

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER.



Contact Information

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

Chair:

Larry Gleaves
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Secretary:

Lesley Rowley
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Treasurer:

Cathy Snelgar.
01905 831541

Membership:

David Wackett.
01684 892802

Webmaster:

Douglas Gregor.
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Administration

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

Newsletter:

Larry & Mary Gleaves
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Sept 17th 2022

The Garden at Stockton Bury an illustrated talk given by Tamsin Westthorpe who is part of the gardening team at Stockton Bury and has previously been deputy editor of Amateur Gardening magazine and editor of The English Garden magazine. Tamsin will talk on the four-acre garden created by Raymond Treasure and Gordon Fenn situated at Stockton Bury near Leominster.

Oct 15th 2022

Trug Making by a Miserable Old Trugger is a talk given by Carl Sadler, in which he talks about his life as a trug maker, working on film sets and selling his wares at shows, all whilst making a trug! If possible he will bring items of wooden gardenware that he has made for sale. This is a change to the original talk on The Shakespeare Family Gardens.

Nov 16th 2022

The AGM followed by Mistletoe, Fact Myth and Legend - An illustrated seasonal talk given by Dr. M. Jones. He will be discussing the facts, myths and legends that surround this fascinating parasitic plant. The afternoon will include mince pies and a Christmas themed raffle.

December 2022

Christmas Lunch at Worcester Golf Club – Date to be confirmed.

Chairs Notes and Notices

Dear Members

In this month's issue of the newsletter, Brian Skeys has very kindly written an article looking back at the past history of the club following the 10th anniversary lunch celebrations at the Apple Tree Kitchen in August 2022 and Mary Gleaves looks forward with a brief outline of what talks to expect in 2023.

As a club, we are finding it increasingly more expensive to meet the costs of our meeting and outing activities, particularly in terms of covering the travel fees and expenses costs incurred by our guest speakers.

After much discussion, it was agreed at the last committee meeting that we would have to increase the cost of annual membership by £2.50 from £5.00 to

£7.50 per year and the monthly entrance fee is from £1.50 to £2.50 for members and from £3.00 to £5.00 for visitors.

We are going to introduce these increases from October 2022. Refreshments will still be provided free of charge. This is the first time in 10 years we have had to increase our charges and hope that it will be at least another 10 years until they need to be raised again.

Since the announcement of the gradual retirement of Douglas Gregor, Douglas and Brian Skeys have been looking at ways and means of supporting the website going forward and we hope to be in a position to be able to tell the membership what these changes are in the very near future.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS The New Look WEBSITE:-

The new website is now up and running, thank you to Douglas for helping with the transfer of the existing facilities. You can access the website using the same name as the current website:

www.blackpeargc.org.uk

You will see on the welcome page a subscribe by email button. This is a free subscription that when completed will automatically send any new posts on the website to you. Please search the website to see what is on there, the garden advice and members' articles pages are historic postings, these will be added too when Brian has more time and he would also welcome any feedback from you.

Events for Your Diaries:-

Don't forget the Malvern Autumn Show 23/24/25 of September 2022.

Adam Frost is appearing at Malvern Theatres on 15th September 2022.

New Committee Members – Calling all members – we are in need of new committee members. Initially, the commitment would be one of helping and assisting the existing committee and getting a feel for how the club functions. Apart from attending monthly club meetings and trips committee meetings are held about once every three months. If you would like to explore becoming a committee member and would like more information do please contact any of the current committee members at any time for more information.

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 website WickGrange.co.uk or call 01386 552077.

Larry

Brian's Notes

Anniversary Lunch.

It was agreed by all of those attending that both the lunch and its surroundings were excellent, with many intending to make a return visit.

A small retirement gift was presented to Douglas for his building and maintaining the club website from the beginning of the club. The Black Pear Gardening Club 10 years ago.

Following a dispute with the Cottage Garden Society in 2012, the members of the Worcestershire Group decided to leave the Cottage Garden Society and set up the Black Pear Garden Club.

So on the 1st of September 2012, this group of independent-minded gardeners created the Black Pear Gardening Club. Not wishing to share our funds or be tied to any other organisation again we

Sept 2022

decided only to be affiliated with the RHS for insurance and guidance using their model constitution, which is still in place today. Irene and I provided a loan that was deposited to open the account and other members of the committee pledged loans if needed. Douglas Gregor offered to create and fund a new Website.

All monies were refunded in the first financial year.

Our club aims were set out on the website by Douglas and remain the same today.

"To bring together those of all ages with a common interest in horticulture so that they might share their enthusiasm and enjoyment of plants, gardens and gardening. To provide an opportunity for members to broaden their knowledge of plants, the growing of healthy fruit and vegetables and to

encourage planting which restores biodiversity to our gardens: creating an environment which supports bees, butterflies and other pollinators."

We were ahead of our times with the emphasis on the environment, a particular interest of Douglas's which those of you who have seen his photographs will know only too well.

I was elected as Chairman, Pam Williams as Secretary and Cathy Snelgar as Treasurer. The committee was Marina Duffell newsletter, Roger and Barbara Parker plant sales, Janet Burkimsher catering, Ken and Audrey Webb programme secretaries Jasmine Gregor membership secretary, with June Gittins, Lorna Winstone and Irene doing everything else not covered! Our first meeting in October was a talk about plants for autumn and winter scent by Kate Clowes of Newent Plant Centre. The speaker at the AGM in November was Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers. December saw our first Christmas lunch at the Worcester golf club. We had 63 paid-up members within the first month.

With next year's programme almost arranged we can look forward to another enjoyable year.

Brian

Mary's Notes

Welcome back to a new season of talks - it's been a record breaking summer and I hope you and your gardens didn't suffer too much in the heat.

Our allotment went from wet and claggy to brown and crispy almost overnight, lots of fruit crops but the beans gave up and turned up their toes and came to nothing.

There's always next year!

Speaking of next year, our new programme is now planned. The talks range from "Labour Saving Gardening" to the "Restoration of Painswick Gardens" via garden insects, unusual fruit and veg and an afternoon with Reg Moule.

You will find the new programme in the next newsletter, on our new website and on our new membership cards. I'll also be printing some off for the October 2022 meeting.

Mary