



The Village
GARDEN CLUB
of Sevenhampton & District

Jul / Aug 2021



Aquilegia

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 22nd July at 7.30 pm

“Bee Keeping & the Garden”

Victoria Logue, Nicole Arkell

It is hoped that the meeting will take place in Brockhampton's Rhodes Memorial Hall.

Note: If alterations are necessary due to Covid restrictions, Members will be advised.

No Garden Club meeting in August but don't forget **The Show at Brockhampton on Saturday 21st August**

ALL THINGS NEW

Having recently moved house I have, for the first time, been challenged with a north facing garden wall. The previous owner had wisely resorted to planting ferns, ivy and hostas at its base, all of which are highly suitable for shady conditions. However, they are somewhat dull to my mind and I am seeking to introduce some colour into an otherwise monochrome bed.



Epimedium warleyense
'Orange Queen'

The other thing I want to consider is the shape of the planting, as plants growing there at the moment are all of a similar height - making a greenish strip 2-3 feet high and 15 feet long. So, with all this in mind, I have done some research and identified the following plants which could solve my aesthetic problems in this darkened area.

Climbers: Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*); Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*); Clematis (especially *C.viticella* & *C.alpina*); Chinese virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus henryana*) [turns red with the frost]

Low growing perennials: Lily of the valley [white] (*Convallaria*); *Omphalodes nitida* [blue]; Lamb's tails [yellow] (*Chiastophyllum oppositifolium*); Rue anemone [pink] (*Anemonella thalictroides*); Epimediums [various colours]; Ivy leaved cyclamen [pink].

Taller perennials: Foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea*) / *Astrantia* / *Hellebore* / Japanese anemones [all pinks & whites]; Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) [various]; *Euphorbia amygdaloides*;

Annuals: Welsh poppy [yellow] (*Meconopsis cambrica*), Himalayan poppy [blue] (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*) & Harebell [lilac] (*Meconopsis quintuplinervia*), like shaded areas and moist soils. They readily self seed so would supply a good splash of colour!

The soil at the base of this wall has already been provided with some organic matter and seems to retain the moisture quite well, without it becoming waterlogged. However, this will need additional compost forked in at the end of the year and probably some potash (bonfire or log burner ash is ideal).

With the soil improved and additional plants introduced, I am looking forward to next year's display!

Why not take a Covid-safe trip outside by visiting a garden? Here are a few local **NGS gardens** opening soon.....

4th July (2-5pm) : Cotswold Chase Gardens: A number of recently developed gardens at Spinners Rd, Brockworth GL3 4LR (£5)

6th July (10.30-3pm) : Sudeley Castle & Gardens: Ten gardens within the grounds at Winchcombe, GL54 3LE (£10)

11th July (10-4pm) : Westonbirt School Gardens: 28 acres of the arboretum's founder's private garden, GL8 8QG (£5)

15th August (10-5pm) : Bourton House: 3 acres of garden & 7 acres of pasture at Bourton-on-the-Hill, GL56 9AE (£8)

22nd August (2-5pm) : The Manor: Arts and Crafts garden with meadow & arboreta near Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0RZ (£8)

30th August (10-6pm) : East Court: Over 200 yr old house with large, distinct gardens in Charlton Kings, GL53 8QN (£7)



AQUILEGIA FACTFILE: Commonly called Columbines or Granny's bonnets, Aquilegia are perennial herbs with roots forming thick rhizomes. They typically grow 15-20 inches tall and are found throughout the Northern hemisphere. Aquilegia are easy to grow and readily self seed - very useful attributes for informal or wild gardens. They are best suited in sunny or partially shaded positions, but don't cope well with dry soils. Their 'petal spur' length varies greatly, ranging from ½ - 6 inches, as found in [A. longissima](#). It is the spur which secretes the plant's nectar. The 'Colorado Blue columbine' ([A. coerulea](#)) is the official state flower of Colorado.

The plants are welcome as a food source by many insects such as moths, butterflies, bees, and especially bumblebees. The colour of the aquilegia does not seem to affect the attraction from these insects.



RHS Garden Bridgewater

According to Dr Sarah Jarvis MBE, spending time in green spaces has been shown to lower stress, blood pressure and heart rate whilst improving mood and mental health. So, we have the perfect excuse for spending time in the garden without feeling guilty! Reinforcing this is the provision of a well being garden at the new, recently opened, 156 acre RHS Garden at Bridgewater, near Salford.

The BBC recently ran a programme about the making of this RHS garden, built upon the site of Worsley New Hall, which was demolished in the 1940's. If you missed it you can still access it on the [BBC iplayer](#).

A gardener friend talked to me about herbs that I could grow..... it was sage advice! Or I love gardening from my head tomatoes!



THE CUTTING EDGE -

PLANTS TO PRUNE IN SUMMER.

- **Shrubs that flower on stems formed in the previous year.**
such as: Deutzia, Chaenomeles (flowering quince), Forsythia, Lilac and Philadelphus
Remove any stems killed by frost to encourage strong new growth. Prune after flowering has finished.
- **Tender shrubs, which can be damaged by late frosts,** such as: Abutilon, Fuchsias, Hibiscus sinosyriacus, Romneya
Prune after flowering to encourage new growth for flowering next year. Remove old, woody stems right down to the base.
- **Fruit trees**
Removing soft, new growth will promote fruit formation on: Apples, Cherries, Pears, Plums
Prune out new excess growth to create space allowing more light and air to reach the fruit. This will help with ripening.
- **Hedges and topiary**
Clip current season's growth to maintain shape on plants such as: Beech, Hornbeam, Box, Privet and Laurel
Clip slow-growing hedges at the start and end of the summer; trim fast-growing privet every six weeks
- **Climbers**
Prune climbers to keep growth under control e.g. Wisteria (also needs a winter prune), Jasmine, Honeysuckle, Campsis
Prune back trailing stems, leaving just 3-4 leaves on the current season's growth.

GARDEN CLUB TRIPS

In June two very different gardens were visited interspersed with lunch at a local pub. First off was **Wortley House** where members were shown around the garden by the owner, Jessica Dickinson, who developed the 20+acre garden with inspiration from family members and info learnt from Rosemary Verey. Her garden is divided by tall hedges (eg yew, beech), avenues of trees (eg pleached limes) and stone walls. Statues are abundant and there is even a folly beyond the lake. Flowers (many scented) were plentiful and a list of them was helpfully provided. Delicious home made refreshments rounded off the morning's visit.



The afternoon's visit was to the garden at **Hodges Barn**, developed by the Hornby family since WWII. Their home (barn + converted dovecotes) dates back to the 14C and has 6 acres of gardens surrounding it, although there are plans to extend & include an arboretum. Our family guide, Amanda Hornby, explained that various projects to improve the garden have taken place during 'lockdown', one included edging a lawn with narrow paving - allowing the flowers in adjacent beds to spill out without damaging the grass; another was to extend a patio overlooking the 'white garden'. Flowers are again abundant and, whilst there are separate areas, the grounds are more open.



If you missed our guided trips, you can still visit them with the
[***National Garden Scheme***](#)

SWEET PEAS always benefit from their flowers being cut regularly. To do so encourages further growth, increases the number of blooms and prolongs their season. If you have a passion for sweet peas, the names and history of varieties has been listed by Roger Parsons, a sweet pea grower who provides specialist seeds. Further Information can be found on his comprehensive website at www.rpsweetpeas.com/epithets



Have you anything of interest which could be included in the next newsletter? If so, please contact
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