



## **Blofield & District Gardening Club March 2021 Newsletter**

**Hello all Gardening Club members and “interested others”.**

Along with crocus, daffodils and hyacinths, the bright shoots of a possible ending of Lockdown 3 are also in sight – a relief to us all. However we need to remain patient for the next few weeks, and to help while away that time, the committee is pleased to offer you a couple of Zoom meetings.

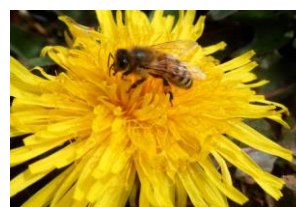
We understand that not everyone loves the prospect of using the computer for talks, but it has been a lifeline for many over the past year and many museums, theatres, universities and local groups have offered interesting presentations to help fill our unexpected spare time.

As some people might wish to practise using Zoom before joining a talk, the committee has arranged for a trial session on **Friday evening, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 p.m.** If you would like to be a part of this, even if you have not used Zoom before, do join us. It is an excellent opportunity to see how Zoom works, how to use the various buttons, and have a chat with other members too. All you need to do is put your cursor on the following link and follow the instructions:

<https://zoom.us/j/96287914444?pwd=V2tzNDc4Q0V0M29FbFdHNWgvcjZlQT09>

You might be asked for a Meeting ID: 962 8791 4444 or a Passcode: 777383

**Once you feel more confident about using Zoom, and to try to help keep the Gardening Club relevant and of interest to current and future members, Lynda Hunt has very kindly organised a light-hearted Zoom talk about bees, bee-keeping and the flowers they enjoy visiting.**



### **Bee-friendly Gardens**

**Wednesday evening, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 from 7:30 p.m.**

We hope lots of people will join Lynda for this talk. So that we can keep an eye on numbers, and can send the link out for people to join the talk, please e-mail me on: [blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com](mailto:blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com) then I can send you the Zoom link.

The committee is also considering whether it might be possible to hold a “garden party” of some sort during the summer, to which all members would be invited. It may be that people would need to bring their own seats and perhaps even refreshments, but if it is allowed under the Covid-19 regulations, then it would be a nice opportunity to catch up.

If anyone could suggest a good open (ideally free) venue for this, please let one of the committee know or e-mail: [blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com](mailto:blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com)

## **Message from Mrs Pat Thomas – March, 2021**

I am writing to thank June and Sue and the committee for their wonderful efforts to produce the Newsletters from the Gardening Club, to keep us all up to date with the horticultural goings-on. It's been a whole year – a bad year – in which we've all had to keep ourselves safe and not catch this wretched virus. Who would have thought at the A.G.M. last March that we wouldn't be meeting for a whole year? It really seems much longer than that!

I commend the committee for deciding not to plan any meetings, and to come up with get-togethers on Zoom. I haven't access to any of these clever electronic gadgets, so I can't take part in the Zoom meetings, but I'm sure they will be a great success however.

Good wishes to you all, Pat Thomas

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### **NEWS FROM THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The RHS Hampton Court Flower Show is taking place in early July. The show is open to RHS members only on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July. It is open to the public between 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

As some of you may already be aware, for the first time ever the RHS Chelsea Flower Show will be held in September instead of May because of the uncertainties surrounding the Covid 19 pandemic. The dates of the 2021 show are 21-26 September and it will be held, as usual, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital. If you can't or don't wish to attend in person there will be a virtual RHS Chelsea again. The first in 2020 was enjoyed by people from 138 different countries.

### **NEWS FROM THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

The next NNHS Zoom talk takes place on Monday 29 March 2021. The intriguing title is "The Gardens of North Korea". The speaker is Neil Miller, Head Gardener at Hever Castle. This is the second talk supporting the gardeners' charity "Perennial".

The third talk in the series is on Monday 26 April 2021. It will be a virtual tour of West Green House Gardens in Hampshire with Gareth Manning, Vice President of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture.

These talks are free for members of the NNHS and Members of Affiliated Societies - one of which is Blofield & District Gardening Club.

The NNHS has supplied a helpful guide to joining a Zoom meeting – attached to the covering e-mail. It is reasonably easy and straightforward. Importantly, you don't need to register for a Zoom account to join a meeting. Also you don't need a camera turned on, you can just join in audio mode. Some people did this for the February talk which was joined by nearly 130 people across Norfolk.

*(Sue Brown says joining a Zoom meeting just to listen to a talk is quite simple – "if my husband and his pals can do it for a virtual pub get together every Friday, anyone can!")*

### **NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME**

Gardens opening for the NGS are beginning to be listed on the NGS website. With current and near future travel restrictions in mind the only garden close to Blofield to be opening in the next few weeks is the "Old House", Ranworth, NR13 6HS on 11 April, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm. Pre-booking is essential via the NGS Website. <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/25968/>

## **NEWS ITEM FROM "THE GARDEN", THE RHS MAGAZINE.**

The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies is holding its first virtual National Show in April. Currently there are only limited details on the website [nafas.org.uk](http://nafas.org.uk) - with more promised in the coming weeks.

### **Royal Horticultural Society – update for affiliated members**

Hello All. Welcome to our 2021 Spring newsletter.

Now we can see light at the end of that very dark tunnel and our spring bulbs are beginning to break through, life is definitely looking a lot brighter! I have really enjoyed reading how creative you have all been and how most clubs are now embracing Zoom (who had even heard of it a year ago?!). A huge thank you to all our clubs who paid by Direct Debit or payment card – it made a huge difference to our team working in central London allowing more of them to work safely from home. Sadly our plans for an online portal have been postponed for another year, but we will get there!

- ☐ Can you help? - The RHS has always prided itself on our top quality judges, but over the years, as judges have left, we have not replaced them at the same rate and now looking forward we are keen to find new floral and or horticultural judges for our shows. If you, or anyone you know are interested in applying for training to become an RHS Judge please email [affiliated@rhs.org.uk](mailto:affiliated@rhs.org.uk) with your details and I will pass them on to our Judges team.
- ☐ We are looking at ideas to connect with you all over the coming year, so look out for invitations to join us on-line for various events and more.
- ☐ As we continue to process the renewals we are also getting together the data to update the community map. This should be complete by the end of March and will help to encourage potential new members to contact you to find out more about what your club has to offer.
- ☐ And finally if you or your colleagues fancy joining the RHS you can use this special promotion: Join today and enjoy 12 months for the price of 9\* Visit [rhs.org.uk/join/4004](http://rhs.org.uk/join/4004)  
\*Introductory offer by annual Direct Debit. Terms and conditions apply.

Enjoy your gardens and stay safe. All the best

**Susie Corr**  
Affiliated Societies & Partner Gardens

<b>Royal Horticultural Society</b> RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB <a href="mailto:susancorr@rhs.org.uk">susancorr@rhs.org.uk</a> 07702 102 578 <a href="http://rhs.org.uk">rhs.org.uk</a>
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**Hazel rods for sale: we have available large quantities of thin freshly cut hazel rods ideal for pea sticks, making garden structures, plant supports and for use in basket making. Perhaps some of your members and associates might be interested. Price £0.98 each incl. VAT + p&p. Minimum order 20 rods.**

**Edward Brun | Director**

T: [01485 518229](tel:01485518229) | M: [07767264797](tel:07767264797)

E: [ebrun@fringestate.co.uk](mailto:ebrun@fringestate.co.uk) |

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Dear member/affiliated society member

This was sent to me by someone who knows I love cacti and succulents. If you are interested, take a look. If not, just ignore!

<https://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/moonflower/>

Lesley Webdale  
General Secretary  
Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society

## March “competition” - some spring flowers in a vase



From: **June and Alan Drake**



**Sue Rowe**

*And how's this for hope springing eternal!*



**Webinars about pot plants!** We have been sent the following link to a website which features various talks about pot plants. We haven't checked them out personally but you might wish to have a look and perhaps let us know what you think.

[On The Ledge podcast — Jane Perrone](#)

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### Churchyards as wildflower havens and wildlife sanctuaries

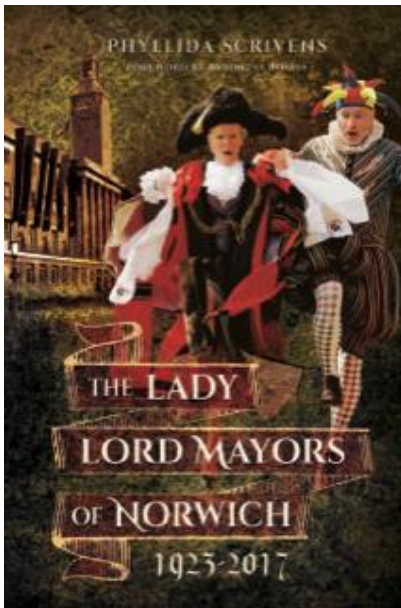
**5<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June** is “Love your Burial Ground week”, organised by an organisation called Caring for God's Acre. <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/> Locally many of the churchyards have been sympathetically managed by the Blofield & District Conservation Group BADCOG and more recently by the Bure Valley Conservation Group, along with dedicated members of churches and local volunteers.

Once the Covid-19 regulations allow, and if you feel you would like to help to conserve important local habitats, BADCOG would be very pleased to hear from you. Details of the sites that the group manages and other information is available on their website: <http://badcog.co.uk/>

**The Friends of All Saints Church at Hemblington is planning to celebrate the diversity of flowers and wildlife in the churchyard by offering wildflower walks and bird and dragonfly spotting during the celebration week in June. Information will be available on the church's website: [www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk)**



## For those with an interest in local history



### Brundall Local History Group

invites you to meet us via Zoom to hear Phyllida Scrivens' illustrated talk about **"The Lady Lord Mayors of Norwich"** on **Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7.30 pm.**

'Since 1923 when Ethel Colman became the first female Lord Mayor, both of Norwich and in the UK, there have been a further sixteen women who have worn the historic chain of office. Using interview and research material, Phyllida Scrivens explores their diverse and remarkable lives, both personal and public. Her award winning book, a group biography on this subject was published in 2018.'

If you would like to be sent the link for this talk nearer the time please email [enquiries@brundallvillagehistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brundallvillagehistory.org.uk) or visit our website [www.brundallvillagehistory.org.uk](http://www.brundallvillagehistory.org.uk) for more details.

### Some information from the Norfolk Green Care Network

*The network has a number of Zoom sessions scheduled over the coming weeks (all 4 pm- 5.30 pm) - sign up by clicking on the Eventbrite links:*

**24th March- 'Urban Playground'**- A new book by Tim Gill (all about child-friendly urban design and planning) has just been published and Tim has agreed to join us to talk about his ideas, and use some wonderful examples of how cities around the world are creating more liveable environments; more green space and nature coupled with reducing the dependency on car travel and pollution  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/urban-playground-tickets-140417509551>

**7th April- Growing Together-** setting up and running Community Allotments- we have a number of speakers from local projects  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/growing-together-tickets-140419844535>

**21st April- 'The Natural Health Service'**- a recent book by Isabel Hardman includes a 'manifesto' for connecting with nature; let's discuss what this means and what we can do. This will include expert speakers on topics such as nature connection in social prescribing, employee health, protecting and enhancing nature etc.  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-natural-health-service-tickets-140420476425>

I'm very pleased that Voluntary Norfolk have agreed to contribute to a new *Workshop* on **Recruiting and supporting volunteers**, something I know is of vital importance to many green care projects. This is scheduled for **5<sup>th</sup> May (4pm-5.30pm)** and you can register a place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/recruiting-and-supporting-volunteers-tickets-144216187499>

Nigel Boldero

Web: [www.ngcnetwork.wordpress.com](http://www.ngcnetwork.wordpress.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngcnet>

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**Let us hope that by the time we are compiling the next Newsletter there will be better news about being able to get out and about a bit more. Do please remember to send in any articles or photographs you would like included in the next Newsletter.**

**With all good wishes from your Committee.**