



HENLEAZE GARDEN CLUB

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No 66

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Hello Members! Welcome to Spring – I am writing following a beautiful sunny day – Spring has well and truly arrived, although it’s still a bit nippy out of the sun! After the February cold snap and a return to rain, I confess to having been a little slow to venture out to work – but I have continued the annual addition of snowdrops to the woodland area and seed sowing is underway. I’m raring to go. It’s such an exciting time of year, the days are gradually getting longer, new shoots are appearing and there’s a lot to do – not only to follow Pat’s helpful advice below, but also the greenhouses need to be restrained and disinfected, new compost bins to construct and all that moss to clear off the driveway



I am growing Achillea again this year so, much inspired by Brian’s photograph (see page 3), I am considering the possibility of a whole Achillea bed for the summer! No doubt I’ll be in trouble with various garden centres, but I echo the sentiments of Monty Don and also our February speaker, Dr Ian Bedford, that wherever possible, we should try to grow our own plants. As always, I hope that we will have the opportunity for Club plant sales later in the year.

Now that we have the roadmap, I shall look forward to welcoming first one, then 5, then 29 through the garden gate! Talking of maps, perhaps we may dare to think about travel in the future– see page 2 for an update on this year’s tour to the Isle of Wight and page 3 for a possible tour to Floriade in 2022.

February talk by Dr Ian Bedford

Those of you who joined us for the February Zoom will have heard Ian’s enlightening talk on the subject of pests and how to control them in a bee friendly fashion. We should all be prepared to ask more questions about how plants are grown and treated. Ian has kindly offered to answer your pest/treatment related questions. You can e-mail him at: bedfordi@tiscali.co.uk

GET THOSE SECATEURS SNIPPING!

Spring is the time to prepare our plants for the coming year so it’s out with the old and in with the new. Summer flowering clematis can be cut down to where new buds are starting to appear just above the ground. Dogwoods which have provided colourful stems through the winter can now be cut down to ensure new growth to brighten next winter. Buddlejias can also be cut back hard to where new buds are appearing. Winter flowering heathers can be trimmed so long as you do not cut into old wood. Shrub roses and winter jasmine will also benefit from cutting back and apple and pear trees can have a final tidy up to get rid of any damaged branches. Ferns can have their fronds trimmed. All this action! With hairdressers still closed, I feel I need someone skilful with the secateurs to have a chop at my unruly thatch!

Pat Dury

GREETINGS CARDS

If you would be interested in topping up your supply of the greetings cards we usually sell during our meetings at St Monica’s, Sue Knight is happy to offer a (sort of) Click and Collect service. You can contact her by email at sue.knight.1@googlemail.com or by text to 07989827165. At a time you have agreed, she will leave the cards in boxes in her porch in Henleaze. You can browse, make your choices and pop the payment through her letter box. After 29 March, it should be permitted to have a chat and hand over the money in person; fingers crossed!

**“THE CREATIVE SHRUB GARDEN”
ANDY MCINDOE**

FEEDBACK FROM LAST WEEK’S TALK

“Another great talk by this superb speaker. The slides with their captions were so helpful and gave me a few ideas for some gaps in my garden”.

“A great talk....super photos....extraordinary depth of knowledge....and an answer to my question”.

Andy has written two books “The Creative Shrub Garden” and “Shrubs: Find the Perfect Plant for every place in your Garden”. Both are available directly from him via his website at www.andymcindoe.com.

DAY VISITS 2021

The Organising Team has discussed the viability of the three day visits planned for June and July to Kew, Usk Open Gardens and The Courts. We feel that there are too many uncertainties regarding the opening of these gardens and what the rules for social distancing will be, so, with regret, we have decided to cancel these visits. In order to be financially viable and to satisfy the demand, we need to be able to fill the coach, and we feel that, even with vaccinations, it would be too soon to commit to this.

Coming up next on Zoom

Thursday 8 April

Please note change of day

Doug Stewart

“Perfect Plants for Problem Places”

Doug is a professional horticulturist with a varied career which has included lecturing on cucumber and tomato production and being Head of Horticulture at a leading college. He now has a very popular phone-in gardening programme on Radio Humberside. He’s going to talk about “Perfect Plants for Problem Places” with a nod to climate change. We can expect help with finding a range of plants for even the most difficult sites.

Wednesday 5 May

Janet Buist

“The Wonderful World of Salvias”

Janet will be talking to us about 'The Wonderful World of Salvias': their propagation, varieties, care and hardiness. Janet ran Pennycross Nurseries near Huntingdon which specialised in salvias and so she is well placed to give us the benefit of her wide knowledge and experience. If we had been able to have a live meeting, Janet would have brought some of her salvias for sale. However, her slides will include the names of the varieties shown so have a pencil and paper ready in case you want to buy mail-order from the many nurseries still operating.

RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

22-25 AUGUST 2021

The Club’s trip to the Isle of Wight, organised by Brightwater Holidays, has been postponed from 23 May to the above dates. All those booked onto the trip have been advised by Brightwater. There are places available so if any Member or Member-in-Waiting is interested in joining the trip, here is a reminder of the itinerary. Non-Members welcome.

3* Best Western New Holmwood Hotel – DB&B

Cost £785 pp – single supp £135

Day 1: Exbury Gardens
Day 2: Carisbrooke Castle, Ventnor Botanic Gardens and Mottistone
Day 3: Shanklin, Morton Manor and Nunwell House
Day 4: Osborne House and Garden

Brightwater tour guide : Colin Crosbie

Coach leaves from Henleaze

Please contact Sophie Bindloss at sophiejahore@hotmail.com for more information

Bookings should be made directly with Brightwater

Floriade 2022

Floriade is one of Europe's greatest horticultural events. It takes place once every ten years at a different venue in Holland. It is quite different from our one week shows as it runs from April to October and gradually changes with the seasons (and is not as crowded as Chelsea).

This year it takes place in Almere, only 30 minutes by train or bus from Amsterdam. The theme is 'Growing Green Cities'. It offers inspiring presentations from 40 different countries, a spectacular greenhouse complex, a cable car over the Floriade park and pavilions with sustainable innovations. The arboretum will constitute the expo's green structure. It will be an alphabetically organised tree and plant encyclopaedia that you can walk through. See more detail at <https://floriade.com/en/>

It would be quite easy to travel to Amsterdam independently and visit Floriade as part of a city break.



Floriade 2012



Achillea

Alternatively, Brightwater Holidays is offering three different packages:

- 1) Floriade & Keukenhof: a 3 day holiday in April or May staying at a hotel in Almere and spending 1 day at Floriade and a visit to Keukenhof with its 7 million bulbs of 800 varieties of tulip.
- 2) Treasures of Holland: a 4 day holiday in July or August staying at a hotel in Almere and visiting the magnificent gardens at Die Wiersse and Het Loo Palace, Floriade and Museum Van Loon, the Dutch Golden Age house and Garden in Amsterdam.
- 3) Arts & Gardens of Holland: a 5 day holiday in July or August staying in Delft and visiting the Kroller-Muller Museum and the Museum Van Loon, the Royal Delft Factory and the Mauritshuis Art Gallery in The Hague, Floriade, and the Vermeer Centre in Delft.

All of these are by coach from London and Dover/Calais ferry. The most convenient way to join the coach is to overnight at the Copthorne Hotel, Gatwick and board the coach there.

In 2012 Floriade was at Venlo, near Nijmegen. We took the Brightwater holiday and thoroughly enjoyed Floriade and four other gardens (including meeting Piet Oudolf in his own garden). Rather than joining the coach at Gatwick, we flew Bristol-Amsterdam and travelled to the hotel by train and bus. At the end of the holiday we spent a couple of days in Delft before the return flight. (Brightwater knocked off the price of the ferry).

Brian Dury

The Organising Team is considering whether to ask Brightwater to tailor-make a tour to Floriade for Garden Club or whether members may prefer to book direct with Brightwater as there are a choice of itinerary and times.

If you are interested in a Club tour please can you express your interest to dury@talktalk.net as soon as possible.

In the meantime on the next page is a selection of Brian's wonderful photos from 2012 to whet the appetite (electronic version only)



Cyclists



Yellow Border



Strawberry Exhibit



Feelgood Garden



Villa Flora



Lantana



Het Loo



Queen's Garden