



NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Dear Members,

Christmas seems to come more quickly every year, sometimes creeping up before we feel ready for it, but now that we've had a dose of proper winter weather we might all be in a slightly more Christmassy mood. Our December coffee morning on Saturday **4th December** will give us a taste of Christmases past, when Katherine Kear will take a look at 'A Victorian Christmas'. Katherine is a professional florist with an impressive portfolio and a speaker on folklore and traditions on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, so we're looking forward to hearing her. As usual, refreshments will be available from 10.30, with the talk starting around 11am.

Our spring 2022 events are: Roger Umpelby on 'The Kitchen Garden' on **19th February**; Andy Parsons, Chief Executive of the Cotswold Conservation Board, on the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on **12th March**; and our AGM and lunch on **2nd April**, when our programme for 2022-23 will be available. Save the dates, and we hope that no Covid restrictions will upset our plans!

Dobies Seeds are once again offering us a 50% discount on their seeds (and 15% on other products), though we are under notice that the recent low uptake by the Society means that this is likely to be withdrawn in future unless members make greater use of the scheme. If you would like a catalogue, let me know, or you can order direct through their website, www.dobies.co.uk; either way you should use discount code SUGD1046Z, which remains valid until late summer 2022. They have a good range of flower and vegetable seeds, including some organic and interesting heritage varieties, and while these seeds (and other gardening products) are not expensive, a 50% discount is not to be sneezed at! So use it or lose it

We hope that our October talk on sustainable gardening, and the COP26 conference, have prompted you to review at least some of your gardening practices. Gardening has not always been necessarily very 'green'! Many years ago I had a problem with one of our apple trees, and sought advice on what the problem was and what I should do about it from a 1950s gardening book. After all, surely the old methods were the best? The book made no mention of apple tree pests; instead, it simply instructed the reader to spray trees with one chemical at one time of year, with another chemical at another time of year and with a third chemical at a third time of year. It didn't say what these chemicals were for; and one of them was DDT, which even I knew had since been banned because of its toxicity. I put the book back on the shelf. No modern writer would advise such a cavalier approach to a garden problem, and I'm sure that none of you would take such an attitude nowadays; but it was typical of the ignorance and thoughtlessness that led to many of our current environmental problems. Most of us have, at one time or another, unthinkingly used gardening products such as pesticides, peat-based composts or single-use plastics without considering the impact that we might be having on the environment as a whole. Let's all make a resolution to lighten our load on the planet in 2022 and beyond!

Happy gardening!

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