coach trip.

I think as our Leader says "We must plan for the worst and hope for the best".

Good gardening,

Brian.

p.s.

Christine and Caroline Peer are opening their garden for the NGS. This is a new garden opening at:

### **Ravelin, Hanley Castle, Worcestershire.**

This is a ½ acre mature yet ever changing garden with a wide range of unusual plants full of colour and texture. Of interest to plant lovers and flower arrangers alike with views overlooking the fields and the Malvern Hills. Seasonal interest provided by a wide variety of hellebores, hardy geraniums, aconitums, heucharas, Michaelmas daisies, grasses and dahlias and a fifty-year-old silver pear tree.

Thought to be built on medieval clay works in the royal hunting forest. Garden containing herbaceous and perennial planting with gravel garden, woodland area, pond, summer house and plenty of seating areas around the garden.

**Pre Booking essential via:**

**[ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)**

Saturday 19th September

11:30am - 4:30pm

Sunday 20th September

11:30am - 4:30pm



## **Gardening Jobs for October, November & December.**

**By Julie Munn**

Hoe off any Annual Weeds & remove Perennial Weeds ensuring roots are completely removed.

On dry days, collect Seed from Annuals & Perennials for use next year.

Take root cuttings from Herbaceous Perennials such as Phlox, Acanthus, Papaver & Verbascum. Vigorous, pencil thick roots are the best & can usually be found by digging near to the base of the clump. Removing the plant is not always necessary to find the appropriate roots.

Water Camellia well during the Autumn & feed with a Liquid Ericaceous Plant Food to ensure a good flowering season in Spring. If plants are left dry, this can cause buds to drop before opening.

Autumn is a great time to plant Trees & Shrubs, the soil is still warm & usually moist. Look at your Beds & Borders to fill gaps or perhaps if you have space, choose a specimen shrub or tree for the lawn. It's also a good time to move plants if they have outgrown their space or are planted in the wrong place.

Plant Narcissi & other Spring flowering bulbs such as Fritillaries & Crocus. Tulips can be planted as late as Christmas. Plant up Pots & Containers but cover with netting or chicken wire to protect against raiding Squirrels! Wire/Netting can be removed once shoots appear.

Plant bulbs for naturalising such as Crocus, Aconites, Fritillaries & Scilla in lawns & under Trees & Shrubs.

Ensure Tender Perennials are placed inside once frosts begin.

Remove Summer Bedding from Pots, Containers & Borders & refresh with Winter Bedding Plants underplanted with Bulbs.

Prune Rambling Roses by removing old stems & tying in new ones.

Tidy up Herbaceous Borders, remove any dying leaves but leave Seed Heads & Berries for Wildlife to enjoy & to give some structure & interest during Winter.

Once Dahlia foliage has been blackened a couple of times by frost, dig up the tubers & allow to dry out for storage. Remove excess soil, trim stems leaving 4-6 inches near to the tuber & place upside down on a shed bench or in the greenhouse, to allow any residual water to drain. Place in a box or pot, cover with dry compost & keep them cool in a frost-free place over Winter. Some Dahlia can survive in the ground if your soil is free draining, cut the stems & cover with a bark mulch. Canna can be removed & stored in the same way.

Tomatoes may still be fruiting into October, cutting off lower leaves will help with air circulation, reduce humidity & allow light for any late ripening. Keep the soil moist but not overly wet.

Garlic can be planted from late Autumn to Early Winter directly into the ground, as it needs a chilling time. Place each clove about 2.5cm below the soil level. On heavy soils, sow into modules & plant out next Spring in a sunny spot.

Improve Lawns after the Summer by raking up thatch & moss, aerate & relieve any compacted areas with a Hollow-Tiner, Scarifier or Garden Fork. Top dress the lawn & trim the border edges. Re sow any bare patches.

Harvest Fruit & Vegetables.

Clear out dead plant material & leaves from Ponds.

Clear out the Greenhouse & wash down the glass inside & out to allow maximum light & remove any nasties overwintering.

Rake up fallen leaves & collect for leaf mould. Leaves can be composted or stored in a pile, in a cage made from chicken wire or black bags with holes in. Leaf mould is an excellent soil improver & mulch.

Clean out Bird Nest Boxes & disinfect. Feed the Birds over Winter & provide fresh water.

Give Pots & Containers a thorough clean. Repair, clean, sharpen & oil Tools.

Enjoy a well-earned rest! Happy Gardening.

## Garden Visit

If you are looking for a garden visit during the Autumn, then Old Court Nurseries & The Picton Garden in Colwall, nr Malvern is well worth it. They have a huge collection of Michaelmas Daisies/Asters as well as a well-stocked garden of Trees, Shrubs & Herbaceous plants.



Aster Collection 2015 – Julie Munn Oct 2015

They have NGS dates & Garden open times but please check the NGS website for details.

Pre booked Time slots are required due to Covid restrictions.

If you are planning a visit, the peak flowering time for the Michaelmas Daisy is 22 Sept-10 October.

Website:

[www.autumnasters.co.uk/nursery-and-garden/](http://www.autumnasters.co.uk/nursery-and-garden/)



S. 'Barr's Purple' – Julie Munn Oct 2015