



The Village

# GARDEN CLUB

of Sevenhampton & District

MAR / APR 2022



MAGNOLIA

## NEXT MEETINGS

**Thursday 10th March:** *"The Birds & the Bees"* - attracting garden wildlife  
Natalie Mignotte

**Wednesday 6th April:** **AGM** & *"Seasonal Planting"*  
Josh Egan-Wyer

## Sculpture in the Garden



Over the years we have visited many beautiful gardens with the club - their plantings and designs always being inspirational. Each garden is unique in its way but one thing often in common is an element of sculpture in the garden. Acting as a focal point at the end of an alley of yews, perched over running water or in a pond, their placements always add a different dimension to the scene. Sculpture in a garden amplifies the uniqueness of each garden, acts as a talking point, a signpost, or, dare I say, a 'feature'.

Whether the material of the sculpture is natural stone, wood or slate, steel or glass, it becomes a permanent part of our ever changing garden. Sculptures don't lose their leaves in Winter or gets eaten by slugs. They catch the frost on a Winter's day and statuary, such as glass alliums, glint in the sun at any time of year!

Of course, if you've ever been to Chelsea or Malvern, you know how much you could pay for sculpture in the garden and how easily the idea can be dismissed and far fetched for our own gardens, but it can be surprisingly inexpensive if you look around. A sculpture show such as [Fresh Air](#) at Quenington would be a good place to start looking. This bi-ennial event will be taking place from 5<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June this year and you will find sculpture in all forms from as little as £200. Or the [Cotswold Sculpture Park](#) in Somerford Keynes has a good selection of work under



£1,000. There is an excellent sculpture show in Winchcombe, usually at the end of May. An additional joy of visiting sculpture shows is that they are often in the grounds of fabulous houses with beautiful gardens.

Alternatively, why not commission your local blacksmith, perhaps using recycled materials that you would otherwise take to the dump? If you are feeling very creative, take a course in willow weaving or stone carving and make your own. Choose something to complement your planting and make your garden original and unique.

## THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN MARCH

Prune Roses - RHS Advice available [here](#)  
Plant shallots, onions & early potatoes  
Lift and divide large clumps of perennials  
Prick out & sow on seedlings / consider plug plants  
Start feeding fish & using pond fountains

## AND APRIL

Sow new lawns & repair patches / edges  
Feed hungry shrubs, roses & potted plants  
Check & repair garden structures  
Remove algae from paths  
Prune tender perennials, eg penstemmons, lavender

**MAGNOLIA FACTFILE:** *Magnolia* is an ancient genus with over 200 flowering species. It is named after the French botanist Pierre Magnol (1638-1715). The plant is thought to have appeared before bees evolved, with the flowers relying on pollination by beetles. Fossilized specimens of *M.acuminata* have been found, dating to 20 million years ago. Another aspect of Magnolias, considered to represent their great ancestry, is that the flower bud is enclosed in a bract rather than in sepals.



Magnolias can be deciduous or evergreen, shrubs or trees - but nearly all are scented. Magnolias are slow growing and may take 20yrs to reach their full height. They prefer neutral/acidic soils but smaller varieties (eg *M.stellata*) can be successfully grown in pots if soil unsuitable. Best planted in Autumn or late Spring with plenty of added organic matter (they have relatively shallow roots and don't tolerate dry soils); all prefer a sunny location and shelter from strong winds. Seeds can be used for propagation but layering is the preferred method commercially.



The flowers of many species are considered edible. In some Asian cuisines, the buds are used to flavour rice and to scent tea. In Japan, young leaves and flower buds of *M.hypoleuca* are eaten as a boiled vegetable. Older leaves are made into a powder and used as seasoning. Also in Japan, the leaves of *M.obovata* are used for wrapping food and cooked dishes, similar to our use of vine leaves.

In addition to culinary uses, magnolias are used extensively to create perfumes and essential oils. The large tree, *M.acuminata* (also called the cucumber tree), is harvested for timber in the United States.



**AMARYLLIS BULBS**, with their showy flowers, are often given as spectacular gifts for Christmas. But that needn't be the last of them. With care they can rebloom for many years to come. Here's how:

1. Cut faded flower stems to ½" above the bulb.
2. Place the plant on a sunny windowsill, keeping the soil moist. This will enable the bulb to make sugars and restore its spent energy.

3. When frosts are gone, plant the bulb outside, keeping the top of the bulb above the soil. No need to remove it from its pot if it has drain holes; just bury all into the soil.

4. In Autumn, before first frosts, bring plant inside, cut leaves to 2" above bulb. Place plant in dry, dark place. **Don't water.** Allow the plant to experience this dormant period for 10-12 weeks.

5. After this time, repot and water **only once**, then re-introduce them to warmth and light. **DON'T** start watering regularly until the leaves start to regrow and, with any luck, your amaryllis will be flowering again for Christmas.

### THE GREEN PLANET

If you haven't already been able to watch it, or perhaps want to catch up on a missed episode, BBC's programme *The Green Planet*, presented by David Attenborough, is still available to view on 'Catch up'. The wonderful world of plants can be seen on iPlayer or on the [BBC's website](#) where, in addition, there are superb photos, additional information & even quizzes!

During 'Lockdown' the club resorted to 'Zoom' meetings, which included a talk from author and County organiser for the National Garden Scheme (NGS), Vanessa Berridge. Acknowledging that gardens play an important role in health & well being, Vanessa explained that the NGS first started over 90 yrs ago to support district nurses and their work. They have since donated millions of pounds to nursing & health charities. Locally, 30 gardens are open in March & April. Check out the [NGS website](#) for full schedules.

### GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP (2022/23)

The club's full programme of meetings and garden visits is now underway, no thanks to Covid! The schedule is listed on the membership form, which accompanies this newsletter. **PLEASE NOTE** that the Annual subscription for membership is **DUE IN APRIL** and can be paid at the AGM on 6th April (see 'Next Meetings' page 1). It has been possible to maintain the subs at £20 - and with nine speakers and three gardens to visit, it represents excellent value for money. Hope you can join in the fun.



**RARE PLANT FAIRS** offer a full programme of 14 gardens to visit in 2022. Each fair offers an opportunity to buy interesting and unusual plants from specialist nurseries. They are held in beautiful gardens, some of which aren't often open to the public. Two local ones coming up :  
20/3/22 - Bishop's Palace, Wells, BA5 2PD £8 Per person  
10/4/22 - The Old Rectory, Quenington, Near Cirencester GL7 5BN. £6 per person

There are still past issues of RHS magazine *The Garden* available in 12 monthly bundles - a whole year's worth of gardening tips & know-how! If anyone would like some at NO COST, please contact the editor (details below).

Tickets are now on sale for the [RHS Malvern Spring Festival](#), 5th—8th May. Go online to buy tickets, join their newsletter and get up to date info.

Have you anything of interest that can be included in the next newsletter? If so please contact Di Cook (editor) at [ditex.cook@gmail.com](mailto:ditex.cook@gmail.com) or Tel: 01242 603480

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

Firstly, just a reminder that there are always hyper links in the Newsletter's texts. These will be in blue font and [underlined](#). They will give you access to much more information than space usually permits.

There are a number of garden programmes available on the TV at the moment. They are, (in no particular order).....

### **TERRESTRIAL**

**Secrets of the Royal Gardens** More 4 Wednesdays 9pm - 4 episodes (new series)  
*Narrated by Hugh Bonneville who reveals secrets about some spectacular Royal Gardens.*

**Garden Rescue** BBC 1 Tuesday 8.30 pm or each night 8pm on Together TV (Freesat channel 164)  
*Charlie Dimmock & the Rich brothers compete to design garden make-overs, based on the owners' space & budget.*

**Your Garden Made Perfect** BBC 2 Fridays 8pm  
*Angela Scanlan & designers show the potential of gardens and how they could be improved. Families pick their favourite idea to turn their garden into their ideal retreat.*

**Filthy Garden SOS** Ch5 Sundays 8pm  
*Diarmuid Gavin, Danny Clarke & Penny Lamb help spruce up some gardens and outdoor spaces, needing some TLC.*

**Love Your Garden** ITV Tuesday 8pm  
*Alan Titchmarsh and his team turn unloved patches into dream backyard escapes.*

### **STREAMING**

**Gardener's World** on BBC iPlayer  
*Packed with expert advice about all things horticultural.*

**The Wild Gardener** on BBC iPlayer  
*Colin Stafford-Johnson transforms the garden of his childhood home into a haven for British wildlife.*

**Great British Gardens with Carol Klein** on My5  
*Carol Klein travels around some of the UK's most spectacular gardens, exploring their unique heritage and design.*

**Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival** on BBC iPlayer  
*Joe Swift and Rachel De Thame explore what this year's Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival has to offer. From horticultural experts to showstopping floral displays and trendsetting garden designs.*

**The Great Northern Garden Build** on BBC iPlayer  
*This 2-episode series follows the story of the RHS's fifth showcase garden, RHS Bridgewater in Manchester, and how it's been created by a team of designers, engineers and gardeners.*

**Around the World in 80 Gardens** on BBC iPlayer  
*Monty Don travels around the globe to visit some of the world's most beautiful and remarkable gardens.*

**The Big Flower Fight** Netflix  
*Like the 'Great British Bake off' but with flowers.*

### **AND OF COURSE THERE IS ....**

**Gardeners Question Time** Radio 4 Sundays 2pm as well as many podcasts available on [BBC Radio Sounds](#)