



The Village  
**GARDEN CLUB**  
of Sevenhampton & District

SEP / OCT 2022



**Camellia reticulata**

**NEXT MEETINGS**

**Thursday 22nd September:**    *"The Four Seasons"*                      Mandy Bradshaw

**Wednesday 26th October:**    *"Tea bags, Bras & Tights (Pt 2)"*    Darren Rudge

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

**22ND SEPTEMBER** meeting: Mandy Bradshaw is a journalist and life-long gardener based in the Cotswolds. She writes gardening articles for newspapers, magazines and websites and has a blog 'The Chatty Gardener'. She was voted **Garden Journalist of the Year** in 2018, a title that went to Alan Titchmarsh in 2019!

Her talk this month will be on **The Four Seasons**— recognising that gardens aren't just a one-season wonder and demonstrating how, with the right planting, a garden can sparkle all year round. This is a fully illustrated tour of Cotswold gardens through each of the seasons.

**26TH OCTOBER** meeting: Darren Rudge returns to give Part Two of his humorous but highly practical talk. The second part of his talk, "Tea bags, Bras & Tights", will offer even more cost effective tips for your garden and lots more garden fascinating facts and trivia too!

Also known as 'the laughing gardener', Darren is a BBC radio presenter & broadcaster - and has been for the last 15 years. During his 30 year career with plants, he has been a horticultural lecturer, assistant director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, garden writer and garden designer - winning RHS show garden medals (including gold and best in show awards).

**Looking forward to meeting all members, new members and guests at these forthcoming meetings.  
Refreshments are complimentary (as usual) and a raffle is also being organised. See you there!**



**CAMELLIA FACTFILE:** Camellias (in the family Theaceae) are ever-green shrubs/small trees, native to south and east Asia. They have white, pink or red flowers, although yellow varieties can be found in S.China and Vietnam. Varieties of *C.sinensis*, grown for the £40 billion global tea market, are always white. Teas contain beneficial antioxidants called 'catechins', which can vary depending on the **variety** of the plant, **where** it is grown and also **when** the leaf is harvested. There are over 3000 cultivars - with *C.japonica* approx. 2000, *C.reticulata* 400 & *C.sasanqua* 300.

Bad news - Camellias hate lime; Good news - they grow well in suitably soiled containers (ie ericaceous compost). Best planted in the Autumn or Spring, they enjoy part shade (not east facing). Prune, if necessary, after flowering and water well during the Summer to promote next year's flower buds. In hard water areas, avoid prolonged spells of watering with tap water (especially in our limestone region); collected rainwater is preferable.

**NOW ...** is the time to propagate your lavender.

**Choose** short, non-flowering side shoots and pull them away from the parent plant with a small 'heel' of stem attached.

**Remove** its lower leaves.

**Place** bare stem around edge of pot with gritty compost in it.

**Water** well.

**Cover** pot with clear bag with a few holes in it.

Cuttings should start to root within 6 weeks.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Around the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century a Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus, published a paper in which he suggested a binomial system for naming living organisms and that this system should be universally adopted. To a large extent this has been the case and Biologists give every type of living organism a name using this system, which consists of two Latin words, one for the Genus and one for the species. Thus, humans are *Homo sapiens* and wild daffodils are *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. Clearly a far better system than using the various common names (eg. daffodil, narcissus, jonquil, lent lily), which can cause confusion.

This method of naming works quite well for animals but plants cause a few more problems - due to both their own deplorable mating habits and man's help in adding to this depravity!!

**A hybrid** is a plant that is a cross between two species of a particular Genus. This can occur naturally and artificially. Plant hybrids (unlike animals) are usually fertile, they also tend to have 'hybrid vigour', providing vigorous and robust growth. Plants that are **named** hybrids have the Genus name, followed by an x (indicating species have been cross pollinated), followed by the name given to the result of the cross. For example:

*Ilex x koehneana* - a cross between *Ilex aquifolium* and *Ilex latifolia*.

If it had not been given a specific name, it would be *Ilex aquifolium x latifolia*.



**A cultivar** is a **cultivated variety**. Cultivars are maintained via human intervention. Some cultivars are developed by taking an individual plant and reproducing it through cuttings, grafting, or tissue culture (resulting in plants genetically identical to the parent). Selective breeding of plants can also be used, the resulting seedlings being the cultivars. Some nursery people use the term "variety" rather than "cultivar" to refer to cultivars reproduced by selective breeding. A plant label that includes part of the name written in single quotes indicates a cultivar. For example, *Ilex aquifolium* 'Lily Gold' is a cultivar of English holly. Another way to indicate this cultivar is *Ilex aquifolium* cv. Lily Gold. Confusingly, on some plant labels, cultivars' names lack the quotes and the cv. abbreviation, making it difficult to distinguish them from natural varieties.

This seems all very straightforward, but a word of caution - classification is changing. Once upon a time classification started with anatomy (structure) and morphology (shape). However, we can now read the genetic code of plants, identifying how they are related at a molecular level. This knowledge has resulted in existing grouping being redefined and changed sometimes in surprising ways. An example of this was recently seen on a notice in Kew Gardens. It stated:



"As we learn more about the genetic similarity of plants, we sometimes have to change the way they have been grouped in the past. For example, the maple family (Aceraceae) and the horse chestnut family (Hippocastanaceae) have both now been placed within the soapberry family (Sapindaceae)."

So what's in a name? As Shakespeare notes, "That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet."



Rose 'Peach Melba'

**ROSE OF THE YEAR: 2023** was recently launched by the RHS at [Ilford Manor](#) in Wiltshire. The garden, open to the public, was largely designed by the renowned architect Harold Peto, who lived at Ilford at the beginning of the last century. Choosing 'Rose of the Year' is a long process, the latest winner being selected in 2019! The first stage is when rose breeders enter their proposed new rose to try and win this accolade. Then, accepted rose varieties are trialled for 2 years where they are grown in different areas around the country, which will expose them to different soils & environments. Once the winning rose is chosen (looking at form, colour, scent, abundance of flower, health and maintenance needs), the plants are made available to rose growers so that stocks can be increased prior to the future launch. The rose which won the 2023 Rose of the Year is called **Peach Melba**, a fragrant, small, climber which was developed by Kordes Rosen.

## MORE JOBS FOR THE GARDEN ! .....

### September

- ♣ Divide herbaceous perennials
- ♣ Collect seeds (and sow if from perennial & hardy annuals). [Click here](#) for RHS tips on how to collect and store seeds.
- ♣ Net ponds before leaf fall and continue to remove blanket weed, duckweed and dead leaves from water lilies.
- ♣ Plant spring-flowering bulbs

### October

- ♣ Move tender plants to greenhouse/conservatory or fleece them
- ♣ Divide rhubarb crowns
- ♣ Plant Spring cabbages and garlic cloves
- ♣ Prune climbing roses
- ♣ Scarify, aerate and top-dress lawns
- ♣ Remove fallen leaves from lawns so that grass won't suffer from lack of light and air.



## Top Tips for Composting

As always with the approach of Autumn, our perennials start to die back, leaves fall and gardens generally need tidying. All this 'waste' vegetation is a potential source of nutrients for next year's plants AND it's free - that is **IF** you compost it.



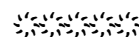
- ♣ The compost should be neither too wet, nor too dry. If it's damp to the touch it's probably just right. Too wet? – add cardboard or small twigs to help soak up the moisture. Too dry? – add more water (with a watering can).
- ♣ Grass cuttings— Try layering each addition with cardboard/ shredded paper/ twigs. This provides airy layers which will help decomposition and prevent slimy, smelly grass clippings.
- ♣ Think small— Cut vegetation and card into small pieces. This will reduce the size of your compost heap AND speed up the process.
- ♣ Not only garden waste but uncooked, plant-based, kitchen waste can also be composted.

The [Farmcote Herbs & Chilli Peppers](#) (just above Sudeley Castle) provides just that - a good range of herbs and up to 30 kinds of chilli plants, including some of the hottest varieties available. Not only that, but they are totally organic and successfully use the following to control blackfly etc. Use...

**3 crushed garlic cloves**  
**1 teaspoon liquid soap**  
**1 tablespoon vegetable oil**  
**1 litre of water**



Combine the garlic and oil and leave to soak overnight. Strain and add to the soap and water. Spray affected plants regularly for maximum effect and especially after rain.



Information about growing chilli peppers, why they can be so hot etc., can be found in our newsletter dated [MAR/APR 2018](#)

## JUNE'S GARDEN CLUB OUTING ....

offered a private visit to Highnam Court (am) and Berry's Place Farm (pm), both a few miles west of Gloucester.

Highnam Court has a spectacular 40 acres offering formal beds, water gardens, a well



stocked kitchen garden, topiary and rose beds (the owner's passion). In addition there are sculptures throughout the grounds, many carved from storm-damaged trees.

(Highnam opens to the public with the NGS scheme on 1st Sunday of the month)

After lunch at a local garden centre (*The Fairview Gardener*, Birdwood), the afternoon's garden, though much smaller, was charming, offering a peaceful haven (and delicious afternoon tea)....and the sun shone all day!

## Summary of talk on 14<sup>th</sup> July: 'Adapting to Climate Change'

### - Sally Oates

Sally's overall message is to **KNOW YOUR GARDEN**. Know the shaded areas, soil types & prevailing winds. It is helpful to draw a sketch of your garden and map the potential problem areas.

#### Protect your garden from the weather:

If prone to **strong winds**, grow hedging / provide walls or fences.

Provide stakes for tall plants.

Plants should be protected from **frosts** – have cloches or garden fleece readily available to use.

Be in readiness for cold snaps at unusual times.

#### Protect your plants from drought

Avoid 'bare patches' of soil as this allows evaporation of moisture. Even 'weeds' will keep the soil surface cooler and aid water retention. (Weeds can also provide nectar for insects).

Collect rainwater in butts for year round use.

DON'T water 'little and often'. With available water always near the soil surface, this will not encourage strong, deep roots.

DO water (when necessary) in the evening - when there will be lower evaporation rates.

#### Adapt

With warmer, later Winters and earlier Springs, the season of plant growth is being extended.

Sow seeds earlier.

Growing different plants/crops should be considered.



**The RHS** has a lot of useful information about how gardeners can help to combat climate change. Links to their information can be found [here](#). They focus on the following points:

1. **Go green.** As well as planting flowers, shrubs and trees, plant vertically by introducing hedges and climbers and avoid concrete pathways.
2. **Diversity.** Grow a range of different plants to extend the season for people and insects. Avoid double flowers which don't usually support pollinators. Introduce drought resistant plants.
3. **'Green' planting.** Roofs (even shed roofs), walls and balconies can help when plants are grown on them.
4. **Fossil fuels.** Reduce the use of petrol-powered tools (eg lawnmowers).
5. **Be water-wise.** Collect water in butts, use 'greywater' (eg washing-up/bath water) and consider plants tolerant of dry conditions.
6. **Avoid peat-based compost.** Peatlands, laid down over 100s of years, store large amounts of carbon, which is released when they are destroyed and their restoration is unlikely.
7. **Compost** your garden and kitchen waste.
8. **The 3 R's.** When it comes to resources: **Reduce, Re-use, Recycle** - in that order, and not just in the garden!
9. **Go organic.** Be aware that some chemicals (if used) in the garden have a high carbon footprint.
10. **Beware of invaders.** These are not only invasive plant species but also non-native insects, which are becoming able to survive with our warmer climate.  
*Never bring plants back from holiday. Not only can this inadvertently introduce plant viruses and pests but it is illegal.*