



The Village
GARDEN CLUB
of Sevenhampton & District

July / Aug 2022



GLADIOLUS

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 14th July - "Adapting to Climate Change for Gardeners" - *Sally Oates*

August - No Meeting, but don't forget

Sat. 20th August - [The Show at Brockhampton](#) (2pm - 4.30 pm)

Note: Garden Club Meetings start at 7.30 pm at Rhodes Memorial Hall, Brockhampton



Home Grown



I have the feeling that next year we may have to be a bit more self sufficient. There are many supply problems including the prospect of food shortages and, as I am lucky enough to have a good sized garden, it seems sense to put it to good uses. I am still formulating my ideas although I don't think we need to turn the whole thing over to veggies - but I am sure we can grow more. These are my thoughts so far.

We already have raspberries and blackcurrants, surplus of which goes into the freezer for use during the next year. We grow runner beans and courgettes but we are likely to need a bit more. I am determined to grow decorative vegetables among the borders next year - salad crops seem obvious as there are lots of red lettuce that will look attractive among the perennials - even spring onions and radishes can be grown there. Rhubarb can make a lovely full stop at the back corner of a border with its large leaves and red stems. I have already sown flat leaf parsley between the dahlia rows and with a bit of luck that will last well into the winter. Perpetual spinach can form the back of a border and is easy to grow. Cavolo nero makes a statuesque addition to a border too, surrounded with autumn oranges and bronzes. The greenhouse is full of tomatoes and chilli plants and this year I am going to make good use of the freezer making tomato soup as well as sauces for pasta.

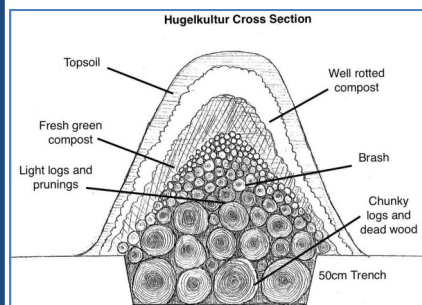
Ideas are still being sought but I'm pleased with the start of my plans. I'm amazed at how pretty some salad and veggie crops are. Combining them with flower colours will be interesting! One thing I have discovered is that growing wild garlic among the hostas has kept them slug free - and also provides delicious leaves for spring salads. Once the wild garlic is 'over' and surplus leaves removed, the hostas come through unblemished. Result!

*(Such complimentary growing of hostas with wild garlic is known as **Companion Planting** - more info on page 4)*

GLADIOLUS FACTFILE: *Gladiolus* (plural gladioli & from the Latin *gladius*, meaning sword). Although its common name is 'sword lily,' it is a perennial flowering plant of the *Iris* family (Iridaceae). It is native to Asia, Mediterranean Europe & Africa and, as such, benefits from being planted in an open, sunny position clear from shade. Gladioli grow from corms and they should be planted in Spring, in soil with added compost, in clusters at a depth of 4-6 ins. This will offer good drainage together with some moisture retention. They rarely survive frost and lifting them (as well as the newly formed 'cormlets') in Autumn for storage over winter is recommended. Gladioli offer a wide range of colours and have over 300 varieties. The main hybrid groups are *Grandiflorus*, *Primulines* and *Nanus*.

With their dramatic, long, trumpet shaped flowers, they would originally be pollinated by exotic animals (eg hummingbirds, long tongued bees) but in UK, hummingbird moths are known to frequent the flowers. As well as the pollinated flowers producing seeds, the plants also develop 'cormlets' around the parent corm, which, if separated, can grow into individual plants.

Trivia facts: Gladiolus is the birth flower of August; Gladioli are flowers associated with a 40th wedding anniversary; Scott Joplin, composed music called "Gladiolus Rag"; and don't forget the Australian comedian, Dame Edna Everage's signature flowers were gladioli, referred to as "gladdies"!



Hügelkultur

Ever heard of Hügelkultur before? Apparently it's been practised in Eastern Europe for centuries and means 'hill culture' in German.

Long raised mounds are formed, at the centre of which is a pile of twigs, branches & soil. This in turn

is covered with plant waste, then compost and finally soil. The mounds can be any length, width or height - although typically 3-5 ft high. They don't even need a trench but can start above the ground.

Hügelkultur attempts to replicate the decomposition which occurs naturally on forest floors. As the wood decays it is able to store more water and acts as a reservoir for plants. Spaces between the materials hold air which helps to aerate the system and the decaying organic material encourages beneficial micro-organisms, fungi, worms etc.

Hügelkultur beds are ideal for areas where the underlying soil is compacted or of poor quality and can be planted immediately after construction. They offer a raised, fertile area, which is easy to tend and a productive way to grow plants, especially vegetables, as the heat generated by the decomposing materials helps with early planting & prolongs the productive season.



Flowers also flourish with this system!

DID YOU KNOW

THAT.....



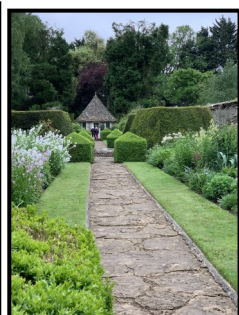
As well as material items used for the celebration of wedding anniversaries (eg silk, crystal, gold), there are also flowers associated with them.

These are:

Year	Flower
1st	Carnation
2nd	Cosmos
3rd	Sunflower
4th	Geranium
5th	Daisy
10th	Daffodil
15th	Rose
20th	Aster
25th	Iris
30th	Lily
40th	Gladiolus
50th	Yellow rose with violets

What a good excuse to acquire even more plants for the garden!

The club's outing in June was to
RODMARTON MANOR.



The manor was built by the present owner's great grandfather, John Biddulph, at the height of the 'Arts and Crafts' movement and has remained in the same family since. The main gardens lie beyond the rounded front of the manor, approached along a drive passing its stables and dog kennels. A splendid vista is seen from the back of the manor with formal gardens, tennis court, pool, woodland and extensive kitchen gardens to the sides. In 1950's snowdrops (gallanthus) were planted and hard pathways introduced. Over time the grounds became more "romantic" until the present owner arrived 5 yrs ago when he started embarking on the task of re-invigorating the garden, which is returning to its former glory. A very worthwhile trip, topped with a good meal at The Frogmill at Shipton. Thank you to all organisers.



WHAT'S ON

3rd June-30th August	'Art of the Garden' Exhibition, Tate Britain, London, SW1P 4RG (www.tate.org.uk) (Free entry)
Sun 3 rd July, 1-6 pm	Guiting Power Open Gardens & Teas, parking at Village Hall, GL54 5TX (Cost: £6)
Sun 3 rd July 11-5pm	Kirkham Farm (NGS - new listing), Upper Slaughter, GL54 2JS (Entry: £5)
Sun 10 th July 11-4.30pm	Westonbirt School Gardens (NGS), Near Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8QG (Entry £5)
Sat 16 th July 10.30-12.30am	Winchcombe Garden Club Flower Show, Winchcombe Methodist Hall (Entry: £1)
Sun 17 th July 10-4.30pm	Bristol University Botanic Gardens, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1JG (Entry: £7)
Sun 24 th July 11-4pm	Rare Plant Fair, Highnam Court (Entry: £6)
Sat. 20 th August 2-4.30pm	The Show at Brockhampton

The above is just a small selection of gardening events taking place. For more NGS 'Open Gardens' visit their website at www.ngs.org.uk.

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 or Tel: 01242 603480

SEASONAL PLANTING — JOSH EGAN-WYER

(notes kindly taken by Yvette Ruggins at our April meeting)

Josh is a horticulturist working in ornamental plant production. He also manages the nursery and garden centre at Pershore College, renowned for its horticulture. He shared his suggestions for worthwhile plants and suggested good varieties.

Daffodils

'Thalia' (*Narcissus triandrus Thalia*) is a fragrant, multi-flowered daffodil with up to 5 white flowers per plant. Good for cutting. Grow in shade. Plant next to Bluebells & Euphorbia.

'Cheerfulness': cream, ruffled, scented. Doubles coming out now.

Alliums

Should flower in May.

'Spider' (hybrid) with spiky, 'firework' flower heads with star-shaped, dark purple florets and bright green centres. Can plant in the middle of a border as you can see through them. Grow to about 2'.

'Purple Sensation': gives block of colour.

'Gladiator': put at back of a border as can grow to 4'. However, could come forward as can see under the blooms.

Grow in clumps of 3 rather than separately.

Fritillaria

'Crown Imperial' (*Fritillaria Imperialis*). In the lily family, native to Turkey, Iran, Iraq etc. Yellow & orange flowers, April flowering. Perennial.

'Rubra Maxima' is a statement flower. Tall (2'), grows in most soils, slugs sometimes a problem.

'Persica' has purple flowers, flowering in April.

Wallflowers (Erysimum)

Spring & Summer-flowering (March – July/August) bedding plants for colour in beds, borders & containers. Some are scented. Can be annuals, biennials or perennials. Will get woody after a couple of years. Prefers full sun.

(Note: Definition of 'full sun' means 6 hours or more of sun/day).

'Spring Breeze Sunset' is copper coloured perennial. Plant at front of a border.

Cranesbill Geranium

'Samobor' is an upright perennial, up to 60cm tall with lobed leaves with deep brownish-purple zone and maroon flowers in late spring & early summer.

'Lily Lovell' is also an upright perennial with bright green foliage and flat, white-eyed, dusky purple flowers 3-4cm wide in late spring & early summer. Will grow in shade such as shadow of a building but not in the shade of say a conifer.

Borage (Starflower)/Comfrey/Symphytum

'Hidcote Blue' – likes to have space e.g. on a bank or under a tree. Good for bees, multi-coloured flowers, will self-seed

Saxifraga (means 'stone-breaker')

'White Pixie' – spreads as a carpet or cram into a container

Peonies

Flower end May, water and feed throughout the summer (also: camellia, hellebore)

'Pink Hawaiian Coral' – don't plant too deep, roots need to be just below the surface

Intersectional Peony, also known as Itoh peonies, cross between herbaceous & tree peonies:

'Everlasting Treasure' – good in borders or as cut flowers, grows to 75cm and 'Julia Rose' which has more open flowers

Japanese Quince 'Kinshiden' (Chaenomeles)

Lime green flowers at same time as leaves. Plant against a wall

'Cameo': deciduous shrub to 1.5m with double peach-pink, cup shaped flowers in spring followed by fragrant, yellow-green fruit resembling small apples.

Chinese Witch Hazel (Loropetalum chinensis)

Deciduous shrub with purple foliage

'Firedance' with vibrant pink flowers

'Ruby Snow' with deep purple/red flowers

'Snow Queen' with creamy white flowers

'Laura Petaluma Fire dance' grows to 4-5' in the ground

Coleanthus (California Lilacs)

'Pershore Zanzibar' – bit tired now

Essentially derived varieties such as 'Eldorado' is darker & variegated, grows 4-5'

Podocarpus (Conifer)

Bluey colour, bit like yew

Can use in beds

Exochorda (pearl bush)

8'-12' tall tree with flowers like pearls

Can put other plants around

'The Bride'



COMPANION PLANTING

Companion Planting can naturally offer pest control, add nutrients to the soil, provide protection from wind & sun and attract helpful insects. Tall plants (eg maize) will provide shade for crops prone to bolting, such as lettuce, spinach and beetroot. Strongly scented herbs grown with vegetables often deter pests. Here are a few examples:

<u>Main Plant</u>	<u>Companion</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
Brassica French Beans Runner Beans	Nasturtium	Will lure butterflies and aphids away from the main crop
Carrots	Leeks Spring Onions	Mutually beneficial. They deter carrot root fly, onion fly and aphids.
Brassica Onions Radish Carrots	Mint (but you need to contain it in a pot)	Deters flea beetles, onion fly and aphids
Courgettes	Calendula	Attracts pollinating insects
Broad Beans	Summer savory	Repels blackfly
Runner Beans	Sweet peas	Attractive to pollinating insects Both improve soil nitrogen levels
Tomatoes	French Marigold Chives, Basil and Mint	Deters whitefly and aphids
Carrots	Garlic chive (allium tuberosum) & wild garlic	Strong smell deters carrot root fly
All plants but also ... Carrots Leeks	Lavender	Attracts pollinators eg bees, butterflies, hoverflies Strong scent deters aphids and confuses other pests.
Brassica	Sage	Strong scent deters pests and blue flowers attract bees etc
Roses Cabbages	Thyme	Deters blackfly An infusion of thyme leaves sprayed onto cabbages prevents whitefly
Most plants	Borage	With high nectar yields it is highly attractive to pollinators