



The Village
GARDEN CLUB
of Sevenhampton & District

JAN / FEB 2021



FOXGLOVE
Digitalis purpurea

NEXT MEETINGS:

Thursday 21st January 7.30pm - A 'virtual' **SOCIAL QUIZ**

Virtually meet up with other Garden Club members, whilst also testing your gardening knowledge in this fun (& not too difficult—phew!) QUIZ.

Hosted by Tex via 'Zoom' — an evening to remember, for many reasons.

P.S. Bring your own wine!

Thursday 25th February 7.30pm - Elaine Shears on 'Organic Gardens'

(Zoom meeting)

Note: Reminders & the appropriate Zoom links will be emailed to all members shortly before the meetings.

In view of the continuing 'Coronavirus' restrictions, which are likely to continue to affect our Club's activities for some time, the Committee has been able to draw up a programme of meetings for this year, most of which can be held on Zoom if necessary. Our usual two outings, one evening and one whole day visit, have also been provisionally arranged. Details of these can be found on the accompanying membership form. Whilst there may be a few minor alterations to the programme, depending on circumstance, the meeting dates are now able to be published and are also outlined on the form.

Club subscriptions were not collected last year but we will need to do so now for the 2021/22 season. The level of subscriptions will remain at £20 but, although subscriptions are not strictly due until the April meeting, we would ask members to pay as soon as possible.

We are always looking to recruit new members and a number of new residents have moved into the village over the past twelve months. Please try to encourage their interest in the Club and its activities and feel free to pass on to them a copy of this newsletter. As an inducement to new members who sign up before the April meeting, the usual charge of £5/meeting for non-members will be waived for the January, February & March meetings.



FOXGLOVE FACTFILE: Belonging to the genus *Digitalis*, there are over 20 different species of foxglove. The familiar 'common foxglove' (*D. purpurea*) is biennial but there are also shrubs and herbaceous perennials in this family. Typically the spotted, tubular flowers are pink, purple or white, born on tall spikes. They are nectar rich and their open flowers attract bees and many other insects. They are generally evergreen with their rosette of leaves able to last throughout the winter.

Known to be used medicinally since 1780, foxgloves contain the chemical digitalin, used for the treatment of certain heart conditions. Excessive doses of this chemical will cause severe reactions and this harmful effect has earned foxgloves some fairly sinister common names, such as "Deadman's bells" and "Witch's gloves". All parts of the plant are toxic if eaten; contact with the foliage can irritate the skin and eyes. The name "Foxglove" may be related to a northern legend that fairies gave the plants' blossoms to the fox to put on his toes so as to muffle his steps while he hunted for prey. When sowing seeds, don't cover them as they need light to germinate. Ensure the soil is kept moist. If collecting your own seed, sow immediately *and* thinly as they are prone to fungal diseases. Once large enough, plants can be planted out at any time, but avoid frosty and waterlogged soils. They enjoy soil with plenty of organic matter mixed into it.

Being biennial, common foxgloves (*D. purpurea*) will flower in their second year. After flowering, cut back the faded flower spike to near ground level; this will encourage a second flush of flowers.

Garden Visits for 2021

Whilst the full list of Garden Club activities are still being finalised, the club's garden visits have been provisionally booked. These will be:

Wed. 26th May – an evening visit to [The Coach House](#), Ampney Crucis. The cost will be £8.00 and will, if permitted, be followed by a pub supper. Own or shared transport.

Tues. 22nd June – a morning visit to [Wortley House](#), Wotton-under-Edge to be followed by an afternoon visit to [Hodges Barn Gardens](#), Shipton Moyne. A pub lunch will be booked (restrictions permitting). Whether we hire a coach or use own transport will depend upon the numbers going and the level of subsidy available from Club funds.



**Click on the links for more details of the venues.
Further info is also on the membership form.**

JOBS IN THE GARDEN

January

- Sow seeds for the veg garden (eg broad beans, chillies)
- Prune apple trees, pear trees and roses
- Feed wild birds & also provide water
- Insulate outdoor taps (if not done already!)
- Clean pots and tidy greenhouse
- Remove algae from slippery paths
- Take hardwood cuttings (before bud burst)

February

- Prepare seed beds for vegetables
- Chit potatoes
- Prune wisteria
- Prune winter flowering shrubs when finished flowering
- Divide snowdrops, when finished flowering

WINTER PERFUME — It is said that a garden without scent is only half a garden. However, fragrances need not be restricted to summer months only and here are some excellent scented plants for the winter garden:



[Winterflowering honeysuckles](#) (eg *Lonicera fragrantissima*)

[Scented skimmia](#) (eg *Skimmia x confusa* 'Kew Green')

[Long-flowering vibernum](#) (*V. bodnantense*)

[Daphne](#) (eg *D. odora* 'Aureomarginata')

[Sweet Box](#) (*Sarcococca confusa*)

[Mahonia](#) (eg *M. bealei*)

[Wintersweet](#), *Chimonanthus praecox*

[Witch Hazel](#) (*Hamamelis mollis*)

[Winter Jasmine](#) (*Jasminum nudiflorum*)

(TOP TIP: Grow scented plants in a sheltered position and close to the house so that the scent can be contained and appreciated more.)

- IF**
- you have a shredder, recycle your real Christmas tree for garden mulch.
 - you subscribe to green waste collection, cut your tree up before binning it.

Otherwise here are some Garden Centres who will receive them for recycling.

[Dobbies Garden Centre](#), Cirencester, GL7 6EU

[Batsford Garden Centre](#), Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9AT

[Webbs Garden Centre](#), Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve, GL50 4SJ

[Dundry Nurseries](#), Bamfurlong Lane, Staverton, GL51 6SL

[Gotherington Nurseries](#), Gretton Road, Gotherington GL52 9QY

Please check garden centre websites for their opening times. (Note: Covid guidelines still permit them to open.)



Dundry Nurseries' famous potato weekend has had to be cancelled this January due to Covid-19 but their extensive varieties of [seed potatoes](#) are still available.



And on the brighter side of life.....



1. What is Dominic Cummings' favourite Christmas song?
Driving Home for Christmas.
2. Why was production down at Santa's workshop?
Many of his workers have had to Elf isolate!
3. Why didn't Mary & Joseph make it to Bethlehem?
All Virgin flights were cancelled.
4. Why are Santa's reindeer allowed to travel on Christmas Eve?
They have herd immunity.
5. Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown?
Because the "Arrrr!" rate had risen.
6. Why is it best to think of 2020 like a panto?
Because (eventually), it's behind you.
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call?
Because there was no Zoom at the inn.
8. Why can't Boris Johnson make his Christmas cake until the last minute?
He doesn't know how many tiers it should have.
9. What do the Trumps do for Christmas dinner?
They put on a super spread.
10. Which Christmas film was 30 years ahead of its time?
Home Alone.

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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