



Blofield & District Gardening Club

October 2021 Newsletter

Hello all Gardening Club members

The committee is keen to contact you again to hope that you have all kept as well as possible during this very strange year, and that the extra time available during the various “lockdowns” was productively spent working with your gardens, allotments or containers, and you have had a colourful array of flowers, plants and vegetables to enjoy.

At last the committee has been able to meet properly, to discuss plans for the Club in 2022. As you will know, all club meetings were cancelled during 2020 and unfortunately for this year too. It is however anticipated that the Club will be able to meet face to face again in 2022.

Several of the committee reported meeting up with club members who are looking forward to the club restarting, having especially missed the social side of meetings during the pandemic. It was understood that several local groups have already restarted meetings, and some have experienced a resurgence of interest, with people having taken more of an interest in their gardens during lockdown. This will present a positive challenge to the Club, contacting households new to the area who may appreciate advice and support in organising and maintaining their new garden areas.

To get the year off to a good start, the first meeting will be on **Wednesday evening, 9th March, 2022** in the Margaret Harker Hall (7:30 p.m.) All are warmly invited to join us for what will be a very short Annual General Meeting, to be followed by light refreshments, a quiz and whatever other fun suggestions your committee can come up with.

The programme of speakers for the year will be confirmed as will the schedule for the Summer Show, to be held on **Saturday, 16th July**. Our President, Sylvia Nelthorpe, pointed out that 2022 will be the Golden Jubilee of the Club – 50 years of offering gardening advice, tailored talks and lots of socialising to many people over the years. The Summer Show should therefore be a huge celebration of such a milestone. It comes six weeks after H.M. The Queen’s Platinum Anniversary too, so we should all be in celebratory mood!

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and the Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society (NNHS) update:

Committee member Susan Brown discussed her regular attendance at meetings of NNHS Affiliated Societies and outlined the various successful coach trips, Zoom talks and evening meetings held by the Society. Members of our Club are automatically affiliate members of the RHS and the NNHS. We are informed about holidays, events and Zoom talks and can take part in certain classes of NNHS local shows.

The NNHS Late Autumn Show is to take place at the St Faith’s Centre on Sunday, 14th November, in association with the Norfolk Chrysanthemum Association. Classes that affiliated societies can enter were discussed and are outlined below.

Please have a look at the schedule, and if you would like to enter a class, or work with others to do so, please contact June Drake (01603 713 501) or Sue Brown (715 529) to discuss this.

NNHS Late Autumn Show

SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2021

ST FAITHS CENTRE, HORSHAM ST FAITH, NORWICH, NR10 3LF

Free admission from 10am to 4pm

[Affiliated-Societies-Show-Schedule.pdf \(securerusercontent.net\)](#)

Class	Description
AF18	Three blooms disbudded Chrysanthemums, one cultivar, one vase
AF19	Shrubs, two distinct, one vase of each
AF20	Apples, two cultivars dessert, one cultivar cooking, five fruits of each on dishes
AF21	Two dishes Potatoes, one white, one coloured - five on each dish.
AF22	Three Onions, each to exceed 227gm
AF23	Two Pot Plants, flowering
AF24	Two Pot Plants, foliage
AF25	Bowl of flowers, with foliage, grown by members. Space allowed 90cm.

Susan B was thanked by the committee for all the work she has undertaken in liaising with these societies and forwarding information to members. Other events being organised by NNHS:

1. [Zoom talk: The History of Kew Gardens by Matthew Biggs](#)

25 October @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

2. [Late Autumn Show with Norfolk Chrysanthemum Association Late Show](#)

14 November @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

3. [Zoom talk: Wild Flowers in the Garden by Simon Harrap](#)

22 November @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

4. [Annual General Meeting](#)

5 December @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

5. [Zoom talk: "Bhutan - Kingdom of Rare Plants" by Rosemary Legrand](#)

Mon 24 January 2022 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Seed order scheme: Sylvia Nelthorpe has received the new Mr Fothergill's catalogues and she will distribute these to members shortly. She would appreciate orders by 1st November if possible. In order to achieve 30% discount orders would need to amount to £200, for 50% discount - £500.

If there is a photograph you could send in for the next edition of the Club's newsletter, please let us have it. Also any articles, poems or queries - whether gardening-related or not – do send them in.

As it is likely to be December before the next Newsletter, perhaps we should have another photo competition – what about a winter display of foliage with a decoration or candle?

Please send in via e-mail to: blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com



This picture of a Helleborus Niger – the Christmas Rose - in flower - was sent in by Sylvia several weeks ago.

“Hope that’s not a sign of things to come! Brrr!!” she said.

There should also have been a picture of a cinnabar hawk moth caterpillar on ragwort, but that seems to have disappeared in the chaos that is my desk! Apologies, Sue R

Greenbuild 2021 Festival

North Norfolk District Council has arranged a series of free talks under the heading [Greenbuild 2021](#) which may be of interest to many of you. The programme for this year’s online festival, which will run from **Monday 1st November to Friday 12th November** coincides with COP26. Follow the link to see what talks are available.

From the RHS Website: Gardening in October <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/october>

The autumn chill sets in

Although we had some warmer days over September, the autumn is now definitely here for real, and it feels colder. It's a beautiful time of year, with the trees changing colour. Sometimes it may seem pointless raking, when the wind blows even more leaves onto the lawn, but just think of all the lovely leafmould you can make! It's also time to start preparing for early frosts.

Top gardening jobs this month

Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into a greenhouse or conservatory

Cut back perennials that have died down

Divide herbaceous perennials

Prune climbing roses

Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year

There is more on the RHS website: please click on the link above.

Butterflies were pretty scarce in the spring and early summer this year, but towards the end of August we had lots of Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells and several Painted Ladies on the buddleia. Sue R



The Bishop of Norwich held several “open gardens” for charity this year. These pictures were taken on 19th September, when Norfolk Wildlife Trust was invited in for a “bio-blitz” – they recorded all the birds, bees, butterflies, wild flowers, fungi, mini-beasts, reptiles and mammals they saw.



Recycling soft plastics – a report from Garden Organic

You may have seen some of the announcements recently regarding the collection of soft plastics at supermarkets. The Co-op in particular has spent some serious money behind the advertising of this. Yet now with announcements from Sainsburys back in June and Tesco this week, it looks like this is really going to become much more widely available.

Not all the details have been clear in terms of who recycles this material and what is done with it, but it does look like it is going to go to reputable recyclers within the UK. I was concerned it might be 'diverted from landfill' and just incinerated, but Co-op has announced that Jayplas will be recycling all of its plastics within the UK.

Sainsburys previously used Leicestershire-based Eurokey Recycling for their initial trial, but I don't believe they've announced whether they will be processing this material going forward. Tesco has not made an announcement about who is recycling it and where, or what it will be turned into, but I feel hopeful that these big players will not want to take the risk of being exposed for unethical practices down the line.

So get collecting everyone and let's reduce our residual waste and our emissions and use of natural resources at the same time.

Online articles from Let's Recycle on each of the schemes are below for those of you who want to read more:

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/tesco-expands-soft-plastic-collection-scheme/>

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/sainsburys-expands-flexible-plastic-collections/>

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/co-op-to-roll-out-soft-plastic-collections-nationwide/>

Rob Whitehouse, Waste Reduction Projects Coordinator

www.gardenorganic.org.uk Garden Organic, Ryton Organic Gardens, Wolston Lane, Coventry

The garden at The Bird in Hand on Mill Road, Blofield Heath, was again kindly thrown open by Mr and Mrs Norton, raising funds for Heathlands Community Centre and All Saints Church, Hemblington. If you ever get the chance to visit the gardens, do go along! There are usually plants for sale not to mention refreshments (and Pimms!)

