

Henleaze Garden Club Speakers 2024

10 Jan	Christine Skelmersdale - "Winter is not just snowdrops" Christine is Managing Director of Broadleigh Nurseries near Taunton which specialises in smaller bulbs and woodland plants. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience, holds the prestigious RHS Victoria Medal of Honour and has been described as "an exhilarating lecturer" with "contagious enthusiasm".
7 Feb	The Green Jeanie - "The Secret Lives of Garden Bees" Jean Vernon is on a mission to unravel and demystify the secret world of our garden pollinators and especially our bees. She has written two books "Garden Bees" and "Attracting Garden Pollinators". She will be bringing a small nature table with her.
6 March	Pip Smith – The Fragrant Garden Gardens can be fragrant all year, with scent throughout the seasons" to quote Pip who will give us some ideas on how to achieve this. He has a wealth of horticultural experience, latterly as Head Gardener of Old Wollerton Hall, Shropshire.
3 April	Val Bourne - Peonies & Roses Val is an award winning garden writer, organic gardener and lecturer. She gardens on the wind swept Cotswolds at Spring Cottage, high above Bourton-on-the Water in Gloucestershire. She will tell us about the history of peony breeding, their use as a companion plant for roses and recommend varieties.
1 May	Nigel Hopes – "John's Garden through the seasons" Nigel is head gardener at John Massey's private garden at Ashwood Nursery. A true garden for all seasons. John has developed his private garden at Ashwoods over many years. In this talk, Nigel provides a Head Gardeners behind the scenes tour, with highlights through the year and plenty of practical advice.
5 June	Chris Radford - Fantastic Gardens Our very own HGC chairman Chris Radford provides June's talk. Chris has taken her 12 years of garden visits with her husband as the inspiration for an entertaining talk featuring beautiful locations, great photos and personal anecdotes.
4 Sept	Abigail Willis - "Somerset - A County of Glorious Gardens" Abigail is a writer and author of Secret Gardens of Somerset. In this talk she will explore why Somerset is such a great place to be a gardener, plus an armchair tour of some of the exhilarating variety of styles that can be found in the County. They range from cottage gardens to cutting edge creations.
2 Oct	Matthew Biggs - "Dig for Victory" Matthew is a radio personality, best known for his appearances on Gardeners' Question Time. He is an unparalleled authority on all things that grow. His talk takes us back to the time when this country needed us to grow food. He tells us the story of the Dig for Victory Campaign, the education of "new" gardeners, the techniques used and its impact on the way we garden today.
6 Nov	Derry Watkins - "Gravel Gardening and Drought tolerant plants" Well known to us, Derry is proprietor of Special Plants at Cold Ashton. Wishing to grow her favourite plants which dislike heavy clay Derry established several gravel gardens so she is well placed to advise us which plants will help us manage in an ever more difficult climate
4 Dec	Gardeners' Question Time Alan Down, Felicity Down, Nick Wray Following the success of our bespoke HGC GQT in March 2020 the panel is back in festive mood!