

SPRING NEWSLETTER.

Contact Information

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

Chair:

Larry Gleaves.
01905 821736

Secretary:

Lesley Rowley
Contact on Web Site

Treasurer:

Cathy Snelgar.
01905 831541

Membership:

David Wackett.
01684 892802

Webmaster:

Douglas Gregor.
Contact in Website.

**Indoor meetings are at
2.30pm
on Saturdays in
Powick Parish Hall.
WR2 4RT**

Newsletter:

Larry & Mary Gleaves
01905 821736



The
Black Pear
Gardening Club
Sharing a love of gardening

Programme

April 9th 2022

Medicinal Herbs in the Garden a

presentation given by given by Caroline Sheldrick a qualified Medical Herbologist. Caroline will be talking on how plants are used as medical remedies and will be offering advice on plant propagation and may bring some plants for sale. This will include which common garden plants are used in herbal medicine: how to grow and use them - and which ones to avoid.

May 21st 2022

Trees for Small Gardens given by Ingrid and John Millington. Both Ingrid and John are trained in horticulture and have run a nursery for over 30 years growing herbaceous plants and they hold 2 national collections for Acanthus and Albuca.

June 18th 2022

A Visit to Wharf House and The Cottage Herbery.-

Tenbury Wells - Coach Trip. See attached Booking form for details and the details of the trip in page 3. The cost is £23 per person for the coach and entry into the two gardens.

July 16th 2022

A Visit to the Tynings. This garden can be found at Church Lane, Stoulton, Worcestershire WR7 4RE – an acclaimed plantsmans garden looked after by John and Lesley Bryant. There is a cost of £5 including light refreshments.

Chairs Notes and Notices

Dear Members,

I would like to thank our speaker Phillip Aubury who, despite a power failure, gave a very interesting and entertaining presentation on ponds and water features at the club meeting on the 19th March 2022. This despite the absence of a projector or microphone for most of the presentation.

Please note that the next meeting on Medicinal Herbs in the Garden will be held a little earlier on the 9th of April 2022.

More Dates for this Year's Diaries:

The Malvern Spring Show on from the 5th to the 8th of May 2022.

The Feckenham Flower and Garden Festival on from Saturday 14th to Sunday 15th May, 11am to 5pm. There will be approximately 30 gardens open.

Hanley Swan NGS Open Gardens on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June 2022. There will be 6 gardens in all to visit. Details are in the Worcestershire NGS Yellow Book or on their website.

Many of you attended Will Scott's talk earlier in February 2022 on the history of walled gardens and his experiences of restoring his own walled garden in Worcester with his wife Julia.

If you want to visit the Scott's "Walled Garden" is off Fort Royal Hill in Worcester and is open for the NGS on Saturday 7th and Wednesday 11th May and Wednesday 29th June 2022 (1 to 5). It's a fascinating and historic garden with a focus on herbs and their uses and is well worth a visit. Again details are in the Worcestershire NGS Yellow Book or on their website.

New Committee Members - If you would like to become a club committee member and would like more information do please contact any of the current committee members at any time.

Swapping – Wanted! any garden magazines and books in good condition and unwanted, unopened packets of seeds which are still in date to swap with fellow club members. A small donation to club funds will be gratefully and enthusiastically received!

Unwanted Garden Equipment - Wick Grange Care Farm, a therapeutic service situated in Wick, near Pershore are always pleased to receive garden tools in good condition to help their clients participate in activities such as gardening and animal husbandry to help build confidence, self esteem and wellbeing. For further information check out their web site WickGrange.co.uk or call 01386 552077

Larry Gleaves

Brian's Notes

Here are details of the gardens which encompass the proposed Coach trip scheduled for Saturday 18th June 2022:-

The Wharf House, Tenbury Wells

"A 2-acre country garden, set around a C18 house and outbuildings (not open). Mixed herbaceous borders with colour theming, a white garden, bright garden, spring garden, canal garden, long double borders, intimate courtyards, a scented border, a stream with a little bridge to an island there is also a vegetable garden. The garden is on several levels, with some uneven paths.

Most visitors to Wharf House remark upon the sense they have of undertaking a journey around the garden, with surprises around each hedge and corner: secluded courtyards, intimate garden 'rooms' and glimpsed views. Wharf House has a fascinating history as the wharf for the former Leominster canal, which opened in 1795. There are lots of reminders of the old canal in the garden and grounds. This is a developing garden, now in its 9th year, involving the renovation, re-planting and re-planning of the existing mature garden. There are a number of garden 'rooms', with lots of secluded seating for visitors to enjoy."

The Cottage Herbery, Tenbury Wells.

"We are a family-run award-winning nursery growing herbs, aromatic and scented foliage plants, this year is our 46th.

Featured in The English Garden Magazine January edition & Gardens Illustrated 'The Plant' edition both 2021.

What started as a dutch barn housing an old hop picking machine and bags of detritus has, after many hours, days and months of work, become a garden.

The process, although an enormous lengthy task, eventually, we got to the proverbial blank canvas, so we sowed grass seed on the newly exposed earth and let it grow for a whole season. After that, we marked out the beds with the help of daughter India to create the sweeping large borders and worked them down to a plantable tilth.

The time to plant is arguably the best part of the whole process. The choice of what to plant had already been decided on and grown with one or two special purchases from fellow nurseries. Taken into consideration were the plant's hardiness, the exposed site and the compatibility of the plants. Once planted we had the framework of a garden.

It is now giving us all great pleasure as it matures, changing through the seasons it has movement, many textures and great beauty. All plants are grown naturally in Fertile Fibre."

Brian Skeys.

Gardening Jobs for April, May & June.

Pruning

- Prune any Shrubs that have already flowered such as Forsythia, Chaenomeles and Viburnum bodnantense. Prune out older stems to reinvigorate the plant and create the desired shape.
- When growth starts on Dogwoods, prune hard down to a healthy pair of buds. The new stems will give a more vibrant effect in Winter.
- Cut back old foliage on Deciduous Grasses before new growth begins in early to mid-Spring.
- As flowers fade on Narcissi, Tulips and other Spring bulbs, deadhead and let the foliage die down before removing, this returns nutrition back to the bulb for next year's flowering.
- Tidy up Winter & early flowering Clematis by giving a light prune in mid-late Spring. Reduce any long stems and maintain the plant to fit the space available.
- Prune stone fruit such as Plums & Cherries in June.
- In June reduce the new growth produced this year on Gooseberries, Red & White Currants. Cut back side shoots to 4 or 5 leaves from each branch base.



Chaenomeles



Clematis 'Freckles'

Sowing/Planting

- Sow Annuals, Vegetable and Salad Crops directly or in pots for transfer later.
- Divide congested Perennials, that have outgrown their space and produce new plants to use elsewhere in the garden or pass on to friends.



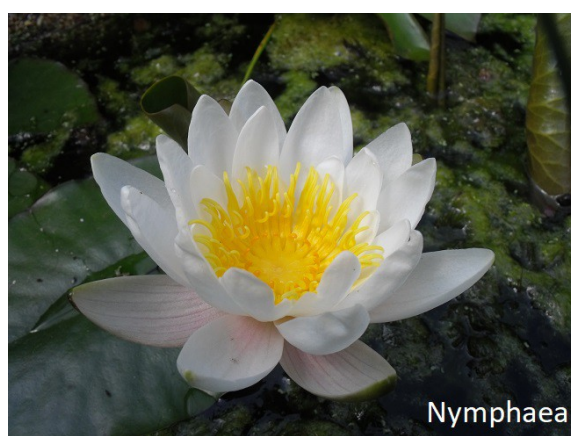
Tithonia

April 2022



- Prick out Seedlings ready for hardening off and planting once frosts have passed.
- Take Dahlia Cuttings from Tubers that have produced strong, healthy new shoots. Remove the shoot cutting with a sharp knife to include a small piece of tuber.
- Add some new plants to your beds and borders, Perennials and Annuals to fill any gaps or Groundcover plants to help smother out the weeds.

- Refresh your Pond by adding some new Plants or Oxygenators. Creating the correct balance of plants in your pond will help with the water quality and attract Wildlife.



- Plant up your Summer Pots for when frosts have passed.

Prevention

- Look out for Pests and Diseases and take action to prevent their build up.
- Net Veg and Salad Crops.
- Remove Perennial Weeds and hoe off Annuals to prevent them seeding.
- Mulch Beds and Borders to prevent weed growth and conserve moisture during the summer months.
- Stake tall Perennials.

Tidy

- Remove Algae from Ponds once it starts to build up.
- Give your garden furniture a spruce up and clean paving and decking.
- Keep deadheading plants.

Try Something New!

Extend your sowing to include some Annual Climbers to grow up Trellis or Obelisks.

a



Ipomoea lobata

Annuals may only last year, but they can add something different to your planting displays.



Cobaea scandens



Ipomoea 'Grandpa Ott'

'Happy Gardening'
Julie Munn