



The Village
GARDEN CLUB
of Sevenhampton & District

JAN / FEB 2023



The common snowdrop
(*Galanthus nivalis*)



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Village Garden Club committee would like to wish all members a very HAPPY NEW YEAR and hope that 2023 is a good year for all.



NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 19th Jan: CLUB SOCIAL EVENT -
with QUIZ, DRINKS & NIBBLES



To help with catering, please reserve places for yourself and your partner/guest with Annie (annvanrossem@gmail.com) or Pippa (pippa.shouler@gmail.com)

before
12TH JANUARY

Thursday 16th Feb: "Late Summer Colour" with Julie Ritchie

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



SNOWDROPS, are bulbous perennials of the genus *Galanthus*, which belong to the family *Amaryllidaceae*. An early harbinger of Spring, these flowers are thought to have been introduced by the Romans. There are over 20 species of *Galanthus*, with *G.nivalis*, *G.plicatus* and *G.elwesii* said to be the ancestors of almost all known snowdrops. *G.elwesii* is named after local plant hunter Sir Henry Elwes, of nearby Colesbourne Park, who, in 1874, found this plant in Turkey and introduced it into the U.K.

Plants have 3 distinct leaf shapes: flat leaves (eg *G.nivalis* - the common snowdrop); plicate leaves, ie vertically folded leaves, (eg *G.plicatus*); and convolute leaves (eg *G.woronowii*).

Snowdrops were named *Galanthus* (meaning milk flower) by the Greeks. Other names include Candlemas bells, Mary's taper, Snow piercer, February fair-maids and Dingle-dangles.

As with the tulip mania of the 17th century, *Galanthus* bulbs can also attract high value. In 2011 a *Galanthophile* paid £375 for a single bulb of *G.plicatus* (variety *E A Bowles*). Only 4 years later a price of £1,390 was paid for a lone bulb - bought on EBay!

Whilst they often self-seed, snowdrops can be successfully split and re-planted. This is best done after they have just finished flowering, otherwise called planting 'in the green'.

Local gardens with spectacular snowdrop displays to visit this season:

[Colesbourne Park](#) (GL53 9NP): Jan 28/29; Feb 4/5; 11/12th; 18/19th; 25/26th. 1—4pm. Adults £10, children free, dogs on leads.

[Painswick Rococo Gdns](#) (GL6 6TH): Jan 28th - Feb 27th Adults £7, over 60s £6, children (5-16) £3.30, family £18.

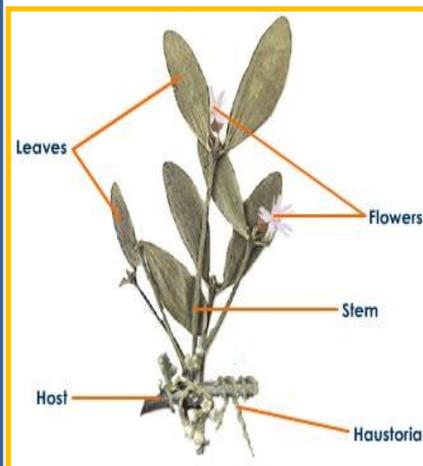
[Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots](#) (GL7 7JS): Feb 6/13/18/19/20/27 11am - 3pm. Adults £7.50, children free

[Newark Park](#) (GL12 7PZ): National Trust Property open from 4th February. £9.50, children £4.75, NT members free

[Cerney House](#) (GL7 7BX): Open 7 days / week 10am - dusk. Adults £5, children £1

Notes from VGC meeting on 17.11.22 –

Michael Jones on “Mistletoe”



There are 2 mistletoe families, *Loranthaceae* and *Viscaceae*. The former has 940 species and the latter 450 species. Some of these parasitic plants grow on branches of trees, others invade the host plant's roots. A mistletoe's rootlike structures, by which it attaches itself to the host, are called **haustoria** and they enable the mistletoe to absorb water and nutrients from the host.

Mistletoe species can be found throughout the five continents, although in the UK there is only one type found (*Viscum album*). The occurrence of this is generally confined to Southern England as our native parasitic plant needs an average of 16°C in July to grow successfully and reproduce. There are separate male and female mistletoe plants and the flowers are insect pollinated.

Whilst berries of UK mistletoe are white other species may have red berries. The leaves and stems of the mistletoe are poisonous and can cause problems for livestock. However, the sticky berries are edible and a favourite food of birds, in particular the mistle thrush and birds such as waxwings, fieldfares and blackcaps. The seeds pass unharmed through the birds' guts and when they stick to a suitable tree can grow into a mature plant.

[Tenbury Wells](#), Worcestershire, is known as the mistletoe capital of England. It has held an auction for the sale of mistletoe for well over a hundred years. It also has a festival, which is held on the first Saturday in December.

Mistletoe has been referenced throughout history – acknowledged by the Druids, Virgil and in Greek & Norse mythology ... and more! It has been depicted in jewellery and wood carvings, appears in paintings and on greetings cards and stamps. It is used in some medication and is referred to in songs. But in Britain, it's best known use is as a decoration at Christmas time and, according to a centuries-old custom, if standing under the mistletoe expect to be kissed!

For more information see [Mistletoe Directory UK](#).

BBC's **GARDENERS WORLD LIVE** will be at Birmingham's **NEC** on **15th - 18th June '23**. Tickets now available. Click [here](#) for more info

[Dundry Nurseries](#) near Staverton, who are renowned for their seed potatoes, offer over 350 varieties of potatoes and have them on sale from January through to April.

10% Garden Club membership discount applies. - remember to take your card!

REGARDING CHRISTMAS GIFTS: “Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.” (Dalai Lama)

FINAL WORD: Gardening must be one of the slowest, yet one of the most rewarding, performing arts.

QUESTIONNAIRE ?

The committee are asking members to complete & return the accompanying questionnaire, which seeks to find out club members' thoughts and expectations of the

Village Garden Club.

All your responses will help to shape future programmes. Please return it to the club's secretary, Annie - hard copy or email to annvanrossem@gmail.com before **22nd January** please.

SOME JOBS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY:

Christmas trees - after Christmas put outside and decorate with fatballs, nuts and apples for the birds **OR** chip **OR** recycle as garden waste **OR** take to [participating Garden Centres](#) between 6th & 24th January or local Council Recycling Centres.

Structures - mend sheds, walls, and catch up on general repair work

Ponds - If icy, use pond heaters or place floats to help prevent freezing over. If it does freeze over, make a hole with a saucepan of hot water on the surface until melted through. Do not crack the ice, as this is harmful to fish.

Apples & Pears - whilst still dormant, remove damaged /cankorous wood, which will improve the trees' health. Also thin out branches to promote strong growth and allow better circulation of air through the middle of the tree. This will help yield better quality fruit.

Sweet Peas, Broad Beans, Peas- can be planted in pots for an early start.

Tomatoes - for greenhouse tomato plants, sow seeds in February.

Potatoes - Chit tubers (egg boxes are very useful for this) prior to planting 4-6 weeks later.

David Lindgren owns *The Cotswold Fruit Co. Ltd*, producing **Humblebee** apple juice & **BUSHEL+PECK** cider. Only unsprayed fruits are used and these come from traditionally managed orchards or from Gloucestershire gardens.

Gardeners with a surplus of apples in the Autumn, can offer their fruits to the company and in return receive 15-20% of apple juice or cider yielded from their fruit.

If you are interested in exchanging your surplus fruit, see full details at www.bushelpeck.co.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

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Garden Club Committee is wishing to provide speakers, activities and opportunities which reflect the expectations of Club members. To this end, it would be very helpful if you would complete this short questionnaire, which will help to shape future programmes.

1. Are you happy with the range of topics covered by speakers? Yes/No
If not, what would you like included?

.....
.....

2. a) Do you still want a social evening in January Yes/No
b) If not would you like it to be moved to the summer? Yes/No

3. At present we have one all day garden visit and one evening visit with a pub supper. Are you happy with this arrangement? Yes/No

4. a) Do you still want a newsletter? Yes/No
b) If yes, in view of the fact the present editor is retiring, would you be prepared to take it over either in its present format or another? Yes/No

(Please contact Di Cook on ditex.cook@gmail.com if interested in this role).

5. Would you like to join the Committee and be more involved with the running of the Club and shaping the calendar of events? Yes/No

If you have any comments or suggestions, please write them below:

.....
.....
.....

Please send your reply by week ending 22nd JANUARY 2023

- by email to annvanrossem@gmail.com
- or deliver to Annie's (letterbox/porch) at The Old Shop, Brockhampton.
- or hand to Annie at the Social evening on 19th January

THANK YOU.