

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE GARDENING CLUB

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February 2020 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Welcome to another year of South Herefordshire Garden Club activities. We have just started our late winter/early spring garden talk programme with Marion Stainton talking about Good Companions which is aimed that those of us who could be described as plantaholics on how to fit those spur of the moment purchases into our gardens! She showed some interesting plant combinations which we could adapt for our own gardens.

Then we have the extremely knowledgeable and expert Duncan Coombs on lilies in our gardens and in March Samantha Hope of Hopes Garden Plants based in Halesowen in the West Midlands. Before this Samantha trained at Kew and then spent time working at Ashwood Nurseries looking after John Massey's Hepatica collection. This is their top 100, so difficult to pick but these are their favourite plants sure to be full of colour, texture and scent giving interest throughout the year.

Your committee remains unchanged for the moment. We do need volunteers to do the teas. Pat and Roy are continuing to provide tea/coffee, milk and the essential biscuits but to share the load other members are required to make the tea and clear up afterwards so please come forward, it is only 6 meetings a year so it is not too onerous to help out at one meeting.

As usual can I please ask you to sow some extra seeds, take a few cuttings or divide up some of your treasures and bring them along to the May Plant Sale. Hopefully the excellent salvia plantsman will return as well as Nicola with her lovely summer bedding plants and Nicky has someone else in mind to invite as well.

As mentioned at our meeting we do need volunteers to organise our summer garden visits. David Thomson has already bagged June so we are looking for someone for July and also for late August or early September are also required. One possibility for later in September is to visit Cherry Taylor's garden near Monmouth, who gave us the talk on No Dig Gardening last November, but this would have to be after she has opened for the NGS on September 13th. Jo has some other ideas if you would like to do one but need inspiration. Dates and booking forms to follow for all of these of course nearer the time.

I think that everyone who was there agreed that we had an excellent Christmas lunch at Glewstone Court, helped by a very entertaining talk from Fiona Warin on the WWII Land Army. However as again mentioned on Saturday we slightly underestimated the costs due to the group booking service charge so if we go back there this year it will be more expensive at around £28 pp but everyone at the meeting seemed to think that this would be ok.

As a last point just to let you know that Adam Frost is coming to Blakes Theatre in Monmouth on March 4th and there are still tickets left.