

WINTER NEWSLETTER.

Contact Information

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

Chair:

Larry Gleaves.
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**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

Jan 15th 2022

Gardens of the Gloucestershire NGS given by Vanessa Berridge who writes on gardens, garden history and food as well as giving talks on gardens and garden history. Her books include *The Princess's garden: Royal Intrigue and the Untold Story of Kew* (2015), *The Great British Gardeners: - From Early Plantsman to Chelsea Medal Winners* (2018) and *Kiftsgate Court Gardens* (2019). Vanessa is also county organister for the NGS in Gloucestershire.

Feb 26th 2022

Japanese Garden Design History given by Gareth Manning. Gareth is a professional horticulturist with over 30 years in the industry. His experiences range from commercial nursery production through landscaping to professional gardening. He also serves as Treasurer for the Shropshire branch of Plant Heritage and is a Judge for the Heart of England in Bloom. Gareth's involvement with the Perennial Speaker Panel started in 2009, although he has been an active supporter of the charity for much longer. Gareth's fee will be donated to Perennial.

March 19th 2022

Ponds and Water Features given by Phillip Aubury, who is a retired director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and a former manager of the Birmingham Parks Department.

April 9th 2022

Medicinal Herbs in the Garden given by Caroline Sheldrick a qualified Medical Herbologist and 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.

Chairs Notes

Dear Members,

I hope you have all been enjoying the festive period and the very mild weather we have had.

As you can see from the programme above it is the start of the 2022 Garden Club season meetings and activities. We do hope to see as many of you as possible at Powick Village Hall on the 15th January 2022.

Masks - In order to comply with government guidelines, masks will need to be worn when in the village hall unless exempted.

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.

Worcester Wildlife Trust :-have published some useful information on their web site for making your garden friendly to hedgehogs including advice against using chemicals, creating a wild corner and ensuring safe routes through your garden. For more information go to www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/hedgehogs

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

Dates for this Year's Diaries:

RHS Cardiff on the 1st April 2022.

Hellens Garden Festival at Much Marcle Worcestershire on the 11th and 12th June 2022.

Book Recommendation:

“The Book of the Earthworm” by Sally Coulthard - Sally's fascinating guide offers a wealth of information and practical advice on the worlds most industrious but little understood creature.

Larry Gleaves

Brian's Notes

Ten gardens are opening in Worcestershire for the National Garden Scheme between February to April 2022.

The first one is Brockamin, Callow End, Worcester, on Sunday 6th February 11am - 4pm for snowdrops.

This is a plant specialist's 1½ acre informal working garden, parts of which are used for plant production rather than for show. Situated next to common land. Mixed borders with wide variety of hardy perennials where plants are allowed to self seed. Open for snowdrops in Feb, daffodils and pulmonarias in March and April. Teas with home-made cakes and unusual plants for sale.

The website link for the NGS Worcestershire gardens opening details by clicking on [NGS Worcestershire](#)

I have set up a Facebook Group attached to our FB Page. You can find it from our FB page by clicking on 'Groups'. There you can post pictures from your own garden and garden visits sharing your garden experiences.

Brian Skeys.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Monday 29th November saw a small but enthusiastic group of members meet up in the afternoon for our first BPGC Club wreath making workshop.

We had a lovely time!

Some of us were experienced hobby flower arrangers- I was the complete novice.

I learnt a whole new language!

With gentle and expert guidance from Maureen our tutor, beautiful wreaths were produced to decorate our front doors. Most of the materials used came from our gardens or recycled from previous Christmas wreaths, keeping the cost down and prompting ideas for foliage plants to grow in our gardens. The afternoon, of course, concluded with tea and cake.

It might have been our first workshop, but it won't be our last- keep an eye out in our newsletter for future plans. If you have ideas and suggestions for a Workshop please contact Mary on mary.gleaves1@btinternet.com



Gardening Jobs for January, February & March

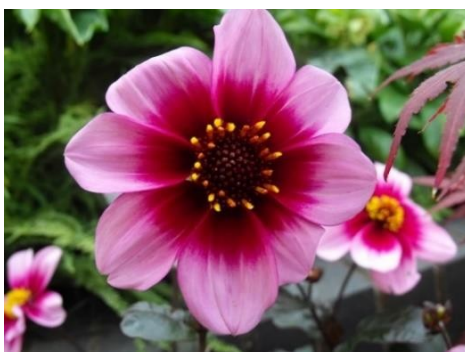
Pruning

- Prune Apple & Pear Trees, choose a dry day and remove dead, damaged or diseased branches, aim to create an open structure to allow air flow & sunlight in.
- Prune Climbing Roses during Winter, remove weak & diseased growth, tie in new, strong, healthy growth & shorten long shoots. Remove unproductive stems to the base to encourage fresh new growth.
- When growth begins, prune Shrub Roses to create an open centre, cutting back to an outward facing bud. Dispose of fallen leaves to prevent Black Spot.
- In February cut back Group 3 Clematis to lowest pair of healthy buds.
- Prune Wisteria shoots back to 2 or 3 buds.
- Cut back Buddleja stems to a strong pair of healthy buds, on the old wood framework.
- When growth starts prune Dogwoods to a healthy, low pair of buds to encourage fresh stems.
- Cut down the remaining Herbaceous Perennials and compost.
- Remove leaves from Hellebores to show off flowers and keep Leaf Spot in check.
- Cut back Deciduous Ornamental Grasses in early to mid-Spring ready for the new growth to begin.



Sowing/Planting

- For an early crop of Sweet Peas, sow in deep pots and grow on in a cold frame.
- Towards the end of Feb/March start off Vegetable and Salad crops ready to plant out when weather allows.
- Start Dahlia Tubers into growth.



Plan your Bedding displays and think about filling any gaps in the planting schemes.

Give yourself a challenge and grow something you've never grown before.

Prevention

- Apply mulch to beds to smother any early weed growth.
- Look out for 'Beasties' such as Vine Weevils and treat Pots & Containers with Nematodes from March to May.
- Squish early colonies of Aphids, particularly on Rose buds.
- Look out for the first Lily Beetles as they emerge on warm days. Controlling these early can prevent the unsightly damage later.



Tidy

- Clear Ponds of debris.
- Remove or comb the dead foliage from Evergreen Ornamental Grasses.
- Clean Tools and prepare Pots & Trays for the new growing season.

'Happy Gardening'

Julie Munn