



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

May 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to your May newsletter. As I write this it seems summer has decided to come after a very cold and wet spring, the bluebells are really stunning this year, the May is out so we can all “cast a clout” and get out into our gardens and enjoy watching the season unfold.

The coming week sees the Chelsea Flower Show which I sure will give those of us who watch it on television or a able to go much inspiration for this year and beyond. I see there is a competition for sustainable garden product of the year. It will be interesting to see what wins.

Have you been trying “no mow May”? Saul and I have left areas of our lawn unmown in May and have loved seeing what has come up amount the grasses, buttercups and white mustard have predominated as well as the much maligned dandelions, hated by many but loved by pollinators. We’ve also been enjoying the different seed-heads on the various grasses as they grow tall. If you want to encourage wildlife into your garden leaving even some of you grass to grow taller would be a good start.

Sutton Mead

On Tuesday 9th May, 20 members braved the lightning, thunder, hail and torrential rain to visit Sutton Mead near Moretonhampstead. On arrival we were invited by the owners, Miranda and Edward Allhusen, to take refuge in the conservatory. Miranda is the NGS Devon County organiser. During a lull in the deluge, of about an hour, we had a conducted tour of the lower half of this splendid 4 acre garden, which is entirely managed and worked by Edward and Miranda, who have lived there for forty five years. Acting originally as a home and family garden, they have since

transformed it into what it is today, a delightful country garden with a croquet lawn, rhododendrons, azaleas, a tulip tree, pink champagne birch, a bog garden, three ponds (built by Edward), a huge copper beech, mature orchard, year round vegetable garden, two summer houses (also built by Edward) and a woodland area. One summer house has the inscription 'We come from earth, we return to earth and in between we garden'. The rain returned and forced us to retreat to the conservatory again where Miranda and Edward provided tea and a variety of delicious homemade cakes. Most of the stalwart members then braved the rain again and climbed through the higher, woodland part of the garden viewing, under umbrellas, masses of blue, pink and white bells.

June Outing change of venue

Due to the owner of Goodwill Gardens, Bickington reporting that the garden was not up to scratch for a visit, the committee took the decision to change next month's venue.

Therefore on **Tuesday 6th June at 2pm** we will be visiting **"Rosedale", and "Glenveiw", Station Road, Trusham TQ13 0NL**

Entrance is by donation to Hospiscare.

Tea and cake will be provided.

These two gardens will also be open the following weekend in aid of Hospicecare.

Dunsford Safari

Please note the July visit to the Dunsford Safari will now be on Tuesday 11th at 2pm

Christow Show 19th August

Don't forget you cottage garden plants for the Christow Show display.

Summer Gathering

The Summer Gathering will be on July 22nd at Jo Easternhill Farm EX6 7BW kindly hosted by Jo Macdonald and Jan Traylen.

The competitions are

Horticultural cup – three different coloured vegetables.

Denning Kemp cup – Flowering plant in pot no more than 7ins diameter.

Betty Shaw cup – cut flowers. Five stems of the same species.

Rose Bowl – Flower arrangement on theme “Coronation”

So get your thinking caps on and your green fingers at the ready!

Anything for the next newsletter please send to me by mid June

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Happy gardening, Hibly

www.bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk