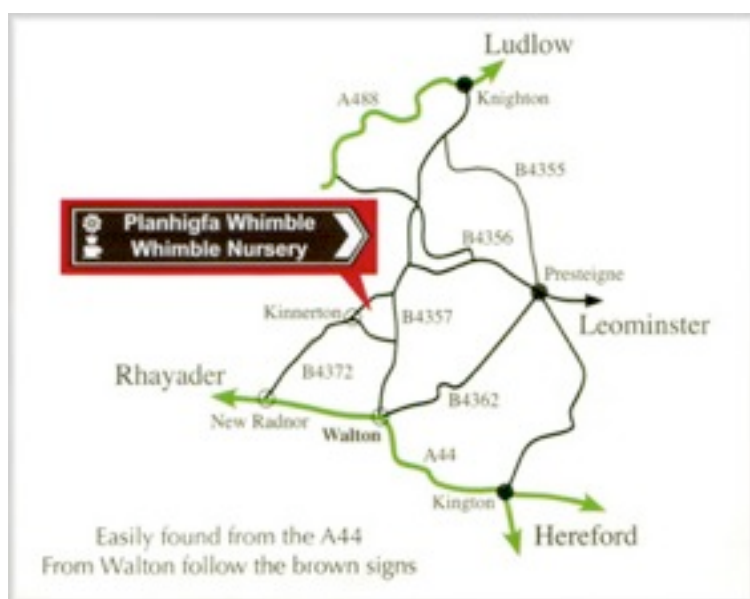


The Notice Board

JUNE MEETING : EVENING OUT



Our evening meeting on the 8th of June will be to the Whimble nurseries, not too far from Whitton. The cost will be £4.50, to include tea and cake. Whimble specialises in hardy perennials which are well-suited to our local climate and usually grown on the nursery itself. There is also a small garden on site and a short walk which leads to a viewing platform with wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. Members will need to arrange to travel

with friends or ask for help with a lift to minimise the number of cars travelling. If you would like to know more and have access to a computer, please go to www.whimblegardens.co.uk



I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden.

John Erskine

Articles wanted!



Do you have something you want to tell other Gardeners' Club members? Have you had a funny/interesting/disappointing experience which might help fellow members in their own gardens? Why not share your experiences through this newsletter? You don't have to be able to write, as I can talk to you on the 'phone and write your ideas up for you. Or you can give or send them to me and I'll pull an article together for you. Alternatively, I may take to talking to you at Gardeners' Club nights and asking you for ideas!

This is your newsletter, and we would like to include more writing and ideas from club members, so please email me at marilynetippett@hotmail.com or telephone me on 01547 528842.

Or catch me at any Gardeners' Club meeting where you can find me at the table by the door, where you sign in.

Meeting report: April 2009

April speaker, Christine Ffoulkes-Jones, was an ideal competitor to reveal some sound strategies for mounting a “Chelsea challenge,” having won a gold medal at Chelsea Flower Show in 2005 for *A Little Bit of Shropshire Comes to Chelsea*. The quest began at Hall Farm Nursery, Kinnerley, where Christine, husband Nick, and three part-time staff members planned the garden in intricate detail 11 months in advance, nurtured the plants and protected them from frost damage with horticultural fleece, and finally loaded them, using 16 trolleys with breathable jackets, onto a seven and a half ton truck bound for Chelsea in the last week of May. From Christine’s excellent account and photographic record, the following first principles have been extracted:

Plan meticulously; measure; label and visualise, thinking hard about complementary colours, balance and accessories.

Produce more plants than needed and select the best, aiming for perfect, disease-free specimens.

In transit, watch moisture levels and avoid trapping and damaging leaves.

Work to make plants look natural and thoroughly well established.

Check and use current nomenclature for all plants shown.

Be prepared for four and a half working days of 12 hour shifts.

Christine’s adjudication of the six competition fritillaries placed Ann Harroway’s specimen first, Audrey Fox’s second and Kath Graham’s third.

Visit to Hall Farm Nursery, Kinnerley

Following the talk by Christine mentioned above, I was near her nursery after Easter when taking my mother back home to the Lakes. Having liked the look of her plants, I thought it would be worth small detour. Readers, it was! Not only were there lots of very covetable plants (far too many of those I fear, judging by the large box I brought home with me), but also there were several raised beds with examples of the plants growing in the open so one could see what they would look like out of their pots. Plenty of very choice perennials and some good small alpiners, and all nicely potted on ready for planting out. The nursery is easy to find and is on the level and so suitable for any visitor. There are picnic tables and a small area for self-service tea and coffee. Loos too of course! Having been there I would certainly recommend it for any Gardeners’ Club member who is interested in unusual plants for the garden, especially if you have slightly heavier soil, as there were lots of plants suitable for moist conditions. The nursery is at Kinnerley Shropshire, not far off the A5. It’s open from Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm.

P.S. You wanted to know what I bought? Well, amongst other things I bought a lovely *campanula lactiflora* (Pritchard’s variety) which I had wanted for some time, and also a *podophyllum*, which I hope will survive any early frosts we may have when it emerges next year.

P.P.S! They won a gold medal at the Malvern Spring Show too!

Marilyn Tippett

August Trip reminder

In August we are going to visit a fairly newly-renovated garden close to the Severn Bridge. The Dewstow garden has many water features and grottoes, and was hidden under rubble for 60 years before its recent rediscovery. Much praised by gardening magazines and writers, this will be a visit not to miss! There will be a sign-up sheet at a Gardeners’ Club meeting. This will be an all-day trip by coach, with lunch included.

Here are the results of the Gardeners' Club annual competition for 2008/9. Points are awarded to everyone who brings along an entry, so why not have a go yourself this year? Details are on the programme card you will have received with your membership subscription. It's fun to see what others have grown, and this year we have made a special effort to include everyone in the competition, even if your garden is very small or limited to indoor plants or a window box. Our thanks as always go to Audrey Fox who organises and runs the competition each month.

COMPETITION 2008/09												
	April	May	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
No of entrie:	11	2	13	8	6	5	6	8	1	5	2	
	<i>Primula Auricula</i>	<i>An Iris</i>	<i>Hosta Leaf</i>	<i>Hardy Fuchsia</i>	<i>Helianthus</i>	<i>Schizostylis</i>	<i>Holly</i>	<i>Xmas Arrang</i>	<i>Hellebore</i>	<i>Snow-drop</i>	<i>Muscari</i>	
1 Marilyn Tippet	9	9	7	9	10	8	7	7	10	7	10	93
2 Kath Graham	7	0	7	7	7	7	9	9	0	10	0	63
3 Brenda Morga	7	0	7	7	0	10	7	7	0	7	9	61
4 Betty Morris	10	0	9	8	7	9	10	7	0	0	0	60
5 Audrey Fox	7	0	8	10	8	7	0	7	0	9	0	56
6 Rosemary Na	7	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	32
7 Jean Price	7	0	7	0	0	0	8	10	0	0	0	32
8 Mary Bufton	8	0	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
9 Rose Morris	7	0	7	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
10 Pam Davies	0	0	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
11 Joan Church	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
12 Ann Harroway	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	14
13 Diana Francis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
14 Pat Buckley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
15 Wendy Davies	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
16 Vera McKay	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
17 Marilyn Price	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7

Reminder

Radnor Valley Garden club would like to invite members to join them on a trip to the National Botanic Garden of Wales on Monday June 15th. Pick up is from Bowling Green Lane Knighton at 9am, returning at 6pm approximately. Cost £15 inclusive. If you are interested please contact Jill Martin, the club secretary, **as soon as possible** on 01544 350363.

An idea from Vita Sackville-West's garden notebook

A way to grow clematis

An unusual way to grow clematis is to grow this you need a rectangle of wire or net-ground. Plant the clematis underneath this train the new shots horizontally across the admire the flowers more easily, and less flowers at the bottom. Handle the new when young.



it horizontally instead of vertically. For ting supported on sticks some 2' off the "table", and then as it grows upwards netting. The benefits are being able to chance of a long twiggy stem with few stems very gently as they snap off easily

The May garden: tasks and ideas

Would that we could be sure that the frosts had passed by now! The wonderfully warm weather we have experienced in April has brought many of our half hardy plants and annual sowing on very quickly, and they are bursting out of their pots and just desperate to get into the garden. But not just yet I fear! If you do have to move things out into the open garden to free up space, you will need to cover up with horticulture fleece or something similar if the nights are cold, to ensure that you don't lose the lot to a late frost.

In the greenhouse, make sure to ventilate well every day now that you have lots of plants and seedlings in there, to ensure that they grown well and "hard" and will be ready for planting out soon. You will need of course to harden them off before they go into their final positions, and for this I personally put them into a sheltered

corner and cover them with fleece every night rather than bringing them back into the greenhouse as is often advised, simply because once I have moved things out there is no room for them to go back in!

When moving things into pots and potting on, don't forget to move them up only one size at a time. If you pot things on into a very large pot it is all too easy to over-water and then lose them. Better to pot up more often and see them do well.

Outside, if you have a large forsythia bush, now that flowering is over you can give it a good prune. Begin by pruning 1/4 to 1/3 of the oldest branches, pruning them right down to the ground. This will encourage new growth and a more compact form. Beyond this "renewal pruning," you can also selectively cut newer branches in order to improve upon the overall shape of your forsythia plants.

Good Books

Here's a list of books which I have found invaluable over the years. Which are your favourites?

Graham Stuart-Thomas: *Perennial Garden plants.* Invaluable and opinionated

Christopher Lloyd: *The well-tempered garden.* A joy to read

Beth Chatto: *The damp garden, and also The dry garden.* Both tremendously useful, depending on where I was gardening!

Hilliers Manual of tree and shrubs. The definitive guide.

Plant Profile : Osmanthus

I was reminded of this wonderful family when re-reading Vita Sackville-West's informative gardening book recently. The genus comprises about 30 species of plants, and all are members of the olive family; you can see this if you look closely at the leaves. Most originate in the Himalayas, and not all are hardy in UK gardens, so choose carefully when looking for a garden-worthy plant. Considered hardy in most areas are *osmanthus delavayi* and *burkwododii*, both of which have very sweetly scented white flowers in April and May. They have evergreen small dark green leaves, which are slightly serrated, and can make a large shrub when happy, growing up to 12'. As they don't like hard pruning, and this may make them more susceptible to frost, it is wise to choose their place in the garden carefully.

Osmanthus heterophyllus Aureomarginatus is a quite different plant, being variegated as the name would suggest, and very prickly. Also known as the Chinese holly, it looks much more like a holly than an osmanthus but will remain smaller than the true hollies and its shining leaves are very cheering in the winter months. It does flower, in the autumn rather than the spring, and these flowers are pure white and scented as with all of the family. Grow osmanthus in most soils but shelter if possible from cold easterly winds, and for the spring-flowering types avoid a site where the early morning sun will shine on flowers exposed to frost the night before. Small twigs of osmanthus can be cut and brought into the house, where they will quickly scent the room.