



dawlish-gardensociety.uk

# Dawlish Garden Society

## Newsletter June 2021

### Calendar

#### July 1st

Hidden History of Dawlish Garden Society—7pm, at the Manor House. Please note the change of date for our June meeting from the membership cards. This meeting is being held under Covid restrictions of just 40 attendees, so please pre-book with Suzanne. There will be flower of the month, but no refreshments and no entry charge for members.

#### July 2nd

Visit to High Gardens at Kenton—by self drive or car share to arrive for 2pm. If you would like to join us let Suzanne know by Monday 28th, so the owners knows numbers for tea. Entrance is £4 with tea and cake extra.

#### August 14th

Summer Show at The Strand Centre—if you do not have your schedule yet they will be available at the meeting on July 1st, or just contact us. There will also be a plant sale that day; all donations welcome. You can leave them at the Strand Centre on the Friday evening between 6-7pm.

#### September 30th

The start of our Autumn programme

Flowers for Container Gardens—with Tom Sharples at the Manor House for 7pm. We anticipate that we will be meeting under normal circumstances and it will be just turn up on the evening.

*Keep a look out for news on what Dawlish is up to for The Great Big Green Week, September 18th—26th*

### The RHS are going wild about beetles!

Beetles are a vital part of any wild life garden. They will munch on garden insects like aphids and snails, whilst acting as food for our larger garden visitors such as hedgehogs and birds. Unfortunately, beetle populations are threatened by things like pesticides, habitat loss and climate change - but you can help.



You can download the free guide to Bringing Back Beetles from the RHS website with instructions for building your very own beetle bucket, beetle bank, or dead hedge in your own garden.

### Local NGS Gardens open this summer

- ◆ The Old School House, Ashcombe
- ◆ Houndspool, Ashcombe Road, Dawlish
- ◆ The Walled Garden, Lindridge
- ◆ Bickham House, Kenn

All the gardens above are opening their gates to visitors this summer. Details and information on booking your visit are on the NGS website.

This is the final monthly newsletter, we will now go to quarterly ones, with the first one in the first week of September. If you have content for this newsletter please send it in by August 28th.

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

Keep up to date with our web-site [dawlish-gardensociety.uk](http://dawlish-gardensociety.uk)

## THE NEW RHS BRIDGEWATER GARDEN AT SALFORD

I happened to be up north on the opening week in May of the eagerly awaited new garden being created by the RHS with the backing of Salford Council and other donations, so I was pleased to be able to get tickets. My friend Jane and I were unlucky with the weather as we put on our water-proof coats against the pouring rain – determined to make this a great day out.

The Welcome building was a sight to behold, with the wooden roof structure proudly on display, making it a nice airy space to congregate, shop and use the cafe.

You may have seen a recent TV programme about how the garden has been built and the value of volunteers to the RHS. So as soon as we got there, we booked onto a free guided tour with one of those volunteers. This lady had joined the team about 4 years ago at the start of the planning process, clearing brambles and years' worth of weeds. She had so much insider knowledge to pass on and told us about those huge topiary low growing trees that were featured on TV now in place in the lawns of the Worsley Welcome Garden, a space where children can run about and around those very trees. Great fun for them I reckon.

For the next hour, Hilary guided us along the main axis – The Long Walk - through an arch in the newly repointed, and in places, rebuilt wall of the Weston Walled Garden. A display of White, Pink and Purple Tulips lit up an exceptionally long border and was a sight to behold. Fruit trees had already been planted to be trained onto the wall with suitable wire supports as it grows to maturity. The long view was of a Tower of the Head Gardeners cottage, a superb Victorian focal point, planted up with bedding in that style.

Round the Orchard to one side of this cottage we now reached the already famous Paradise Garden with a Lily Pond at the centre. Thin rills running east to west bringing the sound of trickling water to the space and a sense of tranquillity as you sit on a wooden bench to contemplate the planting that surrounds you. It's Asian inspired to one side, Mediterranean with plenty of grit added on the other. Beech columns add height and drama to the design by Tom Stuart-Smith. What caught our eye were the pleached Persian Ironwood trees enclosing a courtyard underplanted with tall Iris. In another part of the Weston Walled Garden are two glasshouses, one for fruit and the other has tender plants. There is also a Kitchen Garden area designed by Exeter's Hugo Bugg, a community area, and a Bee & Butterfly Garden. Although all areas of the whole garden have been recently planted, already you can see how the planting will mature into a carpet of colour in future with many unusual varieties well labelled thank goodness.

Hilary then left us to explore the furthest reaches of the 11 acres. We walked through the Streamside Garden with acers, magnolia, candelabra primulas and other Chinese native plants, through woodland round Ellesmere Lake to try to envisage where Worsley New Hall would have been back in the 1850's when Queen Victoria stayed here. Then back through more woodland where Scouts had previously made camp, we were ready for a reviving cuppa. This garden is a true investment for the future of gardening in the North-West.

June Cassidy

You can catch up on the building of this new RHS garden on the BBC iplayer

