

MARLBOROUGH GARDENING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER
DECK THE HALLS**

SPEAKER: SALLY BULLOCK

**Venue: Christchurch Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough
Doors open 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.**

Sally Bullock is making a return visit (she came in 2013 and gave us a Christmas workshop and demonstration). This time she will be demonstrating some Christmas Arrangements.

From 7.15 p.m., hot punch and mince pies will be served so come in good time to start the Christmas celebrations and maybe win a raffle prize. Garden related offerings for the raffle – plants, books, seeds etc. - are always much appreciated.

REPORT ON NOVEMBER TALK CLASSIC, RARE AND UNUSUAL BULBS

Gill Hazell introduced us to an exciting collection of rare and unusual bulbs, from the Tulipa Duc van Tol introduced in 1585 to the exotic and tender Gloriosa Superba Rothschildiana as well as some rather splendid varieties of Hippeastrum. Here are some more recommended bulbs:

Tulipa Clusiana 'Lady Jane'	Lycoris aurea
Narcissus cyclamineus	Hymenocallis festalis Zwanenburg
Fritillaria persica	Tulbaghia violacea
Sprekelia formosissima	Camassia leichtlinii
Ornithogalum nutans	Corydalis solida 'George Baker'
Eucomis bicolor	Galtonia viridiflora
Eucomis autumnalis	Tigridia pavonia

At the end of the talk, members snapped up most of the bulbs that Gill had brought for sale. You can order bulbs for next year from her new catalogue which will be published next March. The nursery, somewhat confusingly, is named Great Western Gladiolus (they specialize in them). Contact details are: www.greatwesterngladiolus.co.uk or ring Gill for a catalogue on 01761 452036.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pauline Berryman writes: The Merchant's House would be very happy and grateful to have new gardeners to help keep the 17th century garden behind the the house in good order. This entails meeting other volunteers for an hour about every fortnight from Spring onwards to weed, deadhead flowers, tidy paths, water in hot weather and plant bulbs in the autumn. It is a peaceful space and not arduous work!

If you would like to be involved with the Merchants House as a volunteer, this is the 'fresh air' way!

Please phone Pauline if you are interested: 01672 514030

COMMITTEE MEETING MATTERS

At the Committee Meeting held on 4th October, it was reported that:

- ★ £200 had been sent from the Association as a donation to the new primary school, Marlborough St Mary's, for use in their garden.
- ★ There are currently about 150 members. A list of those who have not renewed their subscription was circulated and committee members agreed to prompt those known to them to see if they wished to rejoin.
- ★ The May Plant Sale made a healthy profit of £811. Next year the sale will move to the Wesley Hall because of a mix-up with the Town Hall booking. Because of lack of space, coffee & cakes will not be offered.
- ★ Jane Tilbrook and Miranda Gilmour were congratulated on a very successful year of visits, the first for which they had been responsible. Possible venues for 2018 were discussed, including Kew Gardens, Hidcote & Kiftsgate Gardens, Hestercombe, Iford Manor and Market Lavington Manor. The idea of visiting NGS village Open Gardens afternoons was also mooted, and this would be raised at an evening members meeting to see whether members might be interested.

THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER

*What freezings have I felt, what dark days seen!
What old December's bareness everywhere!*

Sonnets.

Wm. Shakespeare

- * Prune overgrown shrubs by removing some of the older branches and cutting the others back.
- * Shake snow from evergreens and conifers to avoid broken branches.
- * Ventilate cold frames in mild weather but keep them closed and covered with mats in frosty weather.
- * Vigorous climbing plants should be thinned and pruned; some of the favourite kinds are Abutilon, Fuchsia, Plumbago, Rose and Honeysuckle
- * Apply grease bands to fruit trees and finish pruning apples and pears.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW GARDENING YEAR

The copy deadline for the January Newsletter is Friday 29th December.
Contributions to the Editor: anne@unicorn9.plus.com