



# Dawlish Garden Society

## Newsletter December 20201



### 2022 Programme

We are looking forward to a full programme next year.

**January 29, 10-12,** Coffee Morning with seed swap, early spring plants for sale etc

**February 26, 10.00** Successful Fruit and Vegetable Growing

**March 31, 19.00,** AGM and Spring Flower Show

**April 28, 19.00,** Presenting Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers for the Show

**May 14th,** Spring Plant Sale at Strand Centre

**May 28, 19.00,** Lukesland Gardens

**June 30, 19.00,** Wildlife Friendly Gardening

**August 14,** Summer Show, Strand Centre

**September 29, 19.00,** Hedgehogs

**October 27th, 19.00** Holly and Ivy

**November 24, 19.00,** Companion Planting and other Natural Gardening Methods

### January Coffee Morning

This is a social event, as we were unable to hold our 160 year events and had to cancel several meeting in both 2020 and 2021, the coffee and cakes will be provided by the society at no cost to members or guest.

If you have seeds you collected in the summer and autumn, please bring along to share/swap, and if you have excess primroses, snowdrops or other early flowering plants, bring along for the early flowering plant sale.

We are hoping that many of our members who do not like going out on cold, dark winter nights will be able to join us for this social occasion.

### Outings for 2022

We hope we will be able to do the following, restrictions allowing.

April—Group booking to Powderham Show

May—By train to Lukesland Gardens

June— Saturday afternoon tour around some members gardens and tea

July—Coach trip to a Devon Garden

## Meet the Committee – Jenny Lancaster, Speaker Finder

Pumpkins, with Lori Reich presenting an amazing variety of these colourful vegetables, was the subject of the first Dawlish Garden Society meeting I ever attended back in 2009. Boy, was I delighted with her return visit ten years later when she cooked delicious strawberry jam and made fresh scones in front of our very eyes to share with us, Mmm!

It's been a lot of fun choosing speakers over the 7 years that I've been organising the Society's annual programme of talks. Sometimes, of course, there have been panic stations when a speaker cannot attend, we've certainly experienced that quite a lot of late! Luckily, we have been very fortunate with obliging folk coming to our rescue and surprising us with unexpected topics. On the 2020 membership card, on a whim, I added the phrase that the 'Programme may be subject to change', gosh, was that ever prophetic.

I try to visit other garden Society meetings to hear various speakers for inspiration and gauge their suitability. I also communicate with speaker finders from other Garden Societies, and we share information on our proposed programme of talks for the next year.

Keeping to a budget is getting harder but re-arranging our meeting times in January and February and moving the AGM to combine with the Spring Flower Show has helped to keep costs down. I usually meet the speaker at each meeting and ensure that they have all they need to make their talk run smoothly. Many thanks go to the committee, especially June, Suzanne, Roger and Andrew for their help with this and to Dick for making sure that our speaker is paid after the talk.

Following the success of our DGS stall at the Great Big Green Event on the Lawns last September, I thought that I would continue the theme of 'Sustainable gardening and reducing our carbon footprints in the garden' for the 2022 talks. However, I probably won't stick to having a theme each year as I feel this could be somewhat limiting, after all, variety is the spice of life.

## Growing Garlic

*'Plant on the shortest day and harvest on the longest'*

Garlic likes full sun and well drained soil which is slightly alkaline and has had good compost mulched in. Plant to suit the bulb type, either autumn, winter or spring. Garlic should be kept away from peas, beans, parsley and sage as it inhibits their growth. Plant 2 inches deep and keep well watered and weeded.

Harvest hard-necks when leaves change colour and soft-neck when leaves lie prostrate. Dry in the sun for 3-4 weeks or in glasshouse or conservatory.

## Winners of NGS Nation's Favourite Gardens 2021 in Devon.

**Burrow Farm- Public Garden Winner**, which we visited with DGS on a very hot summers day in July 2018. This was after Mary Benger had come to give us a talk about how she had gone about transforming an old Roman clay quarry into her garden at the dairy farm. The garden has grown from that first project of 4 acres in the 80's and is now 13 acres. I can remember cooling off by dangling my feet in their swimming pool surrounded by perfumed roses and finding shade under the trees in the wildflower meadow. The Anniversary Garden was planted with naturalistic perennials and grasses in 2010 to celebrate Mary and John's 50 years at the farm, there is also a terrace and courtyard area with Cafe.

**Little Ash Bungalow—SW Regional Winner.** I visited this on a rainy day in June 2020 and found an oasis created out of a paddock. Helen Brown the owner has a passion for plants, as I wandered around, I saw purple-leaved plants such as Physocarpus and Cercis and may small trees. Close to the house are more tender plants such as salvias, hedychium and delicate alpines in a raised bed. Tropical Beschornaria Septentrionalis (photo) was magnificent in full bloom. The garden then slopes towards the River Otter, where a natural stream helps Alders to grow successfully with arisaema, podophyllum, primulas and trillium thriving underneath in the damp conditions. On the way back to the house, the mini meadow areas were full of wildflowers such as bird's foot trefoil, wild carrot, orchids and yellow rattle, attracting bees and butterflies.

**June Cassidy**



## Subscriptions

Just a reminder that membership runs from January each year, it is still at £6. You can re-join at a meeting or by BACS or Cheque, contact [suzannej191@gmail.com](mailto:suzannej191@gmail.com) for details.

For enquires contact: Chair, June Cassidy on 439076 or Secretary Suzanne Jones on 889184