



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

Bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk

Newsletter September 2024

Chevithorne Barton

Please note that the closing date for those who wish to go is 24th of September. Our next garden visit will be to Chevithorne Barton, Chevithorne, Tiverton EX16 7QB at 2pm on Thursday 1st October. They have the largest collection of oak trees (Quercus) and all year round interest in the gardens including rare trees and shrubs. The Head Gardener will be showing us round and we should see plenty of Autumn colour. There is quite a lot of uneven ground on the tour and walking through fields but no steep gradients.

The visit will cost £10 per person to include tea and cake. Please let Lorraine Hart know if you wish to come on [01647 252377](tel:01647252377) or mobile [07939 882921](tel:07939882921) or email lorraine_hrt@yahoo.co.uk BY 24 SEPTEMBER. If you would like a lift, please ask Lorraine to arrange this when booking. Directions: 3 miles North East of Tiverton, exit the M5 at Junction 27, follow yellow signs from the A361, A396 or Stamford Peverell. Route planner says 51 minutes from Bridford. You may like to know that The National Trust house and gardens at Knighthayes are 3 miles South West of Chevithorne Barton and, should you wish to visit in the morning, their gardens, café and shop open at 10.00 and the house at 11.00. The address is: Knighthayes, Bolham, Tiverton EX16 7RQ

November Meeting On Thursday 5th November at 2.00pm we will meet in the TVCH when Gilly Wilford will talk about her experiences as a volunteer gardener at Sissinghurst Castle. The gardens at Sissinghurst were laid out in the mid 20th century by the writer Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicholson. The castle and gardens are now in the care of the National Trust.

Agroforestry Garden visit

Nine members visited Martin Crawford's forest garden at Dartington and were given a guided tour around the whole area, often tasting the edible leaves and berries. It resembles an ordinary wood, but with about 500 species, some native and many from abroad.

Forest gardens more closely resemble the more open woodland edge, with a top layer of larger fruit trees, often hung with vines and climbers, a lower layer of smaller fruit and nut trees, and an understorey of bamboos and berry-bearing shrubs. Below come perennial vegetables, while mats of herbs and sprawlers cover the ground. Not all the plants are cropped in a forest garden – some encourage beneficial insects, others aid fertility by fixing nitrogen or 'mining' trace elements deep in the soil.

Many of us felt inspired to try some of the planting ideas such as putting red or blackberries and Sweet Cicely in light shade, along with grapevines climbing up trees. We were impressed by the large hybrid sweet chestnut and two Monterey Pines Martin planted some 30 years earlier. For more about this unusual approach look up www.agroforestry.co.uk or see the photos on our website at www.bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk.

Club membership. Do you have friends who are keen gardeners or who just like an outing with tea and cake involved? Why not invite them to come as a guest so they can see if they'd like to join us? Contact Saul Ackroyd, saualackroyd@googlemail.com or on 07974 405122 for membership.

After a hot summer we are now expecting a wet and wild autumn, the poor plants don't know what's going on. My delphiniums are having a second flowering as are thalictrums, roses and hardy geraniums and the grass, for so long brown and crunchy, is now growing at a great rate. So we need to "batten down the hatches" and stock up against power cuts. I'll be planting my bulbs garlic and onions and waiting to see what the coming months bring.

Anything for the next newsletter to kennickbarn@gmail.com

Happy gardening, Hibly