



dawlish-gardensociety.uk

Dawlish Garden Society

Newsletter March 2022

Spring Show

Thursday March 31st

This will be our first Spring Show since 2019, and for new members who have joined since then, it is free to enter, just bring your entries on the day. Set up at 6.45pm, all exhibits to be out by 7.15pm. The schedule and entry form is out with this newsletter and available on the website.

AGM

Thursday March 31st

This is the first time the Spring Show and AGM have been on the same evening. The AGM will start at 7.15pm for those not entering the Spring Show. Every member there on the evening will be able to vote for best entries after the AGM. Papers for the AGM are out with this newsletter.

Jobs in the Garden for March

1. Protect spring shots from slugs
2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
3. Plant summer flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days
7. Cut back Cornus and Salix for colourful winter stems next winter
8. Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control
9. Prune bush and climbing roses



Membership

If you have not re-joined yet, you can do this at any meeting; by sending a cheque or by BACS; just ask the secretary for details. It is still just £6 and runs from January every year.

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

Dates for Outings

Toby Buckland's Garden Festival at Powderham on Friday April 29th, the society has 18 group tickets at £9 (tickets purchased by individuals are £12). To reserve a ticket contact suzannej191@gmail.com. There is no organised transport as the 2 and 2b stop at the gates of Powderham.

Visit to Lukesland Gardens by train - Wednesday May 4th—time of train to be confirmed nearer the time. There will be no need to book, just turn up at the station on the morning. Lukesland is about 30 minutes walk up-hill from Ivybridge Station, and is £7 to enter. There is a lovely café there which sells sandwiches and soup for lunch and has lovely cake and coffee all day.

Details of other outings will be in the June newsletter

Even if your daffodils and camellias are over don't forget to bring your photograph of your favourite flower for the Spring Flower Show. This photo is from the RHS 2021 photograph competition. Look on their website for inspiration. The under 11s are under 18s are astonishing.



Meet Sue Thompson the Show Secretary

I moved to Dawlish from East London in 2000 with my (now) husband Alan and my Rottweiler Hannah, she died in 2001 aged 13. My first love is dogs and I used to show and compete in obedience with both Rottweilers and Bouvier des Flanders for 25 years but as I was unable to have another at the time gardening took its place. I was asked by Valerie Forrester if I would like to take over managing the society's Flower Show in 2002 and as I had experience of managing Dog Shows I agreed and as they say, 'the rest is History'. I also have an allotment, which has been my sanctuary during the pandemic, and was a founder member and secretary of Brown's Brook Allotment Association. I joined Holcombe WI and became secretary for several years before it folded and am treasurer of the Dawlish Wives Group. I like to be organising something and my job before moving to Dawlish was as Listing Officer at a Large Magistrates Court responsible for the scheduling of all cases, which is where I met Alan who was a JP. My other vices are quizzing and jigsaws.

Catch up on January's and February's meetings

Our first Saturday and daytime meetings for many years in January went very well, and we have already put the coffee social in for January next year. It was good to see people who have not been out to meetings for the last two years. We also had visitors from Teignmouth and Holcombe garden societies and from Dawlish Allotments with us in January. We have also welcomed 8 new members to the society.

Plastic Free Pledge

The society has signed up to the Surfers Against Plastic, Plastic Free Communities, as we continue to encourage gardeners to move away from single use plastic, peat and to move towards more sustainable gardening practices. The society will be at the Turn of the Tide event on the Lawns on June 2nd with its sustainable gardening stand.

The February meeting saw Cliff Curd share his vast knowledge on successfully growing fruit. We were treated to a virtual walk around his garden, greenhouse and polytunnel, to see the wide range of fruit he grows: from apples and pears to pineapples and bananas. Alongside of this all the ways he stores and preserve the bounty; his kiwi wine sounded interesting, as did his jams and marmalades. His description on picking and eating his ripe peaches in his greenhouse had all our mouths watering.

Hellebores

This plant is easy to grow and looks great from January to May. They thrive in rich, moisture retentive soil but struggle in boggy and wet conditions. Most will tolerate full sun to almost full shade. They lend themselves to naturalistic schemes and informal planting.

There are fewer pollinators around when hellebores and in flower, but the flowers bear rich nectar and lots of pollen, making them an instant hit for hungry bumblebees. Most hellebores have downward facing flowers, this protects the pollen from winter rains and offers shelter to the attendant insects while it feeds.

Hellebores also make great cut flowers—simply snip off flower heads and float in a shallow bowl of water

Grow hellebores in fertile, well-drained soil at the front of a border, beneath shrubs or in pots, in sun or partial shade. Cut back the large leathery leaves when flowers and new foliage emerge and mulch plants annually with well rotted compost or manure.

Hellebores can be planted at any time of year, however once planted they hate being moved. Instead collect ripe seeds and sow to raise new plants for free, or you can let them self-seed around the garden. No hellebores seeding will be true to its parents, and by letting them self seed you can create a hotchpotch of different colours and flower shapes; you might even grow your own hybrid.

