

# Dawlish Garden Society

## Newsletter March 2023



### Spring Programme

#### Outings

##### March 23rd—Trip to Cotehele by train

We will be catching the 9.07 train from Dawlish Station to Calstock, after changing in Plymouth will arrive at 11.00, it is 1.5 mile walk up to Cotehele House and Gardens from the station. We will return on the 3.30, allowing us 4.5 hours there. We should be back in Dawlish at 5.10pm, full details will come out by email a week before—no need to book.

##### April 28th/29th—Toby Bucklands Garden Festival at Powderham

We have secured group tickets at £10 each, a few are left. This is an independent event as you can reach Powderham by the No.2 bus that stops at the gates, by train to Starcross and then walk, or by car.

##### May 17th—Visit to Stonelands Gardens

Stonelands are open for NGS group visits and we have booked a guided tour with the Head Gardner, Saul Walker at 2pm. It is £7, pay when you arrive, however you need to pre-book with Suzanne as numbers are limited to 20. There will also be the option of tea and cakes on the terrace for £3.

#### Garden Society Stalls in May

##### May 8th Coronation Street Market

A small stall promoting the society and gardening

##### May 13th Spring Plant Sale

This is our big plant sale of the year

##### May 29th Turn the Tide

Prompting sustainable gardening, with this year a focus on Hedgehogs  
We will be asking for volunteers to help man the stalls nearer the dates

#### Upcoming Meetings

March 30th—Spring Show and AGM

Papers for both of these are attached to the newsletter

April 27th—all about Pelargoniums with Brian Carlson

May 25th—The Extraordinary Elderflower with Lori Reich

#### New use for Shredded Paper

Save your shredded paper and then when you come to put your hanging baskets and tubs together for the summer, soak the shreds in water into which you have put liquid feed. After an hour drain the paper and line your baskets / tubs to about 1 inch thickness and then add compost as usual. Then when the plants roots reach the paper they will have feed to support their growth and vigour.

#### Growing Vegetables with Children

In February Cliff Curd came and talked to us about growing glorious vegetables, which he is very skilled in. He also showed us a good way to introduce children to the delights of gardening.

He takes a sturdy pot about 12 inches in diameter and 9-12 inches tall and fills up about one-third with good soil and then puts a single seed potatoes in it, which he covers with compost and then earths up as the shoots appear. Children love to watch them grow and take the potatoes out when ready.

He also grows carrots in the same size pots, not only does this give the carrots 99% protection from the carrots root fly, it is a great medium for children or adults to grow a number of vegetables by the back-door or on a patio.



## Society Sweatshirts

The society have some sweatshirts at £15 for new also some second hand ones. If anyone would like to purchase one, please contact Roger Kohl at— rogerakohl@gmail.com



## Tender Shoots

This is an new online gardening club network which was set up during the pandemic to keep gardeners connected. It offers several benefits, one area that members might be interested in, is the online zoom talks that they organise. The next one is on March 20th and is Peter Moore on Plant Breeding, see tendershoots.uk for more details on this and the group as a whole.

## Prepare your pots for planting

Now is the time to prepare your pots for summer planting. It is important to clean your pots with a stiff brush and detergent to remove any pests and diseases. Ensure the pots have adequate drainage holes to stop waterlogging. Equally fill the bottom of the pot either with broken clay shards or gravel to prevent the drainage holes becoming blocked or the compost being flushed out. Then you will be ready for the plant sale on May 13th to plant up your purchases.

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

## The Anemone

Although Dawlish Horticulture has been associated widely with Violets, the market gardeners and nurserymen always grew a range of flowers for the commercial market. One of the notable flowers was the spring anemone.

Anemones originate from what is now Turkey and were grown widely in the Eastern Mediterranean since the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The anemone came to Europe in the renaissance and into England in the time of Elizabeth 1st. Flemish weavers brought them with them when they fled persecution on main land Europe and there was a strong culture of the Lancashire weavers growing them. The Cornish Fishermen and traders also brought them across from Brittany where the Anemone de Caen had been bred.

During WW2 along with all other flowers there had been first a restriction in the quantity of land that could be given over to growing flowers by 50% going up to 75% in 1942 and then in 1943 a compulsory ploughing up of all bulbs in favour of growing vegetables. The local horticulturist to save their stock for after the war, dug them up and planted up hedges, verges and any spare corner. This meant that by the 1950's the trade was booming again and they were supplying both the London and Midlands markets with several hundred boxes of anemone a week in season.

Anemones would be bunched with 3 scarlet (Hollandia), 3 wine/red (Sylphide), 3 blue/mauve and 3 mixed to include one white. The growing of anemones slowly disappeared along with the rest of the horticultural trade around Dawlish in the 1970's and 80's with the expansion of the town and houses built on the old market gardens,



the dying off of the old nurserymen and the young men not coming into the industry and most importantly the introduction of air freight when flowers could be imported from around the world where costs were so much lower that they undercut the UK market. However we can still enjoy the anemone in our gardens in the spring.