



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

February 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the February newsletter, there's lots to read this month so make a cuppa and enjoy.

East Worlington House EX17 4TS

Our visit is on **Sunday 5th March** at 2.00pm entry is £5.00 and teas are by donation.

Please contact Sarah Lyte by email only if you need any further information. sarahmclyte@gmail.com

The description and directions below were kindly provided by our hosts

Thousands of purple crocuses feature in this 2 acre garden, set in a lovely position with views down the valley to Little Dart river. These spectacular crocuses have spread over many years through the garden and into the neighbouring churchyard. Walks from the garden across the river and into the woods. Dogs on leads please

Directions: Leave M5 at junction 27, taking A361 towards Barnstaple and Tiverton.

Do not take the one slip road signposted to Tiverton but after 6 miles, at first roundabout, turn left towards Tiverton Town Centre and All Routes, following signs for B3137 to Witheridge. Pass Petroc College on the right and tennis courts on the left. At the second small roundabout turn right to B3137, pass the hospital on the right and Morrisons (your last chance for petrol) on the left and go over the bridge. At the roundabout turn right towards Witheridge. After a few hundred yards turn left onto B3137 up Long Drag Hill to Witheridge.

After 9.25 miles, and after going through Witleigh and Nomansland, enter Witheridge and, just after passing The Mitre on your right, turn left into the square. Bear right past a pink cottage with a sign showing road narrowing (13' 00" width) and a somewhat less visible little sign to East Worlington. Continue on this road round to the right in front of a cottage on which there is a small sign (about 10' off the ground) saying West Street to Drayford Lane.

After 1.4 miles turn right at the T-junction in Drayford, go over the bridge and turn left (in front of a cottage with a letterbox in its wall) signposted to Worlington.

After 0.3 mile enter East Worlington and turn left at the T-junction.

Within 0.1 mile there is a thatched Parish Hall on the left. Immediately after the hall is the drive of EWH.

The Gardens of Australia and New Zealand

On February 2nd members gathered in the Bowden room to listen to an interesting given by Benedict Lyte on 'Gardens of Australia and New Zealand'. Benedict is a horticulturist with over 20 years experience in botanical, heritage and arboricultural collections in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. He has worked in many gardens in the UK including Wisley and Kew and is now working for English Heritage as the Plant Records Manager. He is firstly a plantsman, passionate about gardens, gardening and the skills needed to make them succeed.

Benedict went to Australia in 2010 and, using slides, demonstrated his interest in the diversity of plants and trees according to the weather zones of Australia. We were shown pictures of the palm collections in Sydney Botanic Gardens and the gum trees in the Blue Mountain Botanic Gardens, also a fine collection of between 40 to 50 protea species in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Benedict moved to New Zealand in 2013 where he was the Curator of Eastwoodhill Arboretum. Here he managed the largest collection of northern hemisphere temperate woody plants, in the southern hemisphere showing us slides of these. In 2016 he moved back to Australia to work as the Senior Plant Mapping and Records Officer at the Sydney Botanic Gardens and returned to the UK in 2020. Ann Lord thanked Benedict for his most interesting talk.

Garden Club Website built for us by Jan Traylen do take a look

I have managed to stop fiddling about building our new website so it's ready to be released to an unsuspecting world!

Google knows about us so a search using 'Bridford Garden club' will find us.

Links abound on the site: often they are words underlined, usually in blue. Clicking on a photo may have a result like enlarging it or going to the garden entry on the year visited. . For instance, try clicking/tapping on one of the photos on the home page.

Gardens visited, in the two years Jo and I have been taking pictures, are in drop-down menus which can be seen when hovering the cursor (or on a phone tapping the arrow) over a year in the menu.

In the menu, see 'Our Programme' for 2023 plans. The underlined, blue words will take you to the gardens on the NGS site or the property's own site for very useful directions to the place.

Please have a good look 'round the site by clicking on the menu headings. It's much better viewed on a big screen.

Any suggestions are gratefully received. Use the contact form at the bottom of the home page or jantraylen@hotmail.com

We have indeed visited some beautiful places and enjoyed some excellent tea and cakes!

www.bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk

Teign Greens

We recently received this from Larissa at Teign Greens and I've decided to share the whole message as there's lots of interesting information about this wonderful local enterprise

Are you aware of our local Community Supported Agriculture scheme TeignGreens (teingreens@gmail.com)?

Our market garden is set within the grounds of the land-based learning project 'On The Hill' (<https://www.onthehill.camp/>) in Ashton.

Together with our team of volunteers we grow delicious 'community-powered' and biodynamic vegetables which our members receive year-round in weekly bags. We also supply several local businesses and run community events throughout the year. Our volunteering programme and events encourage social interactions between people of all ages and backgrounds. We bring people together from villages and rural areas throughout the Teign Valley to learn about regenerative growing methods and enjoy nature, delicious, nourishing local food and each other's company. It occurred to me that some of your members may enjoy joining us for a gardening session and/or, be interested in some of the events we run.

Details about upcoming volunteer sessions are copied below but if you email me I can also forward you our last monthly newsletter to give you more of an idea of what's involved. Please do contact our core team at teingreens@gmail.com to chat further.

Volunteer with us!

Drop in Monthly Saturday Volunteer Days- These run every 2nd Saturday of the month 9:30-1pm, with a tea and flapjack break at 11ish. Anyone is welcome to drop in (yes we mean kids too!) and we'll get stuck into seasonal farm jobs like weeding, sowing, composting or dock digging. Wear clothes suitable for the weather that you don't mind getting mucky. No farming experience necessary and warm glow guaranteed! It's helpful if you give us a heads up that you're planning on coming, so that we can look out for you and know how many flapjacks we'll need.

Tuesday Regular Weekly Volunteer Days - Every Tuesday is our veg box days, and our fab Tuesday Team help with all elements of getting our veg to our members, picking, packing, delivering, and even sometimes rocking our overtired baby to sleep! Our day runs from 9-4pm, with a tea and cake break at 11, and lunch at 1pm (from April-September we provide a yummy lunch- but during the winter we haven't got cooking facilities). Tuesdays are more suited to regular volunteers so we can explain the veg bag process, but don't feel you have to come every week. You could come once a fortnight, once a month or just as often as you can make it. We call our Tuesday team our farm family, as it's a lovely group of folk to chat with each week while working together.

Help is also needed with office-based jobs.

Please send anything you think our members may be interested in to me via email hibly@hotmail.com