

MARLBOROUGH GARDENING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH
"NATURE'S POISONERS"
SPEAKER: LYNDA WARREN**

Venue: Christchurch Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

Doors open 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.

Lynda lives in Purton and has been giving talks on many subjects for around 45 years. Her interest in Agatha Christie led her to write a talk about the poisonous plants that live in our gardens.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Looking back over a very successful year, Tricia noted that there had been a great variety of talks, including making patio containers, grasses and ferns, rare and unusual bulbs and pruning trees and shrubs. Very popular visits to the Malvern Spring Show, Mottisfont Abbey, Longstock water gardens and Batsford Arboretum had taken place. The weekend away in West Sussex in June had been very enjoyable, helped by wonderful sunny weather, and thanks were expressed to Carolyn Davis and Cheryl Swan.

The Plant Sale in May had been very successful and raised a considerable sum. In May 2018 the sale would take place in the Wesley Hall, for one year only. MGA had contributed to Marlborough in Bloom and sponsored three planters. This year Marlborough was awarded Gold in the Champion of

Champions class in the south west. Many congratulations were offered to Anne Crawley, our newsletter editor, who chairs Marlborough in Bloom and masterminds the whole campaign.

The programme for 2018 - 2019 was on the new yellow card and there was an exciting variety of talks planned. Jan Lillywhite was warmly thanked for her work in producing the programme.

Finally, Tricia expressed her thanks to the committee and others for all their help – Jane Tilbrook and Miranda Gilmour for organising outings, Jan Lillywhite for arranging the programme, Anne Crawley for producing the newsletter, Amelia Trevethick for her work as Treasurer and for organising the membership, and Pauline Berryman, Dorothy Aitcheson and Jacqui Taylor for their many contributions.

ANNUAL LUNCH

Saturday 21st April 2018 12.30 for 1 p.m.

Marlborough Golf Club is once again the venue for our Annual Lunch. The price includes a choice of two courses including coffee. Please return the booking form at the end of this Newsletter by Wednesday March 14th (Amelia will bring some printed forms to the March meeting) and join us for an enjoyable meal in delightful surroundings.

10% DISCOUNT FOR MGA MEMBERS AT SARAH RAVEN

Carolyn Davis writes: I have been ordering plants etc from Sarah Raven for a number of years. The plants are always good quality and any issues I've had, have been dealt with both, efficiently and cheerfully. So, as their warehouse and customer service team are based on Marlborough's Business Park, I thought I would approach them for a MGA members' discount. They were happy to grant a permanent 10% ,and the code to be quoted when ordering is MGA10. The web site is sarahraven.com

PLANT SALE SATURDAY 19TH MAY IN THE WESLEY HALL

This year the Sale will take place in the Wesley Hall, because of a problem with booking the Town Hall. However only the venue is changed - everything else remains the same! This means that it is time to start thinking about plants for the Sale and what you can contribute. March is a good time to take soft tip cuttings and to divide up any overgrown clumps of perennials. Once the weather improves and you are out in your garden, please look around and see whether there are plants you can propagate.

Remember, the success of the Sale depends on your contributions!

IN YOUR GARDEN IN MARCH

- After flowering, divide and replant snowdrops, winter aconites and hardy cyclamen. They'll appreciate a handful of compost or bonemeal forked in at planting time.
- Start into growth and take cuttings of pelargoniums, fuchsias and other tender plants. Repot into fresh compost and water sparingly until new growth appears.
- Harden off sweet peas and plant outdoors; pinch out the main stem to encourage strong, bushy plants.
- Prune roses and late-flowering clematis, but leave the montanas and other early varieties until after flowering.
- Lawns need help. Rake out the 'thatch' (old dead grass and moss) and re-seed bare patches when the soil has warmed up. Send the mower for sharpening in readiness for the first cut towards the end of the month.
- Plant early potatoes, asparagus, broad beans and early carrots.

NEED SOME HELP WITH YOUR GARDEN?

Perhaps those of you who might need some help in the garden would like to know that Amelia, our Treasurer, is setting up as a jobbing gardener 3 days a week from March 6th . Contact her on 07909 688261

**The deadline for copy for the April Newsletter is Friday 23rd March.
Please send contributions to anne@unicorn9.plus.com**

Annual Lunch
Saturday April 21st 2018
Marlborough Golf Club
12.30pm for 1pm

Menu. Please choose up to one of each course per person

Main course served with choice of vegetables

- 1. (V) Vegetable Wellington with Goats Cheese and Red Pepper Coulis
- 2. Braised Lamb Shank with Minted Red Wine Sauce served on Herbed Mash
- 3. Fabulous Fish Pie

Dessert

- 1 Fresh Fruit Pavlova with Coulis
- 2. Tiramisu
- 3. Duo of White & Dark Chocolate Mousse

Price £18.00 including coffee

Please return this form by
Wednesday March 14th to
Amelia Trevethick
Granham Thatch, Granham Hill
Marlborough
SN8 4DP

Name.....
Address.....
Tel.....

Amount enclosed £.....
Cheques payable to **Marlborough Gardening Association or MGA**

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I / we have chosen

Main.....

Dessert.....

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