



The Village GARDEN CLUB

of Sevenhampton & District



July / August 2016

NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 3rd August — 'Growing Flowers for Cutting' - Bill Howe

(Saturday 27th August — Sevenhampton, Charlton Abbotts & Hawling 70th PRODUCE SHOW)



Donna Budding - Head Gardener, Brockhampton Park

ONE MAN WENT TO MOW

Donna Budding is a petite, capable brunette with a ponytail and a family history stretching back to the early 1600s. Her looks belie the fact that she is, indeed, the Head Gardener at Brockhampton Park, presiding over eight acres of grounds much of which is laid down to lawns. This is all very appropriate, as she is the great, great granddaughter of one Edwin Beard Budding, the inventor of the lawnmower!

Edwin was born in 1796 and became a mechanic, working as a pattern maker in iron foundries and a machinist in the cloth mills of Stroud. He was an inveterate tinkerer, inventing a pepperbox pistol around 1827, well before Samuel Colt's patent of 1836. At that time ornamental lawns, which were the province of the gentry, were either cut with scythes or cropped by sheep. Edwin got the idea for a grass-cutting machine from the cutting cylinders that were used to cut the nap from the surface of woolen cloth in the Gloucestershire mills in which he worked. His patent was granted on 31st August 1830 and Budding joined partnership with John Ferrabee who had the Phoenix ironworks at Thrupp, near Stroud, to develop and manufacture the new machines. Early models went to Regent's Park Zoological Gardens and the Oxford colleges. Budding did not stop inventing; in 1840 he was listed on a machine patent for cutting 'vegetables and other substances' and in 1843 there followed a design for an adjustable spanner, for which, no doubt, generations of mechanics have been thankful. Edwin died in 1846 at the age of 50 without seeing the full flower of his inventions, however The Budding Foundation (a registered charity) opened the Budding Museum of Gardening on the 10th March 2016 at the South Downs Heritage Center in Sussex, immortalizing his name. There is an Old Lawnmower Club that venerates his invention and Stroud Brewery brews an award-winning beer, Budding Pale Ale, on the very site of the old Phoenix factory. Budding's legacy lies in the smoothly cut grass that today graces countless gardens, large and small, and the many acres of sports fields and parks that we enjoy. Cheers, Edwin!

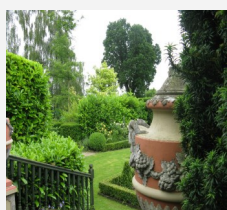
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Note: David Cuin is an artist, based in Colorado, USA who regularly visits family in the UK. He particularly enjoys painting Cotswold scenes and recently held a watercolour workshop at Rhodes Memorial Hall. He has very kindly offered this article for our newsletter which is gratefully received. Many thanks!



(Courtesy of Stroud Brewery)

"Pax Intranitibus" (peace to those who enter) greeted members and friends who went on the Garden Club's most recent trip and arrived at Sir Roy Strong's 'The Laskett Gardens'. Indeed his garden was very peaceful, importantly offering many areas where one could sit to appreciate its design, pathways and statuary, of which there was an abundance. As well as the monuments, which all reflected part of Sir Roy's life, there was the introduction of hedging and topiary offering many garden 'rooms'. Following on from The Laskett, the group went to the Three Choirs Vineyards to enjoy lunch, a tour of the winery and a wine tasting. For those not too sleepy after such splendid indulgence a walk around the vineyards was on offer.



Many thanks go to all those involved in planning this outing and the earlier one in May to Upton Wold.

John Benson (Chair), Ann Van Rossem (Treasurer), Carol Cann (Trips secretary), Di Cook (Newsletter editor)

CAN YOU HELP?

If anyone has a spare moment or two from their busy schedules(!) the churchyard of St Andrew's in Sevenhampton would greatly benefit from some TLC. Sadly mother nature is getting the upper hand and a general tidy up with weeding is needed. If you can help, just pop along at a time to suit you - any time spent would be much appreciated.



As this year is the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death, why not go to Batsford Arboretum near Moreton-in-the-Marsh on 7th July to watch 'Much Ado About Nothing'. The play is performed outside by the renowned Lord Chamberlains' men against the wonderful backdrop of the arboretum's trees. There are two performance - 1pm and 7pm - ideal for taking a picnic to enjoy whilst being entertained. For tickets phone



01386 701441 or access www.batsarb.co.uk

Still on the same Shakespearian theme there is a new book by Jackie Bennett "Shakespeare's Gardens" (pub. Francis Lincoln) that offers a detailed insight into gardens in and around Stratford which are associated with William Shakespeare. Gardens such as those at Anne Hathaway's home and Mary Arden's cottage. The book also offers a study of gardening in Elizabethan times and the plants that were nurtured then, such as medicinal herbs.

KNOW YOUR ONIONS

With our local produce show just around the corner no doubt many members will have been growing copious amounts of vegetables for its prize winning displays. Different gardeners will favour different kinds of vegetables (for culinary use as well as display) but almost everyone will have provided space in their gardens for some onions. Once harvested onions can be easily kept: loose in a well ventilated box or on a 'string' - both to be stored in a light, cool place. By far the most useful method of storing is to plait them in a string as this takes up little space and can be easily accessed for use.

How to plait an onion string

Once harvested, try to keep the onions' leaves long, only trim the roots.



Remove soil from the bulb but do not dry them completely as leaves will snap if they are bone dry.

Choose the three largest onions for the bottom of the braid. Position one onion at the top and the two others slightly below and to each side of the first bulb.



Take the leaves from the bulb whose leaves are on the bottom (1) and fold them back over the leaves of the other two bulbs (2&3) wrapping them underneath and around onion 1's own leaves. Pull the leaves tight and place them back in their original position; this makes a "knot" at the base of the braid.



Take another onion and place it on top and in the middle of the first three onions. Lining it up with the leaves of the central onion. You should now have four onions but three 'strands' of leaves. Plait

the three strands together twice (just as you would hair), making sure that it is tight.

Add two more bulbs, one to each side. Line their leaves up with the two existing outside 'strands'. Plait the strands of leaves together, twice.

Continue to add one onion, then two onions to the string until you have used all the onions. The top of the string should finish with a single onion. Plait the remaining tops together, and secure with twine.

ROSE SUCKERS



Why remove rose suckers?

Most roses consist of one plant grafted onto the rootstock of another, more vigorous plant. Usually the rootstock will not have the same desired qualities (scent, colour etc.) of the grafted plant and therefore it will be important to remove any suckers that the rootstock may grow as, if left, they will eventually overwhelm the grafted plant.

How to destroy suckers.

Gently remove the soil from around the rose to trace the sucker back to its origin. Protecting your hands, pull the sucker away firmly. Do not be tempted to cut it away as pulling removes any dormant buds and the sucker is then less likely to re-grow.

Photo Competition Celebrating Plants



The RHS have just opened their photographic competition which will run until February 28th 2017, so plenty of time to capture that special garden photo! All entries are **free** and there are 9 categories to choose from:

- *Celebrating RHS Gardens
- *Welcoming Garden Wildlife
- *Pure plants
- *Abstract and Details
- *Greening Grey Britain
- *Young Photographer (age 11-17)
- *Children's Photographer (under 11)
- *Social Media
- *Portfolio

Photographs must be entered digitally and more information can be found at

www.rhs.org.uk



A brief reminder to all you gardeners about the local produce show (and more) which this year has its 70th anniversary and will be held on **Saturday 27th August** at 1pm. There are more than 40 categories that you can choose from to exhibit the result of all your toils and, of course, without your entries there would be no show. So please, don't be shy and submit an entry (or two). Info & entry forms from Ray Oldham (820423).

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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