



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

August Newsletter 2021

Summer Gathering

On Thursday July 15th the Club held their Annual Summer Gathering in the garden of Hibly and Saul. The weather was glorious, the food delicious and the company great. In addition we wandered around the garden and grass labyrinth and held our annual fun competitions.

The cup for the best flowering potted plant went to Sarah Lyte, the Blue & White themed flower arrangement to Anne Rice, while Paul French won both the Rose Cup and the Horticultural Cup for three specimens of three root vegetables. A happy time was had by all and we were very appreciative of our host's hospitality, many thanks!

South Wood Farm

Eight club stalwarts braved a wet and windy day in early August to visit South Wood Farm near Cotleigh in East Devon. We were guided round by the new Head Gardener, Lewis O'Brien. He told us that the acclaimed garden designer Arne Maynard, responsible for the changes to South Wood, strives to achieve a 'sense of place' with a particular harmony between the garden and the house (a 17C thatched farmhouse) and importantly to have a productive kitchen garden. The designer's colour theme of purple hues was evident in the first part of our visit, the walled

courtyard garden with its central feature of a diamond shaped herb carpet with a clipped bay in the middle. We made our way along the serpentine path through a recently cut wildflower meadow to a kitchen garden of sheer wonderment. Each raised bed was edged with wood, interspersed with finials carrying on the theme with the most unusual pagoda-style artisan fruit cages plus a greenhouse from Mr Grace's workshop in Christow. We trundled on through the formal plum orchard, nuttery and reflecting pond, before taking a welcome refuge from the rain in a barn where we were served delicious cakes and tea. We all resolved to go again in the sunshine to see the splendid garden at its best.

Riverford Visit

We will be visiting Riverford on Thursday 16th September for a farm tour followed by lunch in the Field Kitchen. The Farm Tour starts at 11.00am and costs £14 per head. The lunch will be £28 per head. Names/numbers to Paul French at paul.n.french@btinternet.com or 01647252721

by Friday 10th September for a) farm visit
b) lunch.

Christow Show

Although the show will not go ahead this year we will be having a stall at Christow Community Day on Saturday 21st this will

be manned by committee members so do pop by and say hello.

Gardening Tips from the RHS for August

Towards the end of August sow hardy annuals directly into borders. They will overwinter and flower next summer.

Don't neglect hanging baskets - deadheading, watering and feeding will help them last through until autumn.

Deadhead plants such as Dahlia, roses and Penstemon and bedding to prolong the display colour well into early autumn.

Don't cut off the flowerheads of ornamental grasses. These will provide winter interest.

Hardy geraniums can be cut back a little to remove tired leaves and encourage a new flush of growth.

Prune climbing and rambling roses that do not repeat flower or produce attractive hips, once the flowers have finished.

Propagation

Pinks and carnations can be propagated by layering. Propagate irises by dividing the rhizomes if not done last month.

Take cuttings of tender perennials such as Pelargonium and Osteospermum, as soon as possible. A greenhouse, cool conservatory or a light windowsill are ideal to bring them on until they are established.

General maintenance

Feed containers, and even tired border perennials, with a liquid tomato food

each week to encourage them to bloom into the early autumn.

Keep picking flowers from the cutting garden to encourage more flower buds to form and open.

Alpines that have developed bare patches of die-back, or have become weedy, can be tidied up by in-filling the patches with gritty compost. This will encourage new growth as well as improving their appearance.

Most perennial weeds are best dealt with when in active growth.

Planning ahead

Collect and store seed of hardy annuals and perennials for sowing later in the autumn. Good plants to try include Calendula, Nigella, Cerinthe, Papaver, Aquilegia and hardy Geranium.

Buy or order spring-flowering bulbs. Some bulbs can be planted now, such as Colchicum, daffodils and Madonna lilies (*L. candidum*).
place upturned on canes to trap them overnight.

Don't be worried by bright green, heavily-armoured looking insects on your plants - these are harmless shieldbugs which do not require control.

Let's hope for a lovely sunny early autumn so we can continue to enjoy our gardens into September and October.

Happy gardening, Hibly

Anything for the next newsletter to hibly@hotmail.com