



The Village GARDEN CLUB

of Sevenhampton & District



Cornflower / *Centaurea cyanus*
Factfile — see back page

JUL / AUG 2018

NEXT MEETINGS

- Thursday 5th July** - Coach outing to The Bishops Palace & Gardens, Wells
August - No Garden Club meeting but
Saturday 25th August - 'The Show at Brockhampton' 1pm - 4.30 pm (see www.sevenhampton.org for further details)



Reducing Plastic Use in our Gardens

We have heard a lot recently about the dire consequences of plastic waste in the oceans but how can we, as gardeners, reduce our use of plastic here in Sevenhampton?

We are lucky enough to have a supportive council who recycle our plants pots and other plastics but wouldn't it be better to reduce our plastic waste to begin with? For example don't buy fake Christmas trees, big plastic compost bins, water butts and plastic seed trays. This would be the obvious start but if, like me, you have some of these things already, keep using and reusing them; fix them when they break.

Sometimes it is the small things that help:

- sowing seed in cardboard or coir seed trays, or make your own "Blue Peter" style from newspaper and toilet roll
- Buying wooden or cardboard plant tags
- Buying wood and metal tools - not plastic rakes
- Buying loose leaf tea or basic tea bags; pyramid and other tagged tea bags have plastic glue which doesn't break down in the compost heap.
- Don't take plastic bags away with you after buying plants and other items from the garden centre. Keep a cardboard "tray" in the back of the car for transporting plants and compost.

There isn't a great solution yet for the thick plastic bags of compost - but keep asking and there may be a day soon when we are trying to remember to take our compost shopping bags on a trip to the garden centre!

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/gardening-with-less-plastic/>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/Articles/plastic-policy>

Remember the 3 'Rs' :

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Note: Cotswold District Council are launching a new recycling campaign. See parish notice boards or access links at www.sevenhampton.org & www.cotswold.gov.uk . You can also do the [BBC Quiz](#) to find out how well you recycle!

Club Committee Members

We now have new faces on the committee! Committee members have kindly agreed to share their telephone numbers with members, should you have any queries or concerns that you wish to raise. Committee members are:

John Benson (Chair)	01242 820960	Ann Van Rossem	01242 820718
Di Cook	01242 821018	Joanna Ruddock	07970 431158
Gordon Day	01242 820620	Pippa Shouler	01242 821419
Joanna Rolfe	01451 850566	Sue Tallents	01242 820349

GARDEN CLUB OUTINGS

MISERDEN: Lovely weather added to the delight of Miserden Gardens, when members were privileged with a private viewing. If you were unable to join us on the trip it is well worth a visit to the gardens (this year's *Historic Houses Garden of the Year*), the nurseries (who grow plants for award winner Chris Beardshaw) and their very pleasant tea room.



Photo Courtesy of David Cunn

WELLS—THURSDAY 5th JULY: The bus will pick up at the top of Brockhampton at **8.30 a.m.**, the bus shelter 5 mins later and then to The Park, finally picking up at Church Lane & Webb's Lane.

This year is the centenary of **Rosemary Verey's** birth. Celebrating this, Barnsley House near Cirencester (now a hotel but once her home) offers the opportunity to wander around the garden for the price of tea/coffee and homemade biscuits. Private garden tours, supplemented by afternoon tea or an evening meal, are also available for groups of 10 or more. See www.barnsleyhouse.com

Hadfield Fine Art

Large collection of Original Contemporary British Art
www.hadfieldfineart.co.uk

OPEN WEEKEND

30th June—1st July 2018 10.00am-5.00pm

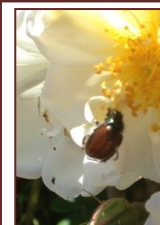
South Paddock, Sevenhampton, Cheltenham, GL54 5SW Tel: 821251

Garden open, Tea and Cakes



The Cornflower, (*Centaurea cyanus*) is a hardy annual of the family Asteraceae. Also called Batchelor's Button, it was once a common sight in the countryside but modern farming methods, including the use of herbicides, have almost eradicated it from there, although 'field margins' of wild flowers may include them. Lucky then that the flower has become popular with gardeners with its original bright blue colour supplemented with cultured varieties of reds, pinks & white. Found throughout Europe, it is the national flower of Estonia and was adopted by Germany for a time, after its unification in 1871. In France on WWI armistice day, veterans and supporters wear its flower (bleuet de France) in a similar way to poppies being worn in the UK. The flowers are edible and can be used as a garnish in salads etc. Their petals are included in herbal remedies and teas, including 'Lady Grey' tea. They can be easily dried for flower arrangements. In the garden, plants like a well drained soil in full sun and seeds can be scattered directly onto the soil between March & May. Flowering extends from June through to September.

Herbal infusions (tisanes) are easy to prepare and some are reputed to have certain health benefits. Mint tea has been drunk throughout Maghreb (Northern Africa) for centuries and is very much a social drink, like coffee is here. Typically spearmint (*Mentha spicata*) is used, sweetened with honey but many other mints will provide a refreshing tisane. Other such herbs are rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), lemon verbena (*Aloysia citrodora*), Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*), lemon thyme (*Thymus citriodorus*). Easily grown, the herbs make refreshing drinks on hot summer days. To prepare a tisane take a few fresh sprigs of your chosen herb and pour boiling water over it. Let it steep for anything up to 5 mins so as to release all the flavours and scents. If desired sweeten with honey or sugar.



IN JUNE there was a mass emergence of beetles with coppery brown wing cases (elytra) and a metallic green thorax. These were garden chafer beetles, *Phyllotreta horticola*, their numbers due to favourable weather conditions. After feasting on foliage but generally not causing too much damage, beetles lay their eggs in soil and the emergent larvae will eat grass roots. They are particular pests in lawns, yellowing of the grass (due to grub damage) being most apparent in the Autumn. Birds also contribute to the damage by tearing up lawns to access the larvae, which are approx. 3/4 inch long, white with brown heads. There are no chemical controls for gardeners; biological controls include pathogenic nematodes, e.g. *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, which infect the larvae. Poorly maintained lawns are thought to be more susceptible to damage, so attention paid to feeding, watering and moss prevention may help avoid damaging infestations.

A GLOUCESTERSHIRE MAN HAS RECENTLY BEEN FINED £800 FOR PRUNING TREES WITHOUT PERMISSION.

If you plan to prune or fell a tree with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) you must have permission from your local council (Cotswold District Council) prior to the work being done. If you live in a Conservation Area you must give notice to the council of any proposed work at least 6 weeks before it is carried out. The only exception to this is if trees have a trunk smaller than 7.5 cms in diameter, measured at 1.5 metres above ground level.



See www.trees.org.uk for more advice & information.

And finally

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018

You are almost bound to be aware of the new GDPR which requires organisations to have a 'legitimate interest' in storing personal data. As most members receive this newsletter electronically, members' email addresses are held by the Garden Club committee. This information is ONLY used for this purpose and to contact members about other Garden Club issues should the need arise. If you have any concerns about how your details are stored or how we communicate with you, please contact a committee member (see front page).

* Have you anything of interest that can be included in the next newsletter? If so please contact Di Cook (editor) at *
* ditex.cook@btinternet.com or Tel: 01242 821018 *
