

# WINTER 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)

01684311297

### Secretary

Leonie Creighton.

### Treasurer

Cathy Snelgar.

01905 831541

### Membership

David Wackett.

01684892802

### 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 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.

**JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>** an Illustrated Talk on Winter Scent  
by Gail Plant

**FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>** an Illustrated Talk on Plants of the Season  
by Paul Green\*

**MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>** an Illustrated Talk on the  
Gloucestershire National Garden Scheme  
by Colin Ollie

**APRIL 18<sup>th</sup>** an Illustrated Talk on Tulipmania  
by Allan Wells

*\* Please note the February 1<sup>st</sup> date is not the usual third Saturday of the month.*

## Garden Notes

Happy New Year to all members - as you can see the new programme offers an interesting variety of talks. Further dates in your diary might be the Tuesday afternoon lectures hosted by Pershore College in Wick. The new programme starts with a talk on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - "Around your Garden" by Bob Hares. For further information check their web site - <https://wgc.ac.uk/page/316/royal-horticultural-society-rhs-courses> or contact Jill Pearson on 01386 55460.

Many thanks to Julie Munn for her suggestions for jobs to do over the next three months - I thought winter was a quiet time in the garden!

Happy growing,

Mary

## Brian's Notes – Report of the AGM

Forty-two members and one visitor managed to navigate through the floods and traffic chaos to attend our AGM, with the speaker taking over an hour to travel from the motorway to the village hall.

The results of the AGM, elected officers: Chairman Brian Skeys, Secretary Leonie Creighton, Treasurer Cathy Snelgar.

Committee members elected: Margaret Guy, Lorna Winstone, David Wackett, Janet Burkimsher and Janet Taylor.

New members elected onto the committee, Larry and Mary Gleaves, (Co-opted on last year), Julie Munn and Lesley Rowley.

Non elected positions, David Wackett will continue as membership secretary with Larry and Mary Gleaves jointly taking over the role of publicity officers. Pam Pardoe retired from the committee after many years of service, this resulted in the club having its full quota of nine ordinary committee members and three elected officers. We do have provision to co-opt two more onto the committee, if you would be interested in joining or wish to find out more, please contact me. On your behalf I would like to thank all those above, including Douglas Gregor our Webmaster, who have committed to helping with the running of the Black Pear Gardening Club.

Following a break for refreshments, our speaker Carol Tipper, when she had recovered from her traveling ordeal, told us about the “Wonders of Westonbirt” covering the history of the arboretum, the botanical collection as seen through the seasons. She described the various events held during the year and the “Friends Group”, activities. With an excellent slide presentation, including several items of interest such as seeds and different types of wood it was an interesting talk with many members expressing an interest in visiting the arboretum.

Club member Julie Munn has written an article for the website about fragrant flowering shrubs for winter interest, which is both seasonally interesting and ties in with our talk in January, winter scent. Please visit the website and follow the links for members articles.

Good gardening and post festive cheer,

Brian

## Gardening Jobs for January, February & March by Julie Munn

Clean Pots & Seed Trays etc ready for the next growing Season.

Clean, Sharpen & Oil Tools.

Feed the Birds & provide fresh Water in Bird Baths etc.

Clear any remaining fallen leaves & compost or create a leaf mould pile for use later.

Use a hard bristle broom to remove moss from paving.

Remove leaves & rotting debris from ponds.

Remove fallen leaves from the base of Roses to reduce the spread of Black Spot.

Not too late to remove leaves from Hellebores to show off the flowers. Look for signs of Leaf Spot on foliage & remove if visible, this prevents the fungus spreading to the new emerging foliage in the Spring.

Cut back any remaining herbaceous stems unless they provide attractive Winter Structure.

Weed & Mulch beds & borders.

Prune Shrub Roses from mid-Feb onwards, when new growth is just starting but leave until March in cold areas or if the Winter is harsh.

In mild Winters Roses can still produce buds, check the buds for early clusters of aphids & squash these between finger & thumb. Could save time later.

Prune Group 3 Clematis in February, that is mid-late Summer flowering Clematis. Prune down to the lowest pair of healthy buds. If unsure of the Clematis group, check before pruning.

January or February is the time for Wisteria to have its second prune. Cut back the stems to 2 or 3 buds.

Prune previous flowering Buddleja stems down to one or two buds on the old wood framework.

Prune Apple & Pear Trees but not stone fruit.

Divide large Snowdrops clumps in the green when they have finished flowering.

Hoe off any annual weeds that appear in milder spells.

Check Primula & Heuchera, especially plants in pots for Vine Weevil Grubs. If grubs are found, remove all the soil & dispatch grubs. Use completely fresh soil & repot. Put grubs on the bird table, the birds love them.

Check the Greenhouse plants for overwintering bugs, especially aphids & squish! Look out for Vine Weevils hiding in corners & amongst pots.

Take time to check Houseplants, replenish old soil & feed.

Plan to fill any gaps in the garden, more visible during Winter, perhaps with evergreens.

Browse the Seed Catalogues & plan for the coming Season.....

.....and then have a cup of tea.