



The Village GARDEN CLUB

of Sevenhampton & District



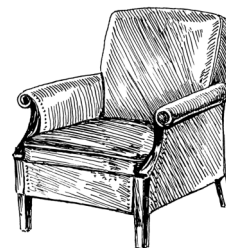
Nasturtium
(*Tropaeolum*)

JAN / FEB 2019

NEXT MEETINGS

Friday 25th January — Social evening, supper and 'Beetle Drive'
Thursday 21st February — Paul Green "Shrubs for early season & Interest" (*Change to original programme*)

Armchair Gardening



I love armchair gardening in the winter! It's that time of year to take stock and make plans. The seed catalogues are full of beautiful photographs to inspire you and suggest plant combinations and colours to make you dream.

I am going to plant a lot more annuals next year in a cutting bed on the vegetable patch. Larkspur, cosmos, nigella, tobacco plants for scent including *Nicotiana sylvestris* with its big candelabra type heads for decoration as well as perfume. *Nicotiana alata* is a must! They are the tall tobacco plants with the wonderful evening scent – you cannot buy these as plants for some reason. The tobacco plants I see for sale are always short and have no scent so growing your own is the only way and it is easy! I am also going to germinate some seeds of *Euphorbia oblongata* as it is such a good filler in a vase with its gorgeous lime colour and, again, it is easy to grow. Sarah Raven usually stocks these seeds. Also, I usually order some seeds of the climber *Cobaea scandens*, the cup and saucer plant, as the green and lilac edged flowers are so pretty in an arrangement.

Cosmos is always my number one for cutting and Thompson and Morgan have one called Cupcake which is a must this year. Then, of course, there are sweet peas and you have just got to grow a lot to make a big bowlful so that you can bury your nose in it for the glorious scent!

Although I love looking at and ordering these seeds from the catalogues, I have stopped planting them too early as the mice always get them. I just can't bear that scene of devastation in the greenhouse again! They now go into pots in late spring and then into the veg plot on canes like runner beans where they can be picked all summer and through into the autumn.

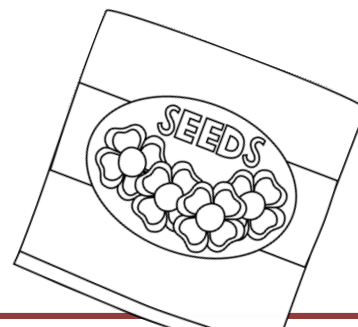
For interesting and unusual seeds check out the Chiltern seeds catalogue www.chilternseeds.co.uk and Plants of Distinction www.plantsofdistinction.co.uk – they will make your mouth water!

Spring is the time to go back to the catalogues for your plug plants and any new herbaceous plants you may fancy but I always try to go the local growers for inspiration too. The theory is that you will then have all your annuals to give you colour and new interest *and* vases full of garden flowers without cutting too many herbaceous flowers.



You could dot some annuals amongst the established perennials in the borders just to make a change in the look as you should have loads to spare if they all germinate.

Happy catalogue browsing!





'Real' Christmas trees are recyclable with local authorities and, once collected, are shredded into chippings. These are then used locally in parks or woodland areas.

Gloucestershire's local authorities arrange special collections of 'real' trees in early January and will advertise the dates. You can find out details and a lot of other useful recycling information by entering your postcode into [Recycling Locator tool](#).

Remember to remove all tinsel and decorations before disposal!

Artificial trees are made from a combination of materials and therefore cannot be recycled. Unwanted trees in good condition may be accepted by charity shops for re-sale and re-use.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

After the festive celebrations 'real' Christmas trees can also be taken to the following garden centres for disposal. They will take the trees up until 13th January 2019 which will then be used to make peat-free compost.

Batsford Garden Centre, Batsford, GL56 9QB
Dawn Nurseries, Shurdington Rd, Shurdington
Dobbies Garden Centre, Cirencester, GL7 6EU
Dundry Nurseries, Bamfurlong Lane, Staverton
Gotherington Nurseries, Gretton Road, Gotherington
Greenway Nurseries, Main Road, Shurdington
Toddington Garden Centre, Toddington
Wyvale Garden Centres Evesham Rd, Bishop's Cleeve & Shurdington Rd, Brockworth

Seed potatoes can be chitted from January onwards; choose a light, cool, frost-free space. Dundry Nurseries, near Staverton are famous for the wide variety of seed potatoes that they stock—over 140 this year! Their 'potato weekend' is Sat/Sun 19th/20th Jan and they will sell any quantity from 1 tuber to 25kg.
PS Don't forget the club members 10% discount

GET YOUR GARDEN BUZZING.

When planning your planting schemes for the coming year, try to include plants which attract bees and other important pollinators. There are many to choose from: annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees—not to mention vegetables! The RHS has a very comprehensive list which can be seen [here](#). (Ctrl + click)
Bees may be small but are incredibly important as they are responsible for 1/3rd of the food we eat.

PRUNING

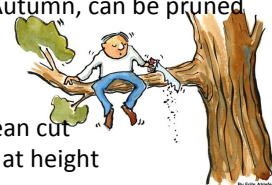
Free-standing **apple & pear** trees need attention at this time of year. The lack of leaves helps to determine the shape to aim for, which generally should be open, rounded and with no branches rubbing.

- Remove dead/diseased/damaged branches.
- Try to leave young outward growing side branches so they can develop fruit buds.
- Apply a winter mulch/potash (woodash is a good source)

Wisteria can also be pruned now—shortening shoots pruned last summer to 2/3 buds from the older wood.

Vines need to be pruned before the sap starts to reflow; too late and the vines will 'weep'.

Clematis, those flowering in late summer and Autumn, can be pruned around February time.



Always use sharp blades / saws to achieve a clean cut
Keep safe—use stable steps/ladders if working at height



PICTURE PERFECT This picture, which accompanies the front page article, also appears on our [Garden Club's section](#) of Sevenhampton Parish Council's website. It was taken at the National Trust property at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. The webpages are updated regularly and it would be lovely to show a different photograph every month and so, **if you have a suitable snapshot please email it/them to Di Cook (details below) who looks forward to seeing all your lovely pictures.** The more the merrier!



NASTURTIUM FACTFILE: The nasturtium is the common name for *Tropaeolum*, which is the only genus in the family Tropaeolaceae. It originates from South America and was brought to Europe in 1569 by the Spaniards. Its common name means 'nose twister', which could reflect its growth habit but is also taken from the watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*) which produces a similar peppery tasting oil.

It thrives in poor soil - too rich a soil promotes leaf growth at the expense of its flowers. Popular garden plants are hybrids of *T.majus*, *T.minus*, *T.peltophorum* & *T.peregrinum* with the Alaska series, Hermione Grastoff & the Whirlybird series gaining the RHS Garden Merit Award. They have a long flowering season and varieties can be low growing, climbing or trailing. Nasturtiums can be grown as 'companion plants' when they are used to repel pests and act as a lure for others (eg aphids); they also attract predatory insects to the garden.

All parts of *T.majus* are edible. Flowers and leaves, with their peppery taste, are used in salads and are high in Vitamin C. They contain high levels of lutein, thought to be important for eye health and in reducing the onset of macular degeneration. Immature seeds can be harvested and pickled to be used as garnish and seasoning, similar to capers.

2019 has been designated as the year of the Nasturtium by the plant promoter Fleuroselect.

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