



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

April/May Newsletter 2022

Lukelands 5th May

On Thursday 5th May at 2.30pm, we will be visiting Lukelands, PL21 0JF, which is a family run 24 acre woodland garden on the edge of Ivybridge in the Dartmoor National Park. Set in the picturesque valley of the Addicombe Brook, Lukelands is well loved for its wonderful range of spring and autumn flowering shrubs and specimen trees, some dating from Victorian times. There are also waterfalls and lakes. It is one of the finest gardens of its type in the South West. Entry is £7 50 (£7.00 if there are more than twenty members), with tea in their tearoom £4 50. Please note that Sarah Lyte is organising the visit instead of Hibly Woods as shown in the 2022 programme.

Please ring Sarah Lyte on 01626 439678 by Friday 29th April if you wish to go.

On Thursday 7th April, 14 members visited the family run business, Orchid Paradise (Burnham Nurseries), near Newton Abbot. We began with tea and delicious homemade cakes in their Vanilla Cafe. Sarah, third generation of the Rittershausen family, gave a talk informing us that her family had 70 years of growing experience beginning with her grandfather Percy

Rittershausen. Sarah's knowledge and expertise was immense. There are some 30,000 species of orchid in the world and over 150,000 man-made hybrids. Orchids are found on every continent except Antarctica. They can be classed as epiphytes (grow on trees), terrestrials (grow in the ground) and lithophytes (grow on rocks). There are different types of growth, monopodial (grow upward from a single point), sympodial (branching pattern of growth) and pseudobulbs (a storage organ composed of thickening of the part of the stem between leaf nodes). Following Sarah's talk, we were allowed to wander through the growing houses and marvel at the variety of orchids with their beautiful, exotic blooms. The species on show are from around the world, many of which you won't see anywhere else in the UK. Due to the large variety, the growing houses are kept at different temperatures, cool (8 degrees), intermediate (12 degrees) and warm (18 degrees). Sarah advised us to try the Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis) as it likes house conditions and the flowers are long lasting. She runs an Orchid Clinic on the first Wednesday of each month providing expert advice for problem plants with re-potting if necessary. They also run fun, full day Orchid Masterclasses in Spring and Autumn, a 'basics' one for Beginners and a 'how to expand your collection' one for Improvers. Whether you are a

serious orchid enthusiast, keen gardener or looking for a memorable day out, Orchid Paradise is well worth a visit.

The June visit to Whiddon Goyle is no longer going ahead due to the Platinum Jubilee weekend.

Summer Gathering 15th July

The summer gathering will be at Bridford village hall starting at 5.30 Please contact Ann Lord for any further details 01647 253025

The competitions will be
Horticulture, bowl of mixed soft fruits
Flower arrangement theme.....Climate Change
Pot plant.....ever green non-flowering house plant in max 5cm pot
Cut Flowers.....5 roses
So you can be thinking about your entries

Christow Show 20th August
Don't forget to pot up your plants for the "Hot Colours" display at the Christow show.

Check your lilies for lily beetle some have been spotted in Bridford.

Advice from the RHS for May

1. Watch out for late frosts which can damage blossom and tender new growth.
2. Earth up potatoes to protect from frost and make sure tubers are covered so exposure to light doesn't turn them green and poisonous.
3. Towards the end of the month plant out summer bedding and hanging baskets.
4. Regularly hoe off emerging weeds.

5. If you need to water do it in the early morning or later in the day so you get the most benefit.

6. Leave some areas of grass uncut for wildlife and wildflowers.

As usual if you have any newsletter items please let me know

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