



Blofield & District Gardening Club February 2022 Newsletter



SNOWDROPS IN THE WOODS

Free admission (at own risk)

**Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th February
11 am to 3 pm**

**at The Old Rectory, Norwich Road,
Strumpshaw**

Homemade soup, tea, coffee and cakes etc

**Donations to church funds –
St Peter's Church, Strumpshaw**

Welcome to the latest edition of the Gardening Club's Newsletter. Your committee sends its very best wishes to all members and fervently hopes that future discussion will be face-to-face rather than in written form.

The Club's Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Margaret Harker Hall on Wednesday evening, 9th March, at 7:30 p.m.

The Hall's management committee is well aware that high levels of hygiene and safety are expected by people using the Hall, so we can confirm that hard surfaces will be disinfected before your arrival, and hand sanitisers will be available for your use. Although the government regulations may be changing soon, Club members are encouraged to wear face coverings if they wish.

The agenda, and minutes of the last meeting – March 2020! – will be available at the meeting, and the proposed programme of meetings, competition titles and the Summer Show Schedule will all be announced, so do please come along. There will also be a light buffet provided by our committee after the AGM – and our Chair June has come up with a couple of spiffing ideas for some fun too.

One will remain a secret for now, but your involvement in the second suggestion needs input from you. **Could you please send in a digital photograph or a scan of a photograph of you as a baby or young child?** The idea is to display these with the question: "Who's this?" or "Who are they now?" Let's see if people can recognise you – could be a lot of fun!

Please send in a digital copy of a photograph to: blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com If you would like advice about how to do this, please e mail the same address or phone me on (01603) 715 804 and I can talk you through it.

Message from Sue Brown, our link member to RHS and NNHS

Affiliated Gardening Clubs and Societies

As some members will be aware, Blofield and District Gardening Club is affiliated to the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society along with many other local clubs across the county. Also affiliated are some specialist county-wide societies which may be of interest. They are the Alpine Garden Society, the Cottage Garden Society, Norfolk Group and the Norfolk and Suffolk Group, Hardy Plant Society. All three have websites detailing their activities such as talks, outings and plant sales. It is worth checking them out. You never know what you will come across.

Message from Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society – early February, 2022

Some of you will be aware that our members John and Judy Wilson open their garden to the public on a few days each year for various charities. Here are the details for 2022:

CHESTNUT FARM, WEST BECKHAM, HOLT, NORFOLK NR25 6NX

Sunday	27 February	11.00 am-4.00 pm	National Garden Scheme
Sunday	6 March	11.00 am-4.00 pm	St John Ambulance
Sunday	22 May	11.00 am-5.00 pm	National Garden Scheme

Enquiries Judy Wilson 01263 822241

judywilson100@gmail.com

Lesley Webdale, General Secretary

Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society www.nnhs.org.uk

Blofield & District Gardening Club Summer Show – Saturday afternoon, 16th July, at The Margaret Harker Hall

We all look forward to the Club's Summer Show, whether it will be to display the fruits, flowers and vegetables we have grown, or show our prowess (*or otherwise in my case*) at flower arranging, baking and making preserves – so let's make this Summer Show one to really remember.

It will be a social event to which everyone will be invited, with refreshments available plus cake, raffle and bottle stalls – an opportunity to celebrate what is a very special year for the Club.

We will doubtless all be celebrating the magnificent Platinum Anniversary of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in June, so let's keep that spirit in July too. Who's got the bunting??

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Club, the first meeting of which was held at Blofield School on 12th January, 1972.

The committee consisted of:

President Mr S.A. Morrish; Vice Presidents Mr E.V. Bacon, Mr W.J. Peachman., Dr F Rayns;
Chairman Mr J.W. Stocker; Hon Secretary Mrs M.K. Ireland;
Enrolling secretary Mrs M Stocker; Minute secretary Miss B. Basey-Fisher;
Hon. Treasurer Mr F.W. Ireland,
Programme committee Mrs C Beaumont, Mrs P Pigott, Mrs Smith.
Mr Morrish wished the new club every success and said "the aim of all Gardening Clubs is friendship".

To mark the 50th anniversary, the committee is putting together a pamphlet highlighting the history of the Club from its earliest days. If YOU have any memories of meetings or visits that you think should be included in the history of the Club, we should be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with the Club's secretary, Sue, on (01603) 715 804 or by e-mail: blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com



Photographs
of the 18th
anniversary
cake and
party in 1990



Garden Equipment Repair and Sharpening Service

Are your spades, forks, secateurs etc all ready for work this spring?? If not, we are delighted to confirm that Alan Drake is still offering his Gardening Equipment Repair and Sharpening Service. Amazingly reasonable rates – donations to the Club funds too – so please speak to Alan at a meeting, or contact him on (01603) 713 501. The types of equipment he will sharpen and repair if necessary, and the charges, are attached to the e-mail.



A message from “Caring for God’s Acre” organisation - The First Rose

Spring has arrived and many churchyards will be adorned with the lemon petals of primroses which mainly bloom between March and May. These delicate harbingers of spring are native to Britain and are found all over the UK. The name derives from the Latin *prima rosa* meaning ‘first rose’ of the year (even though it is not related to what we’d call a rose today). In various counties it also goes by a variety of charming names such as Golden Stars, Butter Rose (referring to its colour) - and Lent Rose, Early Rose and Darling of April. Some are pink - a variant which appears in about one in 1,000 plants.

Primroses provide a valuable nectar source early in the season which is increasingly important as our milder winters are causing pollinators to emerge earlier (when there are fewer flowers for them to feed from). Look out for butterflies such as Brimstone and Small tortoiseshell which overwinter as adults, along with the Hairy-footed flower bee, moths and other pollinating insects.



Primroses reproduce naturally in the wild by dropping seed with a fatty morsel attached (an elaiosome). The seeds attract ants that carry them away to eat. The ants then discard the more important kernel thereby aiding seed dispersal and the spread of these beautiful flowers.

Andrea Gilpin www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

**We would love to publicise your village events in future Newsletters.
Do send in posters or information.**

**For instance, there is to be a Flower Festival at All Saints Church, Hemblington,
on 11th and 12th September.**

**This coincides with Heritage Open Days,
the theme of which this year is “Astounding Inventions”.**

**There will also be a fascinating WEA day school at Blofield Court House
Thursday, 28th July (10 am – 4 pm)**

‘A Jolly Good Murder: The Rise of Crime as Entertainment in the Nineteenth Century’.

The tutor will be Dr Kate Jewell.

Further information available from [Blofield.branch@wea.ac.uk](mailto:blofield.branch@wea.ac.uk) or ‘phone 01603 537029

That’s all for now, folks! Looking forward to seeing you at the Club’s AGM on Wednesday evening, 9th March – and please send in your “baby photo” soon!

The Committee