



The Village

GARDEN CLUB

of Sevenhampton & District

MAR/APRIL 2023



HOLLYHOCK

Alcea rosea

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 16th March:

'The Scented Garden'

Gail Plant

Gail is a plantswoman and metal artist who also designs scented gardens for clients. Her talk on scented flowers touches on their science and history, giving a whole new meaning to 'The Scented Garden'.

Thursday 20th April:

AGM & 'Aliens in the Garden' Roger Umpelby

After the AGM, Roger, who is an entomologist, horticulturist & part-time advisor for the RHS, will give an illustrated talk on garden 'pests' such as insects, diseases & weeds - and how we should tackle them!

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

ONIONS are not only a versatile vegetable but they're easy to grow too! If grown from seed they are less likely to bolt, but could be more susceptible to diseases. Mostly they are grown from immature bulbs called 'sets'. Regardless of choice, March & April are the best time to start planting onions. With small root systems they benefit from adding organic matter to the soil prior to planting - but avoid *fresh* manure. Onions don't do well when competing with other plants, so ensure weeds are kept at bay. Harvest before the foliage dies down completely and dry out before storing in a cool, dry place in the light (storing them in the dark encourages sprouting). Onions can be stored in a net or plaited. For details on how to plait onions see [2016's July/August newsletter](#).



HOLLYHOCK or ALCEA is a genus with over 80 species of flowering plants belonging to the mallow family (Malvaceae). They are robust plants and grow, almost vertically, up to 9 feet tall. They are said to be a symbol of fertility and abundance, mirrored by the multitude of seeds they produce. In some countries, it is considered an invasive species. Hollyhock plants are not poisonous, but can cause skin irritation, probably due to the fine hairs found on the leaves and stems.

Many insects, including bees and butterflies enjoy the nectar from hollyhocks; although cultivated double flowered plants aren't as beneficial to them. The mallow flea beetle and some larvae, such as that of the Painted Lady butterfly, may cause damage (*A small price to pay?*)

For many years hollyhocks have been used medicinally. The word 'althea' comes from the Greek *altheo* meaning 'to cure'. Infusions can be used as a mouthwash, drunk as a tea to aid the alimentary canal or as a herbal wash. Its leaves can also be used as a poultice, for humans and animals.

Hollyhock petals can be successfully used in dyeing, producing a good range of colours throughout the spectrum and includes yellows, blues and browns.

Every May, in Kyoto, once the capital of Japan, there is an ancient festival called *Aoi Matsuri*, where locals use hollyhocks to decorate floats in a procession giving thanks to 'the gods'.

This biennial plant is native to Turkey and other parts of Asia, but the Hollyhock that was introduced into Britain in 1573, and the plant with which we are familiar, probably came from China by way of Palestine.



Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis mollis*)
amongst Batsford's Snowdrops

'POP-UP' TRIP TO BATSFORD ARBORETUM — 8TH FEBRUARY

The day started with a heavy frost, followed by (almost) freezing fog. Thankfully, by the meeting time of 10.30 am, the sun was starting to penetrate the murkiness, bringing with it warmth and brilliant blue skies. The welcoming spring flowers within Batsford's grounds were revealed snowdrops aplenty, cyclamen, witch hazel, aconites and even daffodils. Quite beautiful! Those not able to join us missed a real treat.

Many thanks go to Joanna Rolfe for suggesting and organising it.



QUESTIONNAIRE



Thank you to all members who completed and returned the recent Questionnaire. Below is a result summary....

Q1 Range of Topics: 100% of the respondents were pleased with the topics covered; talks on vegetables, garden design, wildlife/water features, and roses were also suggested.

Q2 Social evening: There was a small preference for a January social (57% of returns) rather than a Summer social (42%), although several favoured both. There was also a suggestion to use a member's garden for a summer meeting.

Q3 Visits. 100% of respondents wanted visits to continue as presently arranged. An alternative of a morning visit followed by a lunch was suggested.

Q4 Newsletter. 93% of respondents wanted the club's newsletter to continue, although no volunteers for 'editor' were forthcoming.

Q5 Committee members. There were no volunteers to join the committee.

Your responses will be scrutinised by the committee in due course, thank you. Don't forget that matters can also be discussed at the **AGM**, which will be held at our meeting on **Thursday 22nd April**.

£ Don't forget that membership renewals are due in (or before) April. **Form on p4**

This news is my last
But it has been a blast
To write to you all
Yes, it has been a ball.

The gardening tips
And news about trips,
Will be from elsewhere
For others to share.

Suggestions? - just lots!
About plants and your plots;
What, where, how to grow
With the best times to sow.

Recommending places,
Encouraging new faces,
Giving out news
And expressing your views.

So thank you dear reader -
But I'm no longer a 'leader'
- Hope you won't be bereft
With the void that is left.

So please, if you feel
You too could reel
Off some words, or a line
Well splendid, just fine.

Only six times a year
(That's all, so don't fear),
To write our newsletter -
And be a trend-setter!

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Thank you for your support and readership over the last 9 years. It's been a real joy. If anyone feels they want to take over the reins I would be happy to help initially.



A request from the organisers to advise that the village of **ASHTON UNDER HILL** have 'Open Gardens' on the week-end of **10th & 11th June**. Situated near Bredon, there will be many gardens to view and further details can be found at

www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk

And .. **Prestbury Open Gardens** is planned for **17th & 18th June**.

The National Garden Scheme also does groups of Open Gardens e.g. **Kencot near Lechlade (10th April)**. All NGS 'open gardens' are listed on: <https://ngs.org.uk>

The February meeting with Julie Ritchie from [Hoo House Nursery](#), Tewkesbury had a good attendance & Julie's talk was very well received. A comprehensive list of perennials, offering colour for the garden lasting well into the Autumn, was given out. Pictures of the plants were shown and their attributes explained by Julie. The list of plants (see page 3) were grouped as follows:
Mid-summer into Autumn nos. 1-12
August onwards nos. 13- 41
September onwards nos. 44 - 83
If buying from her extensive nursery, Julie will advise on best position, soil etc for your new plants.

If you are interested in taking on the role of Newsletter Editor and joining the **Village Garden Club** committee, please contact Di Cook (retiring editor) at: ditex.cook@gmail.com or Tel: 01242 603480

Late Colour with Perennials

1. August borders
2. *Osteospermum jucundum* 'Elliott's Form'
3. *Verbena rigida*
4. *Geranium* 'Mavis Simpson'
5. *Geranium* 'Rozanne'
6. *Penstemon*
7. *Dahlia* 'Bishop of Llandaff'
8. *Zauschneria californica* 'Dublin'
9. *Tulbaghia violacea*
10. *Tulbaghia* 'John May's Special'
11. *Roscoea purpurea*
12. *Roscoea purpurea* hybrids
13. *Echinacea purpurea* 'Rubinstern'
14. *Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan'
15. *Sanguisorba* 'Candy Floss'
16. *Sanguisorba* 'Blackthorn'
17. *Limonium platyphyllum* & L.p. 'Violetta'
18. *Aster radula* 'August Sky'
19. *Aster schreberi*
20. *Pennisetum thunbergii* 'Red Buttons'
21. *Origanum* 'Herrenhausen' & *Potentilla* 'Monsieur Rouillard'
22. *Origanum* 'Rosenkuppel'
23. *Helenium* 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'
24. *Helenium* 'Red Jewel'
25. *Helenium* 'Riverton Beauty' & *Perovskia* 'Blue Spire'
26. *Helianthus* 'Happy Days'
27. *Solidago x luteus* 'Lemore' & *Persicaria virginiana* 'Painter's Palette'
28. *Phlox paniculata* 'Harlequin'
29. *Phlox paniculata* 'Nora Leigh'
30. *Phlox paniculata* 'David'
31. *Crocosmia* 'Coletan Fishacre'
32. *Crocosmia* 'Hellfire'
33. *Crocosmia* 'Paul's Best Yellow'
34. *Crocosmia* 'Debutante'
35. *Crocosmia* 'Sunzest'
36. *Persicaria amplexicaule* 'Dikke Floskes'
37. *Persicaria amplexicaule* 'Orange Field'
38. *Persicaria* 'Pink Elephant'
39. *Sedum spectabile* & 'Herbstfreude'
40. *Sedum* 'Matrona'
41. *Sedum telephium* 'Jennifer'
42. *Sedum* 'Carl'
43. *Sedum* 'Purple Emperor'
44. *Actaea simplex* 'Brunette'
45. *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *deamii*
46. *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'
47. *Eupatorium maculatum* 'Red Dwarf'
48. *Kniphofia rooperi*
49. *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks'
50. *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*
51. *Aster novi-belgii* - mixed
52. *Aster amellus* 'Brilliant'
53. *Aster amellus* 'Violet Queen'
54. *Aster amellus* 'Fornsett Flourish'
55. *Aster ericoides* var. *prostratus* 'Snow Flurry'
56. *Aster* 'Coombe Fishacre'
57. *Aster* 'Little Carlow'
58. *Aster* 'Prairie Purple'
59. *Aster* 'Oktoberlicht'
60. *Aster ageratoides* 'Stardust'
61. *Aster* 'Ochtendglören'
62. *Aster novae-angliae* 'Alma Pötschke'
63. *Aster novae-angliae* 'James Ritchie'
64. *Aster novae-angliae* 'Helen Picton'
65. *Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'
66. *Hesperantha coccinea* 'Major'
67. *Hesperantha* 'Oregon Sunset'
68. *Hesperantha* 'Mollie Gould'
69. *Calamagrostis brachytricha*
70. *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Malepartus'
71. *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Flamingo'
72. *Aconitum carmichaelii* & *Helianthus* 'Lémon Queen'
73. *Helianthus* 'Dorian Roxburgh'
74. *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola'
75. *Liriope* 'Royal Purple' & *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola'
76. *Liriope muscari*
77. *Chrysanthemum* 'George Simons'
78. *Chrysanthemum* 'Bretforton Road'
79. *Chrysanthemum* 'Cottage Lemon'
80. *Chrysanthemum* 'Mrs Jessie Cooper'
81. *Chrysanthemum* 'E.H. Wilson'
82. *Chrysanthemum* 'Goldengreenheart'
83. Late Summer Colour

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Village Garden Club Programme 2023/24



2023

Thursday 16 th March	'The Scented Garden'	<i>Gail Plant</i>
Thursday 20 th April	AGM & 'Aliens in the Garden'	<i>Roger Umpelby</i>
Thursday 4 th May	Evening visit to Cerney House Gardens & Pub Supper	
Thursday 13 th June	Day visit to Daglingworth House & Hook House Pottery	
Thursday 27 th July	'Woodchester mansion'	<i>Robert Bryant</i>
Wednesday 27 th September	'Winter Colour & Interest in the Garden'	<i>Duncan Coombs</i>
Thursday 19 th October	'Tea bags, Bras & Tights' (part 2)	<i>Darren Rudge</i>
Thursday 16 th November	'Rosemary Verey, 1918-2001'	<i>Margie Hoffnung</i>

2024

Thursday 18 th January	Social Event	
Thursday 22 nd February	'Hot Spots & Shady Characters'	<i>Harriet Rycroft</i>
Thursday 16 th March	'Seasonal Colour'	<i>Natalie Mignotte</i>
Thursday 22 nd April	AGM & 'Neds & Bumps - Lutyens & Jekyll'	<i>James Cooper</i>



Membership Form - Please complete and return to: The Treasurer, Neil Lovell, Sundial Cottage, Brockhampton, GL54 5XH.

Please Note: All details will be kept secure; they will not be shared with any other organisation and will only be used to contact you on legitimate Garden Club business, e.g. to e-mail the newsletter to you or to send out relevant Garden Club messages. Upon your request, your details can be removed from Garden Club data whenever you wish

Name: Signature:

Address:

E-mail: Tel No:

☐ Annual Subscription for 2023/2024, due in April £25.00

☐ **Thursday 4th May.** Evening visit to Cerney House Gardens (4.00pm start) with introductory talk. Set around a Victorian walled garden, grounds are extensive and include herbaceous borders, large vegetable garden, a wild flower bank and woodland. The organic approach to gardening aims to benefit wildlife. Partial disabled access. (Own or shared transport) £5.00

☐ **Tuesday 13th June.** Day outing to :
Daglingworth House (am): Developed over 25 years with 2½ acres of topiary, pergolas, water features, herbaceous borders, etc Refreshments included.
The owner regrets that no mobility scooters possible. (Own or shared transport) £10.00

☐ **Hookhouse Pottery** (pm) near Tetbury. About 1½ acres separated into sections, containing borders, ponds and woodland area. Small pottery & shop on site - various ceramics & all garden pots are frost-free. Partial disabled access. (Own or shared transport) £8.50

Please tick which outings you would like to sign up for. Visitors are always welcome but priority on trips etc. will be given to members. PLEASE NOTE: PRIVATE TRANSPORT IS NEEDED.

Payment for club membership by BACS, cheque or cash: Cheques to be made payable to 'The Village Garden Club'. Cheques or cash to be sent to The Treasurer (address above). Payment by BACS to a/c no 42604483, sort code 09-01-54 referencing payment with your name.