



The Village GARDEN CLUB

of Sevenhampton & District



MAR / APR 2017

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 16th March - Fiona Warin: "Lost the Plot"

Wednesday 26th April - AGM & Andrew Tolman: Stumperry in Shady Places

The Competition

My garden is a place for relaxation and memories. I look out of the window or sit in the garden and, like so many people, can have happy thoughts and reminiscences. There is a sort of structure to my garden but it is more a case of plants being compatible — do they like sun or shade and what goes with what? There is also a never ending competition with nature, including the battle with the usual opponents of slugs, snails and dandelions etc. and always compromise is needed.

In the spring when I was a child in Norfolk, there were aconites in the garden. If you go to Snowhill they have seeded onto the path and should be easy to grow here. I have tried *everywhere* without success but to make up for it I have cyclamen corm seeding into the lawn. There were also daffodils in the Norfolk garden, some clumps being 80 years old. When I moved to Cheltenham as a novice gardener I decided that I would have a display in the front garden to remind me of home. My sack of local bulbs grew for only 3 years - but there is a positive side, I *can* grow tulips!



Rosa (Great) Maiden's Blush

My father was very fond of his roses and I can remember going with him to choose the hybrid teas for the rose beds in the front of the house. Again, a memory I wanted to evoke. However I have tried everywhere in the garden without success and currently my *Josephine Bruce* resides in a large pot having been rescued from its garden bed. No roses had been growing there previously, so the reason for failure isn't apparent. It isn't all negative though, species roses work. The *Maidens Blush* is very



Rosa Paul's Himalayan Musk

happy and grows abundantly, better than in Norfolk, also the *American Pillar* which was rooted from a trailing stem. My *Pauls Himalayan Musk* has taken over the neighbours Bramley apple and I can sit in the garden in the summer enjoying the perfume. *Rambling Rector* scents the road at the bottom of the garden as it covers the lilac.

Other memories have worked as I have phlox from the house I was born in, though sadly the delphiniums were 'slugged' and the Michaelmas daisies are definitely out. When I started gardening a friend in Cheltenham gave me plants from her garden as a basis for my empty beds; some have had to be moved but most are still in the garden. She also gave a very good piece of advice, "If there is one it is a plant; if there are twenty - it is probably a weed!"

DAFFODIL FACTFILE - The daffodil, (aka narcissus, daffy-down-dilly, jonquil & lent lily) is a member of the Amaryllidaceae (amaryllis) family. It is native to meadows and woods in Europe and North Africa. Wild and cultivated plants have naturalised widely, and were introduced into the Far East before the 10th century.

As well as the national flower of Wales, the wild daffodil is also the County Flower of Gloucestershire. The 'golden triangle' around Newent and Dymock is famous for its wild woodland daffodils and a 10-mile footpath known as [The Daffodil Way](#) runs through woods, orchards and meadows.

[The Daffodil Society](#) was established in 1898 with membership open to all. Their next annual show will be on April 15th/16th at Coughton Court (a National Trust property in Warwickshire).

LAWNS



NOW is the time to think about lawns, especially their repair and revival, before the mowing season gets really underway.

REPAIR

- For **bare patches** use a mix of seed + soil and spread it over the area. Cover with clear polythene, pegged down and with a few slits in it to let in air and water. Germination should take place within a few days.

- Cut away **damaged edges** and turn the turf around so that the damaged edge is towards the main body of grass. The clean cut will give a new edge & the ragged, inner area can be filled with seed + soil mix and similarly covered with polythene if necessary.

REVIVAL

- Rake out old dead grass and moss. If a chemical moss killer is favoured use this before raking. A nitrogenous lawn fertiliser can be given in April.

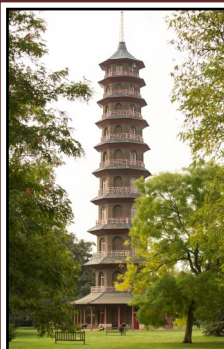
Latin Plant Names

The combination of *genus* with *specific epithet* into a single phrase called the "species" is the basic component of botanical nomenclature. There are finer divisions such as cultivar, variety, and subspecies which describe minor variations, but "species" is the level at which gardeners usually operate.

This year's *Social Evening* quiz brought attention to the use of adjectives or 'epithets' to describe a particular plant. E.g. *Salvia patens* (*gentian sage*); *Salvia* being the Genus and *patens* being the specific epithet, meaning 'spreading'.

Here are some Latin specific epithets often applied to plants:

aestivalis	flowering in Spring
armata	prickly
barbatus	bearded, hairy
chrysanthus	with golden flowers
dendrophilus	tree loving
esculentus	edible
foliosa	leafy
flavus	yellow
gramineus	grass like
hirsuta	hairy
hyemalis	of Winter
integrifolia	entire (undivided) leaves
japonica	from Japan
longiflorus	with long flowers
muralis	growing on walls
nutans	nodding
odorata	perfumed
pratensis	field / meadow
quercifolia	oak-leaved
rupestris	of hills
semperviva	ever-living, perennial
trifoliata	with 3-lobed leaves
undulata	wavy
vernalis	of Spring



When George III (whose visit to Cheltenham boosted its fortunes) went to Kew Gardens in the 1760s, there were 80 brightly coloured dragons adorning the iconic pagoda there. Within 20 years all these dragons had disappeared—having fallen

off or been removed. Now Kew Gardens is to have the dragons reincarnated, ranging in size from 3 - 10 feet long.

The Great Pagoda at Kew offers one of the earliest & finest bird's eye views of London, and is expected to re-open to the public in 2017. For info about Kew, visit www.kew.org

As usual, the committee have organised two excellent trips for members, although guests are also invited if there is room.

The Garden Club's first trip will be to Cerney Gardens on Tues. 23rd May - a perfect time to see this romantic garden which includes roses, perennials and a working kitchen garden. The evening will finish with a pub supper at The Colesbourne.

The coach outing on Wed. 12th July will be to Stone House Cottage Nurseries & Witley Court in Worcestershire. The nurseries have many interesting plants for sale, most of which can be seen growing in their walled garden. Members of English Heritage will be able to have a £7 discount as E.H. are the custodians of Witley Court.

Your place can be booked on accompanying form

Many thanks to Victoria for her talk about South African plants. Many plants were illustrated and a couple of hardy plants, ideal for growing in the UK, came highly recommended.....
Alstroemeria - *Indian Summer*
Kniphofia - *Mango Popsical*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The **Cheltenham Horticultural Society** Spring Show is being held in the Pittville Pump Room on **Sunday 2 April**. Hundreds of spring flowers including alpinas, cacti, daffodils, orchids and tulips will be on display with more plants, cakes and craftwork for sale.

Doors open at 12.00 pm & tickets are £1 on the door.

Gloucestershire **Rare Plant Fairs** will be held on **Sunday 9th April** at The Old Rectory, Quenington, Cirencester, GL7 5BN and **Sunday 23rd July** at Highnam Court, Nr Gloucester, GL2 8DP.

Both 11am - 4pm and giving donations towards Cobalt Unit. For entire listing visit www.rareplantfair.co.uk

National Garden Week (see Jan/Feb newsletter) **10th—16th April**

National Garden Scheme—group opening of 10 gardens at Eastcombe, Bussage & Brownhill (Stroud valley) on **Sun. 30th April & Mon. 1st May**. Cost £6, teas in Eastcombe Village hall. Further info at www.ngs.org.uk

And finally: In an article written by a retired GP living near the Forest of Dean he noted, "Very few gardeners need a psychologist, they need an orthopaedic surgeon for their bad backs!"

Have you anything of interest that can be included in the next newsletter? If so please contact Di Cook (editor) at
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