

MARLBOROUGH GARDENING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

MEADOW IN MY GARDEN

SPEAKER: PAUL JUPP

Venue: Christchurch Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

Doors open 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.

The speaker for September is now Paul Jupp, because Mike Burgess is unable to give any more talks due to ill health. Paul Jupp is the Director of "Meadow in my Garden", a small business in Devizes. Following a career in sustainable gardening, in 2011 Paul decided to set up his own eco-friendly business from home. He is one of three floral meadow technicians specialising in the supply of wildlife friendly seed mixtures for the novice gardener and the enthusiast alike. He has had a lifelong passion for organic gardening and protecting some of the U.K.'s most important species, such as butterflies and bees.

Lectures are free to members and there is no need to book. They are also open to non-members and a donation is appreciated. Tea and biscuits are served before the talk so come early to chat to friends and buy some raffle tickets. Garden related offerings for the raffle – plants, books, seeds – are much appreciated.

ALDBOURNE AUTUMN MARKET AND PRODUCE SHOW ON THE GREEN

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 11 ~ 2 p.m.

Sunday 10 September will see the tents go up on Aldbourne's village Green with local traders piling in to set out stalls selling a huge choice of plants at bargain prices – from herbaceous perennials and shrubs to roses and topiary. It's a great day out for all the family, with crafts, and a wide range of food, including street food, for enjoying in late summer sunshine. Keen village growers, bakers and makers will also be displaying the results of their handiwork at the Produce Show tent. Visitors are assured of a warm welcome and genuinely off-the-high-street retail therapy. For more details phone Lesley on 01672 540180

AUGUST MEMBERS' MEETING ~ FERNS AND GRASSES

Roger Turner treated us to a very comprehensive lecture on "graceful grasses and first-rate ferns". The majority of hardy ferns require a cool shady position and moist soil; equal parts of loam and leafmould suit most kinds. In sheltered positions hardy ferns are best planted in autumn, but if exposed, it should be delayed until late March, and the soil kept moist by watering during the summer. Most ferns can be increased by dividing the clumps. This is best done when growth starts in spring. The rhizomes are cut into pieces with a sharp knife and set in separate pots, just large enough to hold the roots. Dicksonia Tree Ferns, with stout stems up to 40' high are tender and will need winter protection but any good nursery will have a wide choice of hardy ferns to give your shady borders year-round interest.

"There is a grass for all gardens, from the 4" pygmy Festuca 'Golden Toupee' to the stately Pampas Grass beloved of Victorian gardeners", said Roger and proceeded to list some of the more accommodating varieties: Arundo donax, Miscanthus, Stipa, Festuca, Pennisetum, Briza, & Phalaris. Grasses come in many colours – blue, yellow, purple gold, and even the red Imperata. They are grown mainly as foliage plants, adding grace and contrast to borders and rock gardens. Grasses are easy to grow in any well-drained soil and many self-seed readily. Propagate by seed or division in spring. Dead foliage may be cut back on herbaceous perennials when dormant. Pests and diseases usually give little trouble.

MASSIVE PLANT SALE AT WEST KINGTON NURSERIES
WEST KINGTON, CHIPPENHAM SN14 7JQ
SATURDAY 9AM – 5PM SEPTEMBER 9TH
SUNDAY 10AM – 4PM SEPTEMBER 10TH

West Kington Nurseries is once again opening its gates for a giant charity plant sale. It is a great day out for all the family. There will be a huge choice of plants on sale at bargain prices from herbaceous perennials and shrubs to roses and topiary, with gardening experts on hand for top tips and advice.

Last year the Spring and Autumn plant weekends raised almost £2,500 for local charities, including Wiltshire Air Ambulance and the organizers are hoping to raise even more this year. Visitors are assured of a warm welcome and genuinely off-the-high-street retail therapy. For more information Tel:01249 782822

GROW YOUR HORTICULTURAL SKILLS

In addition to her twice weekly market stall, Sonia Wright is branching out (sorry!) into a series of workshops covering both the skills of propagation and wider aspects of horticulture.

Sonia has 25 years of propagating and growing experience and a lifelong passion for plants. She has also designed and installed major landscape projects and realised medal winning gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show. Last year her Nepeta Crystal Cloud was one of the top 5 new plants at Chelsea. Sonia has also appeared on the BBC TV programme *Gardeners' World*.

For more information, pick up a leaflet from the market stall or our monthly meetings or email sonia@soniawrightgardens.co.uk to join the mailing list.

YOUR GARDEN IN SEPTEMBER

★ Take lavender and rose cuttings: Select firm, young shoots with a heel; trim the heel and remove any soft wood at the tip of the shoot. Dip the cuttings in rooting powder and insert into pots of gritty soil or a shallow trench outdoors. Plant out the following spring.

★ Plant bulbs: If daffodils, narcissi and crocuses are to be naturalised in grass, the sooner they are to be planted the better. A bulb planter makes light work of this.

★ Take cuttings of pelargoniums and fuchsias: These are easy to take but there is some urgency about doing this job as the weather will soon be against quick rooting. Choose firm shoots, ideally with a heel, and make a clean cut immediately below a node or leaf joint. Place several cuttings round the edge of 3½" pots filled with potting compost and leave in a cold frame or window sill until roots have formed when they can be potted individually.

★ Sow sweet peas: Pop 5 or 6 seeds in a 3" pot and germinate in a cold frame. The young plants will be potted in January.

★ Grease band fruit trees: Special bands and banding compounds are available at garden centres, and putting them on trees to control the winter moth is easy. Broad bands of greaseproof paper are placed around the main trunk or each of the main branches and are coated with a sticky substance which traps the wingless female winter moths and prevents them laying their eggs on the branches.

★ Pick and store apples, pears, onions and tomatoes before the first frosts.

Contributions to Anne Crawley, 3 River Park, SN8 1NH or email anne@unicorn9.plus.com
The copy deadline for the October Newsletter is Monday 25th September 2017

**VISIT TO BATSFORD ARBORETUM
WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2017**

Our visit this autumn to Batsford Arboretum **will we hope coincide with** nature's natural fireworks display which takes place in the arboretum at this time of year with leaf colour to take your breath away. Unbelievable beauty at every turn! We will enjoy a guided tour of the arboretum, which will introduce us to the extensive plant and tree collection from around the world.

The plant centre and shop will provide an opportunity to treat yourself as well as do a bit of early Christmas shopping for your 'green fingered' friends, while the Garden Terrace Cafe offers a range of hot dishes at lunchtime and delicious home baked cakes and pastries.

For anyone who thinks the visit might involve too much walking for them, the Arboretum does have a couple of all terrain vehicles (Trampers) available, which must be booked. If anyone is interested please contact the Arboretum direct and talk to Helen Powell on 01386 701441.

We leave Marlborough at 9.30am and return at 4.45/5.00pm. The cost for coach, entry and guided tour of the arboretum will be £15 for Batsford or Westonbirt Arboretum members and £22 for non-members. (Batsford and Westonbirt Arboretum members - please bring your membership card to secure free entry). Refreshments are not included in the price. There is a restaurant and picnics are allowed.

Travel times:

Barnes coach pick up High Street (The Polly) **9.30 am**

An Ogbourne St Andrew pickup at 9.15 am may be possible, see booking form

Return to Marlborough at **4.45/5.00 pm**.

Please return the booking form below by **10 October** if you would like to come.

**BOOKING FORM
VISIT TO BATSFORD ARBORETUM WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2017**

Name

Address

Phone

Cost £22.00 per person or £15.00 if you are a current member of Batsford or Westonbirt Arboretum (please remember to bring your membership card).

I am/am not a member of Batsford/Westonbirt Arboretum (*please delete as appropriate*).

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association.

If you would prefer to be picked up in Ogbourne St Andrew please tick here, and depending on numbers this may be possible.

Please send this form together with your cheque by 10 October 2017 to: Amelia Trevethick, Granham Thatch, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4DW

**WEEKEND VISIT TO DYFFRYN, ABERGLASNEY, PICTON CASTLE
& THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES
FRIDAY JUNE 15TH – SUNDAY JUNE 17TH 2018**

Next year our weekend away will take us to South Wales. Friday we visit Highfield Garden World in Whitminster for our morning coffee before heading over the border to Dyffryn Gardens & Arboretum in the Vale of Glamorgan. On Saturday morning we make the short journey to Llanarthne and The National Botanic Garden of Wales followed by the afternoon at Aberglasney Gardens in Llangathan. Sunday morning we make our way further west to Picton Castle & Gardens, Rhos near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

Our hotel for the weekend will be the Best Western Diplomat Hotel, Felinfoel, Llanelli, South Wales. The hotel does not have any walk in showers, and has a limited number of ground floor bedrooms. There is a lift which travels to all floors, but some rooms are still accessed via some steps.

Please note that it is not possible to get the coach to the main entrance, and the hotel reception is reached via 18 steps up from the car park.

The price, to include all coach travel, 2 night's bed, breakfast and evening meal, together with a buffet lunch at Picton Castle and all entrance fees, is £264 for a minimum of 30 people and £244 for 40 people. There is a single supplement of £20.

Numbers will be limited to 40, and a reserve list kept for any over this number, should anyone drop out.

A deposit of £40 per person will secure your place. Please complete the booking form, and return it together with your cheque, to Carolyn Davis (address below) by December 31st 2017. The final balance is due April 13th 2018, and you will be advised of the amount due and also the pick-up points/departure times etc. in the March & April 2018 newsletters. Please note that the booking is made through Barnes Coaches Ltd., who are members of the Bonded Coach Holiday Group – i.e. should the company cease trading you are guaranteed repayment of any money paid.

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. If you do not already have a policy, cover can be provided at an estimated cost of £19 (the cost for 2018 is not available until late 2017) for the 3 day tour. To comply with FSA regulations, a representative of Barnes Coaches Ltd will have to contact each individual, who requires insurance. Please indicate on the booking form if you require this service.

BOOKING FORM – your details please

Name-----

Address-----

Telephone : home ----- mobile-----

email -----

Double----- Single (£20 supplement)-----

Twin----- Sharing with ----- (name)

Any special requirements (dietary or otherwise) -----

Travel insurance – required/not required (please delete as appropriate)

For Dyffryn only – I am/am not a member of the National Trust (please delete as appropriate)

Deposit £40 per person. Cheques should be made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association, and sent to Carolyn Davis, Bridleway Cottage, Ogbourne St Andrew, Marlborough, SN8 1XF by December 31st 2017

Please note that cheques will not be presented for payment until after this date.

For further details please contact Carolyn Davis 01672 841294 or Cheryl Swan 01672 841521