



# Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

[Bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk](http://Bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk)

## February Newsletter 2025

### **March Meeting**

Our next meeting will be at 2.00 on 6<sup>th</sup> March in the Bowden Room when Saul Walker, will talk about behind the scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show. Saul was involved with the show for several years and is now head gardener at Stonelands House in Dawlish which we are visiting later in the year.

Please contact me for any further information 07974216556

### **February Meeting.**

There were around 20 members at our first indoor meeting of 2025, in the Bowden Room, where we welcomed Shira Rub as our speaker. Her topic was "Murder in the Garden". An imaginary garden was established on tables and Shira read out the names of garden residents from cards she had prepared (some with her own photographs) which members could claim and later place in the garden. These ranged from Sparrow Hawks to aphids and slugs etc. The home (and garden) was sold and new owners moved in who did not like; yellow patches on the lawn (Crane fly larvae), holes in flower leaves (snails, leaf-cutter bees etc) and they used a battery of "Killers" to remove these animals. Shira read out the tox profile of these products which all had adverse effects on aquatic environments, non-target species like earthworms and so birds and other invertebrates, as well as us humans. A general discussion followed and we agreed we should stop using such products and if required, move to natural, more nature friendly alternatives. To this end, the Wildlife Wardens are to be involved with the launch of Pesticide Free Devon in June and this will be followed by a kerbside pesticide collection, so we can all empty our sheds of these unwanted killers. Pip Hayes also alerted us to Nancy Birtwistle's (2014 Bake Off winner) books on going green in the garden and in your home, where there are some equally, or even more powerful killers. A great start to 2025.

### **Garden Tips for March from the RHS**

Prune bush and climbing roses  
Plant onion sets and shallots  
Plant summer-flowering bulbs  
Lift and divide overgrown clumps o& perennials  
Plant early potatoes  
Mow the lawn on dry days if needed  
Cut back herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses  
Keep a few dandelions to support early bees  
Start off Dalia tubers in pots of damp peat-free compost  
Prune buddlejas to a low framework to encourage new flowering growth

### **A Backward Spring**

The trees are afraid to put forth buds,  
And there is a timidity in the grass;  
The plots lie grey where gouged by spuds,  
And whether next week will pass  
Free of sly sour winds is the fret of each bush  
Of barberry waiting to bloom.

Yet the snowdrop's face betrays no gloom,  
And the primrose pants in heedless push,  
Though the myrtle asks if it's worth the fight  
This year with frost and rime  
To venture one more time  
On delicate leaves and buttons of white  
From the selfsame bough as at last year's prime  
And never to ruminate or remember  
What happened to it in mid-December

Thomas Hardy

Items for the newsletter to [hibly@hotmail.com](mailto:hibly@hotmail.com)