



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

NOV / DEC 2022



Common Poppy  
(*Papaver rhoeas*)

**NEXT MEETINGS**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov: "Mistletoe—Facts, Myths & Legends" Michael Jones**

*A timely opportunity to find out fascinating facts about this plant frequently used during Christmastide celebrations.*

**December:** Traditionally the club holds no meeting this month.

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

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

Our newsletter was created when the **Village Garden Club** was initiated, shortly after the Millenium. I took over its reins in 2014, with support from the previous editor and current member, Sally Coelho (thanks Sally for your help).

The newsletter has been a valuable vehicle for forwarding advice, information, new ideas, summaries of meetings and trips etc but, above all, it offers a means of connecting members with each other, which was especially valuable and appreciated during the Covid pandemic.

My input into developing this bi-monthly newsletter has been personally rewarding in many ways. Researching topics has certainly increased my own gardening knowledge, identifying 'open gardens', seasonal tips and local events has been useful, and being able to share information with members has been worthwhile and gratifying. Last year I moved out of the parish to nearby Winchcombe, which has changed my focus somewhat. This, coupled with the inevitable onslaught of time, has hastened my difficult decision to retire from being newsletter editor. This decision has not been taken lightly, as its regular production has provided a welcome focus throughout the gardening year.

**My final newsletter will be the March/April edition, due to be published at the end of February 2023.** This time frame will hopefully give an opportunity for any would-be editor to step forward and breathe new life into our club's publication, with my initial support if required.

**So...** if you would consider taking on this role, please email me on [ditex.cook@gmail.com](mailto:ditex.cook@gmail.com) and I can give you more information. Another chapter begins!

(PS: You can access archive editions of the Village Garden Club newsletter on the Parish's website at [www.sevenhampton.org](http://www.sevenhampton.org) )



**POPPY FACTFILE:** Poppies are herbaceous plants of the family Papaveraceae, typically with bright, colourful flowers. There are about 42 genera, which include *Papaver rhoeas* (Common poppy); *P.somniferum* (Opium poppy); *P.romneya* (Tree poppy); *P.cambricum* (Welsh poppy); *Meconopsis betonicifolia* (Himalayan poppy). They can be annuals, biennials or herbaceous perennials.

The seed of the common poppy can lie dormant in fields for as long as 50 years - provided it is underneath the soil in darkness. Once the soil is disturbed and the seed exposed to light, they quickly germinate to produce a mass of red. This is why they were so prolific after the battles of World War I, particularly noticeable in the lands around Flanders. Following campaigns, it was adopted by the Royal British Legion in 1921 as an emblem of remembrance, commemorating the end of that war on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918.

*P.somniferum* is a natural source of opium, which contains alkaloids such as morphine, and has been used since ancient times medicinally & as a 'recreational drug'. Even in the UK, fields of opium poppies are grown for this drug by pharmaceutical companies. The plant also produces edible seeds, which are particularly popular in bread making.

Oriental poppies are easy to propagate by basal division in the Autumn. Take a sharp knife and cut the root mass vertically into 4-6" sections. Choose a sunny spot to replant sections in well drained soil, add compost and water well.

Poppy plants produce many seeds and most plants will self seed if allowed. Sow selected seeds into compost, over-winter in the greenhouse or a coldframe, ready for springtime planting.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – Start the New Year with a swing!

THE CLUB'S ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT RHODES MEMORIAL HALL ON

**THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY AT 7.30 PM**

### YOU AND YOUR PARTNER ARE INVITED TO -

take the opportunity to relax, mingle and enjoy the company of other members & their partners with a **glass of wine, light snacks and nibbles.**

The evening will also offer a light-hearted **QUIZ..... with prizes .....** and all of it is **FREE !!!**

*Further details will be given nearer the time but please make a note of the date in your diaries, so as not to miss out.*



### FRUIT AND VEG HARVESTS -

seemed plentiful this Autumn, despite the dry, hot summer months. The bounty provided by our gardens has been celebrated at RHS Harlow Carr by producing this incredible statue, inspired by the 16th century Italian artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Read more about the artist [here](#).

This gives us a timely reminder to start preparing vegetable plots for next year's plants.....

- All soils are improved by adding organic matter after spent crops have been cleared.
- As well as the mechanical action of digging/forking in the organic material (eg manure/compost), soil organisms will also help to break down the soil into smaller, more friable particles.
- This resulting finer texture will improve the soil's drainage, soil fertility & water retention ready for Spring planting.

### QUESTIONNAIRE

The committee have recently been busy organising next year's speakers and garden visits. Most of the schedule has now been identified but they are interested to know members' views so as to help with future planning. To this end a short questionnaire is being developed and will be distributed soon.

Joanna Ruddock, who has recently moved, has stepped down as Treasurer and handed over to new committee member, Neil Lovell.

The present committee members are:

Gordon Day (Chair)

Ann van Rossem (Secretary)

Di Cook (Newsletter editor)

Neil Lovell (Treasurer)

Pippa Shouler

Joanna Rolfe

Joanna Ruddock

Sue Tallents

Pick up fallen leaves, especially from lawns & ponds. Ensure supports eg.trellises, can withstand wet, windy weather. Prune climbers such as roses to prevent wind-rock. Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing. Clean greenhouses and pots and .... Check that greenhouse heaters are working. Take hardwood cuttings; sow early crops & sweet peas

[NGS handbooks](#) for **all** open gardens can now be pre-ordered for £16.99, ready for a February 2023 delivery.

**RHS Garden show dates 2023** ( tickets now available on-line)

- 11-14th May Malvern Spring Festival
- 23-27th May Chelsea Flower Show
- 4-9th July Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival
- 19-23rd July Tatton Park Flower Show

**NOTE:** [RHS Membership](#) gives you free entry to above.

**STOP PRESS!** Good news - **Darren Rudge** is able to return to our club next October in order to deliver his postponed talk, originally scheduled for last month.

### A big THANK YOU ....

.... to all that visited the Macmillan's Coffee Morning at 'The Nuttery' in Notgrove on 30th September.

The morning raised over **£1,300** for Macmillan Cancer Support with the sale of refreshments, cakes and plants. The organisers thank all participants for their support and kind generosity.

Thanks should also go to the family-run **Gotherington Nurseries** who, through the efforts of Jo Rolfe, kindly donated all the plants which were on sale at the event. It is a well stocked nursery, well worth a visit and can be found at:

Gretton Road, Gotherington, GL52 9QY



Proud to support  
**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

### TOP GARDENING JOBS FOR NOV/DEC

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