



The Village
GARDEN CLUB
 of Sevenhampton & District

March / April 2020



Magnolia officinalis

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 19th March

“Encouraging Wildlife into the Garden”

Natalie Mignotte

Thursday 16th April

AGM & “Beyond the Garden Gate”

Mandy Bradshaw



Feathered Friends



Well! Spring is around the corner! We have just about survived what feels like the longest, wettest winter ever. Our gardens have been drenched, drowned, deluged in the wet stuff, but nature is a miraculous thing. All around my garden the snowdrops are magnificent, the tiny irises are a vivid splash of cobalt blue, the Tête-à-tête have multiplied and flourished and the larger daffodils are reaching their buds up to the sky. There are little clusters of primroses and tiny, deep pink cyclamen tucked in sheltered spots, making a delicious splash of colour - all these plants will vanish, almost without trace, as summer approaches and other plants break through the earth and take their place. Nature's miracle.

The other side of the story is that my lawn is now almost entirely moss - lovely and green and squashy - but not 'lawn'! If I attack the moss, there isn't going to be much left, so shall I just leave it and hope no-one notices? Tempting!

The greatest joy of this wet winter has been my bird table. It costs me a fortune in seed but the birds are a continuous, moving entertainment. I tried to do the RSPB garden bird count, but the tits (of which I have 5 varieties) come and go so fast that I'm not sure whether I have 20 or 200! Add to them the finches, dunnocks, blackbirds, robins, nuthatches and wood - peckers - as well as a noisy, squabbling gang of house sparrows and the odd pigeon and dove - and my garden is pretty crowded! It was a particularly good summer for blue tits, and I seem to have dozens.

So who cares about the rain? I can just sit in my conservatory, warm and dry, and watch the birds!

Editor's note: Growing dense hedges will also attract small birds (eg sparrows) as they offer them shelter, roosts and nesting sites. Climbing plants, eg ivy, can provide food and nest sites for larger birds, such as blackbirds and thrushes. A source of water in the garden is also important for wild birds.

To supplement commercial bird food provided during the winter months, why not consider growing some plants specifically to encourage wild birds? A useful list suggested by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is on Page 3.

RSPB Birdwatch results should be available before April. Their products can be seen at www.rspbshop.co.uk .

MAGNOLIA FACTFILE: Magnolias belong to the family Magnoliaceae and are named after the French botanist Pierre Magnol (1638-1715), director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Montpellier. There are over 200 species of this ancient plant (magnolia fossils date back at least 20 million years). Native to temperate and sub-tropical climates of Asia and most of America, many magnolias are deciduous but some forms are evergreen, which are particular suitable for growing against a wall. All are grown for their showy flowers, which often appear before the leaves. Nearly all are scented, often being stronger at dusk to attract moth pollinators. They prefer moist well-



drained soil, a sunny position and shelter from strong winds, as the branches can be brittle.

Flowers and leaves are edible and are used extensively in Asian cuisine. The bark and flower buds of *M. officinalis* are used in cosmetics and traditional Chinese medicine. Due to its size, *M. acuminata* (the Cucumber tree) is used as a timber tree in USA. Due to local proliferation, the magnolia was adopted in 1900 as the state flower of Louisiana and later by Mississippi in 1952.

Heralds of Spring

The delicate wild daffodil was once a common sight throughout Gloucestershire and is our county flower. The genuine wild variety in Britain have two-tone yellow flowers, narrow trumpets and forward pointing petals and are concentrated in the Lake District, North Yorkshire, Gloucestershire & Devon. [The Daffodil Society](#) provides an abundance of information on their website,



including walks amongst wild daffodils. Their Annual Show will take place at Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Sat. & Sun. 18/19th April.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN

MARCH

- Split polyanthus and snowdrops (after flowering)
- Plant early potatoes, shallots and onion sets
- Plant out Autumn sown sweet peas
- Lift and divide clumps of perennials
- Cut back shrubs grown for winter colour, eg cornus (dogwood)
- Plant summer flowering bulbs eg gladioli
- Mow lawn, if dry enough



APRIL

- Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- Feed and mulch climbers, esp. roses as they are 'hungry' feeders
- Sow new lawns / repair bare patches
- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seeds outside
- Deadhead spring flowering plants eg camellia, bulbs, alpines

It is with great sadness to report that Club member, Lesley Harman, recently passed away. Whilst Lesley was relatively new to the area, she was a valued member of the Garden Club & together with her husband Colin, totally embraced the community she lived in. She will be sadly missed.

Having suddenly being taken ill towards the end of last year she was finally nursed at the Sue Ryder Foundation, Cheltenham where she died in early February. The family wish any donations to be sent to Sue Ryder, Leckhampton Court Hospice, Cheltenham.

RARE PLANT FAIRS 2020

There will be 13 Rare Plant Fairs this year and they will, as usual, be held at prestigious venues. The Fairs bring together smaller, specialist nurseries whose growers are passionate about the plants that they produce and who also offer expert advice on their care. Admission fees to the fairs don't exceed normal admission charges

- 22nd Mar [The Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD](#)
5th Apr [Evenley Wood Garden, Brackley, Northants, NN13 5SH](#)
19th Apr [The Old Rectory, Quenington, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 5BN](#)
17th May [Winterbourne House and Garden, Birmingham, B15 2RT](#)
24th May [Kingston Bagpuize House, Oxfordshire OX13 5AX](#)
31st May [High Glanau Manor, Lydart, Monmouth NP25 4AD](#)
14th June [Waterperry Gardens, Wheatley, Oxfordshire, OX33 1JZ](#)
21st June [Rodmarton Manor, Nr. Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL7 6PF](#)
28th June [Sculpture by the Lakes, Nr. Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 8QU](#)
26th July [Highnam Court, Nr. Gloucester, GL2 8DP](#)
6th Sept [Adwell House, Nr Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 7DQ](#)
13th Sept [The Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD](#)
20th Sept [Llanover House, Llanover, Nr Abergavenny NP7 9EF](#)

Click on the fair name for full details of the event, including a list of the nurseries attending.

Webbs own the garden centre located near Cheltenham racecourse as well as many others throughout the country. Whilst they can not give individual discounts to garden clubs, they can offer club members the chance to purchase a Webbs Clubcard at a special price of £10 instead of the normal price of £17.50. This will then enable anyone who has a Webbs Clubcard to purchase Seeds, Bulbs and Plants with a 10% discount throughout the year plus take advantage of any other special offers advertised in the Webbs magazine. Clubcard holders will receive a Webbs magazine with offers, 4 times a year starting with the 2020 Spring Magazine. A drinks voucher for 12 free hot drinks is also included with the purchase of the Clubcard.

If you wish to purchase a discounted Webbs Clubcard, you need to produce (in store) your membership card and a copy of the memo on page 3.

£ £ £ MORE EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS £ £ £

- Aquatic Habitat, Shurdington: 5% ; membership card needed.
Batsford Arboretum Garden Shop: 5% off tools & plants
Burford Garden Centre: 10% off plants & bulbs. Present membership card to Customer Services for barcode prior to purchase.
Dundry Nurseries, Nr Staverton: 10% off all goods except food items
Hoo House Nursery, Tewkesbury: 10% off plants
Wichford Pottery, Shipston: 10% on flowerpots membership card needed

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

From: Carole Rastall <Carole@webbs.co.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2020, 15:50

To: Victoria Logue

Cc: Tim Southon

Subject: RE: Possible Discount for Sevenhampton Garden Club members at Webbs Cheltenham

Thank you for your email requesting a discount for your Gardening Club members. I am sorry but we cannot offer your members a discount on plants and bulbs. We can however offer them the chance to purchase our Webbs Clubcard at a special price of £10 instead of our normal price of £17.50. This will then enable anyone who has a Webbs Clubcard to purchase Seeds, Bulbs and Plants with a 10% discount throughout the year plus take advantage of any other special offers advertised in the Webbs magazine throughout the year. They will also be sent a Webbs magazine with offers in 4 times a year starting with the 2020 Spring Magazine. Also included with the purchase of our Webbs Clubcard is a drinks voucher for 12 free hot drinks.

If your members decide to purchase the Webbs Clubcard, they would need to produce a copy of this memo in-store when purchasing the Clubcard.

Yours sincerely

Carole

Carole Rastall

For and on behalf of Edward Webb

Company Chairman

RHS information on

Plants for encouraging birds

There are many garden plants that provide food in the form of berries (B) or seeds (S). A selection are listed below:

Cultivated plants

Berberis spp. (B); *Cotoneaster* spp. (B); eating and crab apples, *Malus* spp. (B); firethorn, *Pyracantha* spp. (B); mountain ash and whitebeams, *Sorbus* spp. (B); holly – female cultivars, *Ilex* spp. (B); privet, *Ligustrum ovalifolium* (B); *Daphne mezereum* (B); honeysuckles, *Lonicera* spp. (B); some single-flowered ornamental cherries, e.g. *Prunus avium*, *P. cerasus* (B); some rose species, e.g. *Rosa rugosa*, *R. moyesii* (B); *Viburnum betulifolium* (B); Oregon grape, *Mahonia* spp. (B); *Photinia davidiana* (B); thorns, *Crataegus* spp. (B); sunflower, *Helianthus annuus* (S)

Native plants

Blackberry, *Rubus fruticosus* (B); elderberry, *Sambucus nigra* (B); hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna* (B); alder, *Alnus glutinosa* (S); birch, *Betula pendula* (S); holly – female plants of *Ilex aquifolium* (B); ivy, *Hedera helix* (B); yew, *Taxus baccata* (B); guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus* (B); wayfaring tree, *Viburnum lantana* (B); purging buckthorn, *Rhamnus catharticus* (B); alder buckthorn, *Frangula alnus* (B); wild roses, e.g. *Rosa canina*, *R. rubiginosa* (B); mountain ash, *Sorbus aucuparia* (B); whitebeam, *Sorbus aria* (B); musk thistle, *Carduus nutans* (S); field scabious, *Knautia arvensis* (S); devil's bit scabious, *Succisa pratensis* (S); greater knapweed, *Centaurea scabiosa* (S); teasel, *Dipsacus fullonum* (S).