



The Village
GARDEN CLUB
of Sevenhampton & District

**JULY /AUG
2019**



SALVIAS
(*Salvia officinalis*)

NEXT MEETINGS

- Thursday 18th July - Jim Teague: "What's in Store"
Saturday 24th August - No meeting but THE SHOW at Brockhampton



Blooming Marvellous!

As we approach the completion of hard landscaping and a rebuilt front wall, I have been thinking about the roses which used to grow through an arch around our front door. I have no idea what they were called, and having successfully transplanted one of them into the back garden I am reluctant to try moving it again, and so I have decided to start afresh, with some new ones to grow up the front of the cottage.

Knowing very little about roses, I have spent quite some time researching on the internet. There I discovered that roses have been grown in China for over 1000 years. Apparently, the forerunner of the rose gardens which we would recognise today was planted during the years 1799-1814 by Empress Josephine de Beauharnais at Malmaison in France. She financed a number of plant collecting trips, and imported both scores of roses as well as talented gardeners to care for them. By the time of her death, she had introduced over 250 varieties of rose. The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) grants an Award for Garden Excellence, and has so far recognised 42 rose gardens around the world. These range through Europe to countries such as Argentina, Australia, Canada and, of course, China.

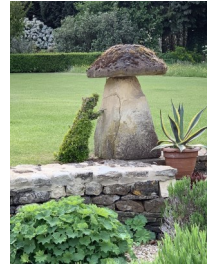
To see roses at their finest, the WFRS recommends these two award-winning gardens in the UK. [Mottisfont Abbey](#) in Hampshire, a 13th century priory owned by the National Trust (NT). This rose garden was created in 1972 and houses a national collection of historic shrub roses. [Queen Mary's Garden](#) in Regents Park, which has over 40,000 roses in bloom in the summer. Whilst nearer to home [Sudeley Castle](#) and NT's [Coughton Court](#) are also in the BBC's top ten recommended rose gardens. The scents must be amazing!

Of course, there are many other beautiful rose gardens to visit, including those of suppliers such as [David Austin Roses Ltd](#). Advice on choosing and planting roses can be found on the RHS website. I hope you enjoy looking at them as much as I have.

(Note from editor: [The Rose Society UK](#) offers a rose identification service. Follow link for further info.)

SALVIA FACTFILE: There are nearly 1000 species of salvias all of which belong to the mint family of plants (Lamiaceae). This family is easily recognised by its square section stem. *Salvia officinalis* (illustrated above) is the common sage; the leaves are favoured by chefs and the flowers loved by bees and other plant pollinators. The seeds of *Salvia hispanica*, known as chia seeds, offer another culinary use. Said to be a 'superfood', the small seeds are high in fibre, Omega3, protein & have many minerals. Salvia plants can be shrubs, perennials or annuals and typically have long flower spikes (racemes) in blues, pinks, purples, reds and even yellow (eg *Salvia koyamae*). The hardiness of perennial types vary so taking a cutting of a favourite plant may help to prolong its beauty. This can easily be done by taking 'stem cuttings' in the late August/September. Salvias enjoy a sunny position but tolerate semi-shade. Remove flower spikes after flowering or reduce plant by a third to encourage new growth, which should last until the Autumn. At the end of the season, prune your salvia down to just two to three inches above the ground and add a little mulch around the plant for protection.

Those who visited Kingham Lodge Gardens with the Garden Club trip in May will have noticed a number of topiary features growing throughout the garden. Topiary is the art of training plants into imitative shapes and can vary hugely in size and style. Some, like the 'mouse' photographed at Kingham (right), are grown on wire formers but others result from being clipped freehand. In Europe, topiary can be traced back to Romans times although in China and Japan they have long clipped branches of trees into 'cloud' shapes. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Italian monks continued the practice, creating elaborate parterres in their monastery gardens. By the 16th century the use of this style of hedging had spread to northern Europe. Parterres and knot



Levens Hall, Cumbria



gardens became very popular during the Tudor period in Britain but many were scrubbed out when landscapes, typical of designers like Capability Brown, became in vogue. Today sees a revival in the popularity of topiary with many fine examples still to be seen. Even Brockhampton Park sports examples, which are said to be the remnants of a complete chess set. Plants suitable for topiary are yew (*Taxus baccata*), box (*Buxus sempervirens*), privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*), holly (*Ilex*) and *Lonicera nitida*.

Farewell Presentation

On Friday 24th June most of the committee members were able to treat former Chairman, John Benson, and his wife, Wendy, to a farewell supper. During the evening John was presented with a card signed by many of our garden club members, together with National Garden Gift Vouchers worth over £200, which were bought with the generous contributions from our members.



From left: Joanna Ruddock, John, Joanna Rolfe, Gordon Day (New Chair), Ann Van Rossem, Wendy, Di Cook

John and Wendy, who are founder members of the Garden Club, moved from Gloucestershire to Norfolk at the end of June to be closer to family. They are looking forward to establishing their new home and creating a lovely garden with the help of members' generous gift. We wish them all the very best for the future.

"Wendy and I would like to thank all of you who contributed to our "Retirement" gift. It is a very generous present and much appreciated. The vouchers will come in very handy in Norfolk where our new garden, although much smaller than our current one, is in need of some refurbishment. Our Best Wishes to you all. " John

Some Dates for Your Diary

Sun 14th July (11am-5pm) Westonbirt School Garden (previous home of founder of Westonbirt), Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8QG **£5**, children free. NGS Scheme

Sun 21st July (11am-4pm) *Rare Plants Fair* at Highnam Court Gardens, Nr Gloucester, GL2 8DP **£5**

3rd August (11am-5pm) Offenham Village Open Gardens, Nr Evesham WR11 8QD **£5** NGS Scheme

Sat 24th August (1-4.30 pm) The Show at Brockhampton. Entries accepted no later than Wed 21st Aug. For further information ctrl+click [here](#).

2nd—7th July (10am-7.30pm) RHS *Hampton Court Palace Flower Show* has now become [Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival](#), which "better reflects the types of exhibits". Tickets range from £20 to £70. BBC's Springwatch has designed a garden for the RHS show. Their garden has three distinct spaces within it, all including wildlife corridors which allow the movement of insects, birds and mammals. Springwatch are encouraging garden owners to participate in a survey, which continues until **30th July**. Ctrl+Click [here](#) or visit the BBC website for more info. Their guide to birds & their behaviour, which forms part of the survey accompanies this newsletter.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN

Although the longest day has now gone (June 21st), July and August usually have the highest temperatures. So, a great time to sit in the garden and enjoy the fruits of your labour! To prolong the pleasure:

- ◆ Dead head regularly
- ◆ Hoe down weeds
- ◆ Water as needed, giving special attention to pots (using grey water where possible)
- ◆ Harvest veg when ready especially if wanting courgettes instead of marrows!
- ◆ Keep ponds & water features topped up
- ◆ Pot up rooted strawberry runners
- ◆ Consider houseplants if on holiday
- ◆ Prune wisteria (again in Jan/Feb) to increase flower production and vigour

Hampton Court has reported the arrival of the non-native box tree moth caterpillar (*Cydalima perspectalis*), which eats the foliage of box plants and covers it in its silken threads. (As if box hedges aren't suffering enough!) The National Trust are trialling insect repellents at nearby Ham House whilst, at its property **Cliveden**, garden- ing staff have been instructed to check the hedging daily and remove any caterpillars that are seen. **The RHS are asking to be informed of any sightings of these caterpillars by using this on-line [survey](#).**

Other non-native garden pests which are threatening our plants are the [lily beetle](#) (*Lilioceris lili*), [rosemary beetle](#) (*Chrysolina americana*), Hemerocallis (day lily) [gall midge](#) (*Contarinia quinquenotata*) and [berberis sawfly](#) (*Arge berberidis*).

The RHS are collecting information on these non-natives, click on the links to find out more.



Box tree caterpillar

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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