



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

Bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk

November Newsletter 2023

Dates for your diary

A.G.M

Please note the club's A.G.M will be held In the Bowden Room of the T.V.C.H on Thursday Dec 7th at 2.30

I accidentally put the wrong date in the last newsletter, apologies for that.

Mince pies and wine will on offer along with tea and coffee. After the business part of the meeting there will be a quiz.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please let Paul know before the meeting.

Annual lunch

The club's annual lunch will be at The Manor Inn, Lower Ashton on Friday 12th January 12.00 for 12.30

Please see menu with this newsletter and let Paul have your selection.

paul.n.french@btinternet.com

01647 252721

Payment for the lunch can be paid by bank transfer to Bridford and Teign Valley Garden Club

Sort code 08 92 99

Account number 65540398

Or pay at the A.G.M

Menu

Starters

Curried Pumpkin Soup with toasted seeds and crusty bread (GF) V

Potted Chicken Liver and smoked Bacon Pate with Toasted Focaccia and Tomato & Chilli Chutney

Cauliflower Pakora with cream Curry Sauce and Poppadom V* Classic Prawn Cocktail
Cocktail

With brown bread and butter (GF)

Main Course

Steak and Jail Ale Pie with suet pastry crust with vegetables and mash Pan fried Lambs Liver
and Bacon with red wine gravy,

Cheddar & Chive mash and vegetables (GF) Beer Battered Fish, Chips and peas

Chicken Curry with Rice, Naan bread or Poppodums, Mango chutney and Riata (GF)

Vegan curry: Sweet Potato and Chick Pea V* Vegan

Wild Mushroom, Chestnut and Cranberry Tart with Pumpkin seed topping, new potatoes
and vegetables V* (available as a vegan option)

Dessert

Choice of dessert from the board

Freshly brewed Coffee or Tea with Chocolate mint

2 Course £18.95 3 Course £23.95

*available as a Vegan option Please advise if you are Gluten Free or any allergies

Bumblebee Conservation talk

On Thursday 2nd November, twenty-four members enjoyed the first of our indoor talks. It was an excellent one titled 'Gardening for Bumblebees' given by Cathy Horsley from the independent charity, Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Cathy joined the trust in 2016.

Sadly, the plight of the bumblebee is increasing. There are twenty-four species in the UK (eight of which are common) among two hundred and fifty species worldwide. Nine of the twenty-four species in the UK are in decline and two have been extinct since the start of the twentieth century. The Great Yellow bumblebee and the Shril Carder bumblebee are on the brink of extinction. The disappearance of bumblebees is due to the loss of ninety-seven per cent of wildflower meadows, farming intensification using pesticides and fertilisers, urbanisation causing habitat fragmentation, climate change and diseases.

Bumblebees require food from March to October, a nesting site and place to hibernate. The onus is on us as gardeners to make our gardens bumblebee friendly. We need to have a mix of flowers including shape and colour. Some bumblebee species have long tongues and prefer closed flowers such as foxgloves while others have short tongues and prefer open flowers such as red clover. During the winter months plants such as heather and winter honeysuckle are important food sources for bumblebees. Spring is a crucial time when the queen bumblebee collects food after the winter. Plants, such as rosemary, crocuses, viburnum, cherry and apple blossom, are good sources of food. During the summer, plants such as foxgloves, sunflowers, hollyhocks and comfrey, are an important food source. It helps to leave some weeds too, such as dandelions, red dead nettle, white dead nettle and ground ivy. If possible, try to create a wildflower area with plants such as field scabious, cornflower, tufted vetch and yellow rattle. Even ponds with winter mint attract bumblebees. Hanging baskets and a pot of rosemary are useful for food sources in small

spaces. Try to avoid cutting your lawn too frequently if you have wildflowers in it or raise the mower's blades. Unfortunately, plants which don't help as much are double flowered varieties such as some roses and peonies. Bumblebees favour rockery, walls, long grass and wild areas for their nesting habitat. The queen bee sits on her eggs in the spring. An interesting fact about bumblebees is that they are warm blooded and generate their own heat and a lot of energy. As a result, they can be seen sourcing food in cold weather. Cathy answered member's questions and finished with the request for us to join the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in order to help prevent the decline and further extinction of bumblebees.

November Tips from the RHS

- Sow overwintering broad beans (mild areas only) outside or under cloches where the soil is well drained, or in pots in an unheated greenhouse in cold districts
- Plant garlic cloves in modules inside a cold frame, or outdoors in mild areas in their final position (free-draining soils and low rainfall areas only).
- Buy and plant new fruit trees if the ground isn't frosted or too wet.
- Plant hedges and bare-root roses.
- Clean out the greenhouse and make sure tender plants are well protected.

Please send anything for the next newsletter to me
hibly@hotmail.com