



The Village
GARDEN CLUB
of Sevenhampton & District

SEP / OCT 2020



CARROTS
(*Daucus carota*)

NEXT MEETINGS

Although no formal decision has yet been taken by the Hall Committee, it is extremely unlikely that Brockhampton's Village Hall will be able to re-open until November at the earliest, and more probably in the New Year. Government suggests that further relaxations of restrictions due to Covid-19 should not be expected in the foreseeable future. However, the situation is being kept under review by the committee and, if and when further relaxations are announced by the Government, the position will be revisited.

An update on the situation will be given in the next Newsletter (Nov/Dec edition) but meanwhile, please note that:

THE GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE ANNOUNCE THE CANCELLATION OF THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETINGS.

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

Well, what an extraordinary year in every way! Gardeners have had no excuse for not having time to keep on top of weeding, deadheading and all the other jobs that make gardening such a joy! Because of my "advancing years", I decided this year to cut back on the amount of vegetables planted in my four large raised beds. The first one is planted with asparagus anyway so only needs weeding – it is now in its 20th year and we were expecting slowing growth – not a bit of it, we have had the best year ever! I also have a fruit cage with ageing currant bushes. One of the redcurrants died and the one remaining has given us the biggest crop ever and the autumn raspberries have just started fruiting. My freezer is full already. The middle three beds and greenhouse are vegetable orientated, tomatoes and cucumber in the greenhouse and winter veg in white butterfly-free netting in two of the raised beds.



To cut back on the work, the last bed I have sown with a wildflower seed collection and have had the most wonderful display of every wildflower you could imagine. This has been a haven for bees, butterflies and a family of wrens, which have nested in a hollybush nearby and are enjoying the supply of insects. I shall do the same next year!

CARROT FACTFILE: The carrot (*Daucus carota*) is a biennial plant belonging to the umbellifer family. The tap root, produced in its first year, is usually orange, although many colours in this spectrum exist (see photo right). Usually its root is eaten but they were first cultivated for their leaves, stems and seeds - as are parsley, coriander, fennel and dill, which are all closely related. High in sugars and vitamins, such as A, K and B6. Carrots will not enhance night vision - this is a myth generated by the RAF in WW2 to mislead enemies about their military capabilities. (Success was actually due to improved radar technology). Thought to have originated in Persia over 2000 years ago, China is now the biggest producer, providing 45% of the world's market.



Effects of Carrot root fly

Ideal soil for cultivation is deep & well-drained, with an open, sunny aspect. Highly fertilised and stony soils can result in hairy or split roots. Aromatic companion plants, e.g. onions & leeks, help to repel carrot root fly. Carrots benefit from regular weeding but be careful not to crush the foliage as this can attract carrot root flies, which lay their eggs at the base of the leaves, with the developing larvae then feeding on the roots. Carrots' tap roots are efficient at obtaining water and, once germinated, the plants seldom need additional watering.

Carrots have 4 general forms: **Chantenay** (short with blunt end; good for storing). **Danvers** (medium sized with conical shape). **Imperator** (long tapering roots high in sugar). **Nantes** (short & cylindrical, high in sugar but store less well than others). Because of their high sugar content, carrots are used for savoury and desert dishes. They store and freeze well.

NOW is the time to save seeds. It is so much cheaper and



more satisfying to do this. They might not always 'come true' (like the parent plant) but it is interesting to see what does emerge from your saved seeds when they start to grow next year. It is easy

to take seeds from lupins, delphiniums, foxgloves, hollyhocks, sweet peas and many others. Friends' & family's gardens can also provide a good source of seeds. Collect the seed heads and, when completely dry, shake their seeds into paper bags (not plastic) & label them.

They'll then be ready to start off in pots next spring.

Runner bean and broad bean seeds are easy to save too.

Keep some pods when you come to the end of your crop, take the beans from the pods and spread them onto trays to dry.

Once seeds are completely dry, store them in a cool, dry, dark place. The [May/June 2020](#) newsletter gives some useful tips on germination.



Members of **The Secret Garden** are regularly offered the sale (up to 70% off) of overstocked plants. Ctrl+Click on the link below to find out more details.

<https://www.secretgardeningclub.co.uk>

It would be a shame not to record all your gardening efforts during 'lockdown' and beyond. Taking a photograph of your garden will help to remind you what and where things are planted. (Some may have already done this for the virtual *Show at Brockhampton*). Not only is it a pleasure to look at your summer garden in the depths of Winter but it helps with planning. Plants in the wrong position can be moved, usually in Autumn, or new plants added at appropriate places.



RARE PLANT FAIRS

Although many events have had to be cancelled this year, the **Rare Plant Fairs** are able to open this September. Main restrictions are that **visitors must pre-book**. Venue details and booking information are accessible via the links:

Adwell House, Nr. Thame, Oxon

Sunday 6th Sept. 11am - 4pm [More info HERE](#)

The Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset

Sunday 13th Sept. 10 am - 4.30pm [More info HERE](#)

Llanover House, Nr Abergavenny, Monmouthshire

Sunday 20th Sept. 11am - 4pm [More info HERE](#)

JOBS FOR THE GARDEN

September

Collect seeds for propagation

Net ponds before leaf fall

Collect fallen leaves (and make leafmould)

Plant spring bulbs

October

Divide rhubarb crowns

Divide herbaceous perennials

Plant spring cabbages

Prune climbing roses

Last cut for hedges

Ctrl+Click [here](#) for RHS advice on **all forms of propagation**.

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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or

Tel: 01242 821018

The Show at Brockhampton

Due to sterling efforts by **The Show** organisers, this year's entries and exhibits have been 'virtual'. Here are just a few (garden related) results. To view all photos click on the following link.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/188882220@N02/albums/with/72157714691751221>

Class 1—Best Vegetable Plot

- 1st Place : Pippa Shouler
- 2nd Place: Henry Coelho
- 3rd Place: Jules Wood

Class 2—Best Flower Border

- 1st Place: Catherine Blisset
- 2nd Place: Jules Wood
- 3rd Place: Victoria Logue

Class 3—Best Overall Garden

- 1st Place: Henry Coelho
- 2nd Place: Catherine Blisset
- 3rd place: Jules Wood

Class 5— A Flower Arrangement

- 1st Place: Georgina Oldham
- 2nd Place: Charles Arkell
- 3rd Place: Pippa Shouler

Class 14— Longest Runner Bean

- 1st Place: Annie van Rossem
- 2nd Place: Pippa Shouler
- 3rd Place: Alison Hinton

Class 15—Ugliest potato

- 1st Place: Victoria Logue
- 2nd Place: Julie Ogley
- 3rd Place: Robert Jackson

Class 18—Junior scarecrow

- 1st place: Lily Royds
- 2nd place: Edward Newby
- Alice Newby



1st

Class 6—Scarecrow (open)

- 1st Place: Charles-Ferguson Wood
- 2nd Place: Charles Arkell
- 3rd Place: Georgina Oldham



2nd



3rd



1st



2nd



2nd