

# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER.

## Contact Information.

Committee officers can be emailed  
via the website: [blackpeargc.org.uk](http://blackpeargc.org.uk)

### **Chair:**

Brian Skeys.

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### **Secretary:**

Léonie Creighton.

Contact in Web Site

### **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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**\*Meetings will take place at  
Powick Village Hall  
on Saturdays at 14:30 pm.**



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

## Programme

**\*Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 2021** An illustrated talk on “a Journey in Horticulture”.by Samantha Hopes. Samantha's journey into horticulture took her from Bournville Garden Centre to Birmingham Botanical Gardens to RHS Wisley and finally to Ashwood Nurseries. This Talk looks at her journey as a horticultural trainee. Please note that Samantha's husband, Nigel, may have to step in as Samantha has recently had a baby.

**\*October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021** An illustrated talk on the garden at Stocktonbury by Tamsin Westhorpe. We welcome back Tamsin Westhorpe to talk about preparing the garden at Stocktonbury for autumn and winter. This four-acre garden has been created by Raymond Treasure and Gordon Fenn. Raymond's niece, Tamsin Westhorpe, joined the gardening team a few years ago. She has previously been deputy editor of Amateur Gardening magazine and Editor of The English Garden magazine. Tamsin now spends time in the garden at Stocktonbury and writes freelance alongside her role as an RHS Judge and co-Chair of The Garden Media Guild.

**\*Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 2021** AGM plus an illustrated talk on Hydrangeas by Sally Gregson of Mill Cottage finishing with a sale of some of her plants. 'Once too popular' in the fifties, hydrangeas experienced a fall from fashion. Now they are undergoing a renaissance. This talk covers the different species, their growing conditions, and care and propagation, and will show you some of the varieties that are coming in now from Japan via the French National Collection holder, Shamrock Gardens, and enthusiast Maurice Foster. As a nursery Mill Cottage Plants have exhibited Hydrangeas at the Hampton Court Flower Show in 2005.

**Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 2021** Christmas Lunch provisionally booked for December 4th at Boughton Park Worcester Golf and Country Club.

## Brian's Notes

I am looking forward to seeing you all for 'real' in September for our first indoor meeting.

The Covid arrangements for the hall are outlined elsewhere in this newsletter, we have an excellent programme arranged for this and next year.

Due to health reasons I have decided not to stand for election as Chair at the AGM.

The committee have agreed to divide my current role into two with the Chairperson hosting the meetings and chairing the committee. A new role of Administrator will be created to deal with those elements of running the club, something I am currently happy to continue doing.

This will make the role of the Chairperson less demanding.

With Christmas Lunch booked for December the 4th we can hopefully look forward to a gradual return to normal.

## Mary's Notes

I hope you agree that getting back to 'live talks' is a welcome return to some kind of normality and a huge thank you to Brian for keeping us in touch, informed and entertained on Zoom over the last few months.

Inevitably, meeting together again, as with all events, means that the usual arrangements and routines will need to change a little to ensure as far as possible your Covid safety. We hope they help you to feel confident in attending the talks and don't 'get in the way' of your enjoying the afternoon.

- The hall is deep cleaned on a regular basis and we will ensure tables, W.C's etc are sanitised before your arrival.
- Please use either your own hand sanitiser or the one provided, on your arrival.
- We will ensure the hall is well ventilated, so you might want to bring a cardie!!
- Refreshments will be served, using disposable (and recyclable) cups and the biscuits are bought prewrapped.
- We are happy to take cash for the entrance fee and raffle but it would help enormously if you could have the right change.
- We will space the chairs out a little more than usual to aid social distancing.
- We will have the garden magazines/ information table out for you, but please be mindful of personal space.
- Masks are not mandatory but do please wear one if you wish.
- PLEASE, DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU FEEL UNWELL.

## Acoustics

While it is good to have the use of our spacious venue, this has sometimes meant that our speakers have not always been easy to hear.

We are looking into buying a new PA system but, in the meantime, we would like to reserve the front two rows of seating for our members who have difficulty in hearing or perhaps seeing the screen, so that everyone can have an enjoyable afternoon

## Dates for your Diary

- *The National Garden Scheme* still have some gardens open over September and October, one notable one being The Picton Garden at Colwall, well known as holding the national collection of Michaelmas Daisies.
- *Hopes Open Garden*, 12<sup>th</sup> September 11-4, 12 Meres Road, Halesowen, B63 2EH  
(Either Mrs or Mr Hope will be delivering our September talk!)
- *Garden Organic*- garden tour dates for the rest of 2021 are th 11<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November. See their website for further details and booking arrangements.
- *Chelsea* is back!!! 21st-26<sup>th</sup> September
- *Three Counties Autumn Show*, 24/25/26<sup>th</sup> September- marvel at the giant vegetables and I'll be in the chicken shed!!

## Book Recommendation

Whilst not a gardening book as such 'Growing Goats and Girls' by Rosanne Hodin is a hugely enjoyable account, spanning 30 years, of a family's life establishing and running a smallholding in rural Cornwall. Vivid, funny and in places not for the squeamish! Well worth a read especially now the evenings are getting longer.

## Christmas Decoration Workshop

Anyone interested in attending a Christmas Decoration Workshop, perhaps making a wreath or table decoration? No plans made yet but if we have enough interest from members then I'll see what I can arrange!

Please email your interest to me at- [mary.gleaves1@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.gleaves1@btinternet.com)

## And Finally

You may remember we posted this image in the Summer issue of the Newsletter back in June 2021 showing our Halloween pumpkin patch in our two elegantly ramshackle compost bins filled with home made compost and a fair amount of "home made" chicken manure.



Here is an updated image of the fruits of our labours. There are another three pumpkins, which you cannot see, inside the box. That is six on just one plant!

*Mary Gleaves*



## **Gardening Jobs for October, November & December by Julie Munn**

Continue to 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.

Dividing Perennials helps to reinvigorate old, congested plants and increases your stock.

Take Hardwood Cuttings from Shrubs during mid-Autumn to late Winter when plants are dormant.

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 such as Canna, Bananas and Brugmansia are placed inside once frosts begin.

Plant up Pots & Containers 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.

Clear out dead plant material & leaves from Ponds.

Collect fallen leaves & store to make 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.

Enjoy a well-earned rest!

Happy Gardening.

Julie