

# SPRING 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.

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### Secretary

Leonie Creighton.

### Treasurer

Cathy Snelgar.

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### Membership

David Wackett.

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### Webmaster:

Douglas Gregor.

Contact in Website.

Indoor meetings 2.30pm

Powick Parish Hall.

WR2 4RT

Newsletter: Larry &

Mary Gleaves

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## Membership £5/year.

Please note membership renewal is from the 1st October unless you joined after the 1st July 2019

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.

**APRIL 18<sup>th</sup>**

**an Illustrated Talk on Tulipmania  
by Allan Wells**

**MAY 16<sup>th</sup>**

**an Illustrated Talk on From My Garden  
today by Paul Picton  
Paul's fee for his Talk is a donation to  
the Percy Picton Memorial Fund**

**\* Postponed due to Coronavirus. Dates to  
be advised.**

**JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>**

a Visit to Coddington Vineyard, Coddington,  
Herefordshire. HR8 1JJ. For more details  
see below

**JULY 18<sup>th</sup>**

a Visit to The River School, Oakfield House,  
Droitwich Rd WR3 7ST. For more details  
see below

## Brian's Notes

Dear members,

Following the government's guidance regarding coronavirus, we have cancelled our April and May meetings. We will review the situation again regarding garden visits nearer the time. You will notice a change of venue for the June garden visit, this is due to an error by the garden owners. We have to thank Leonie for arranging an alternative garden. A coach trip has been provisionally booked for August 21st, to the Bishops Palace Gardens, Wells Somerset. We will wait till nearer the time and reassess the situation regarding garden visits because many garden venues are closing to the public.

The committee has approved the appointment of Larry Gleaves as Vice Chairman, I thank Larry for agreeing to take on this role. If you should need to contact him his details are here on the newsletter and the website.

During this period of isolation, with the RHS, NT and NGS all closing their gardens, some ways to get your gardening fix is the member's articles on the website, I recently posted one about narcissi. If you enjoy listening to podcasts there is an RHS one and Tamsin Westhorpe produces one [candidegardening.com](http://candidegardening.com) web site where she interviews people such as Chris Beardshaw, Sir Roy Strong and Jules Hudson, well worth a listen. If you become desperate there is always my blog: [brimfields.com](http://brimfields.com).

Stay well, Brian

## Mary's Notes

Well, here we are already into the second newsletter of 2020. I'm hoping you haven't been too badly affected by this years wet and windy weather- lets hope the next few months are kinder and we can get on with the garden jobs suggested for this season by Julie.

Also, there's Coronavirus. If you are confined to barracks, I can recommend a gardening book that I have just discovered- 'The Greatest Gardening Tips in the World' by Steve Brooks, really interesting and informative.

If you have managed to get out on your plot and are not too exhausted by all the sowing, weeding, pruning and planting out, perhaps you would like to take a photograph of you horticultural achievements?

We would like to have a display at this years AGM of your gardening successes to inspire and delight others.

'The garden season officially begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st'

Anon

Very true! Stay well and happy gardening, Mary

## Garden Visits

JUNE 20th 2.30pm Visit to Coddington Vineyard, Coddington, Herefordshire. HR8 1JJ

5 acres including a 2 acre vineyard, listed farmhouse, threshing barn and cider mill. Garden with terraces, wild flower meadow, woodland with massed spring bulbs, large pond with wildlife, stream garden with masses of primula and hosta. Hellebores and snowdrops, hamamelis and parottia. Azaleas followed by roses and perennials.

£7 including refreshments.

4miles NE of Ledbury. From Malvern to Ledbury A449, follow brown signs to Coddington Vineyard.

JULY 18th 2.30pm Visit to The River School, Oakfield House, Droitwich Rd WR3 7ST

Worcester's lost garden. A Horticultural College garden being brought back to life. For 35 years after WW2 it was known as Oakfield Teacher Training College for Horticulture. With its reputation visitors came from 58 countries and at least 8 other Horticultural Colleges were founded by people inspired by it. The Estate features many less common shrubs and trees as well as a Forest School pond area.

These are working school grounds being recovered mainly by volunteers, with children encouraged to garden in term time. A historically important but not traditional NGS garden! Including tour and presentation of Oakfield House when it was a horticultural College.

£7 including refreshments.

2.4miles N of Worcester City Centre on A38 towards Droitwich, The River School is on your left just after the A38 passes under the A449.

## Gardening Jobs for April, May and June by Julie Munn

Deadhead Daffodils & Tulips & allow foliage to die back for approximately 6 weeks, to nourish the bulbs for next season. Give a liquid feed to bulbs in Pots & Containers. Hoe off annual weeds.

Dig up perennial weeds ensuring all the root is removed, paying attention to weeds such as Bindweed, as it is much easier to deal with emerging plants than when they have wound around the plants in a border.

Mulch around plants in beds & borders with Bark, Garden Compost or Leaf Mould. This helps to suppress weed growth, conserve water in warmer months & enrich the soil environment.

Remove any algae growth from ponds & replot any congested aquatic plants. Take care if tadpoles, froglets & other water life are present. Leave debris at pond side for creatures to return before discarding.

Prune early flowering Shrubs such as Forsythia & Chaenomeles once flowering has finished. Dogwoods grown for Winter stem colour can be pruned down to a healthy pair of buds once growth starts. Slugs & Snails will be abundant due to the wet Winter, so collect & take precautions to protect plants.

Scarify Lawns to remove thatch & moss. Aerate with a garden fork to improve drainage. Give the lawn its first cut ensuring the cutting blade is raised to its highest point. Re edge the lawn if necessary. Fertilise with a prepared weed & feed.

Remove Moss from Paths, Patios & Decking.  
Look out for Aphids on Roses & in the Greenhouse & squish to prevent infestations.  
Look out for & squish Sawfly caterpillars on fruit such as Gooseberries & Currants.  
Direct sow vegetables such as Carrots, Beetroot, Lettuce, Radish & Parsnips.  
There's still time to plant Summer Flowering Bulbs such as Lilies.

Think about Summer Pots & Containers, sow bedding if required. Harden off & plant out towards the end of May, depending on last frost. Consider adding water retaining crystals & slow release fertiliser to container compost to aid growth & save time watering.

Net Vegetables, Strawberries & Cherries to protect against birds. Use mesh to deter Cabbage White Butterflies & Carrot Root Fly on veg crops.

Look out for Lily Beetle & squish, their bright red colour allows them to show up on Fritillaries & Lilies. Consider a Garlic Spray to deter them.

Divide large clumps of Perennials.  
Deadhead Rhododendrons, Camellia & Azalea.

Remember to water newly planted Shrubs, Trees & Perennials especially in warm spells. Put stakes in place for any tall Perennials as growth begins.

At the end of May or start of June, perform the 'Chelsea Chop' on herbaceous perennials such as Phlox, upright Sedum & Helianthus. Cutting the stems to a third or a half. This helps to delay the flowering period & produce shorter, stockier flowering stems. Can help to stage the flowering display in a border. Also try cutting the front half of a clump & leave back half to flower as normal, it will prolong the flowering display.

In June prune Cherries & Plums.  
Look at your garden as a whole & see if any areas can be improved, gaps filled & new areas developed to spread the season of interest. Possibly adding a wildlife pond, wild area or log pile beneficial to Bees, Insects & small Mammals.

Add a Compost Heap or Bin to recycle garden waste & kitchen scraps, which will create garden compost to enrich beds & borders & reduce household waste.

Delay cutting hedges until nesting birds have fledged.

Think about preserving rainwater in a water butt to help with watering over the dry Summer months – hopefully!