



# HENLEAZE GARDEN CLUB

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No 71

NEWSLETTER

June 2022

Hello Members!

Welcome to Garden Club! I hope you are enjoying the summer. So far, the mix of sunshine and showers has made for relatively happy gardening which is more than can be said of the box caterpillars. I started off culturally, squishing the varying sized critters with my fingers, but due to their profusion and the state of my gloves, had to resort to biological control. I've sprayed the Box balls and hedge with *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium marketed as Top Buxus Xentari. I'm concerned as to what I will find when I trim the Box which, going with tradition, will be sometime between Derby Day and Midsummer Day. There is no doubt that gardening is expensive - £19.99 for the sprayer and £15.95 for my first pack of Xentari - 3 treatments needed - but that is considerably less than replacing the Box. We'll see! I'm not sure there will be Box next year. I've just looked up *Euonymus fortunei* as a potential replacement. The RHS website advises that it is prone to vine weevil damage on the foliage, horse chestnut scale and guess what ?

# CATER



# PILLARS

May be Hebe or Pittosporum ?

## A partial return to normal

On 4 May we returned to the hall at St Monica's for the first time since 3 March 2020, when we had held the very successful Gardeners' Question Time. As Sue Knight commented, it really didn't feel as if 26 months had passed since we were last there. 69 members including the Organising Team (OT) and helpers attended in the hall and around 55 joined in by zoom. 15 members had advised that they were away or had another engagement that evening. As with our very first zoom meeting back in September 2020, there were a few teething troubles both in the hall and with the zoom. Our speaker that evening, Sally Morgan, was very flexible and calm and her talk on Climate Change Gardening was very well received. She was an obvious expert, it was informative, and the zoom was not perfect, but acceptable. Those in the hall commented how lovely it was to meet up with friends again.

On 1 June Philip Aubury, former director of the University of Birmingham Botanic Garden spoke on the subject of "Garden Ponds and Water Features". Attendance was sparse both in the Hall (43 members + 7 OT) and by zoom (33 + sharers). I'm told that the golf course had been empty, too! We had tried to change the date of the meeting away from the Jubilee/half term week, but weren't able to coincide speaker, hall and HGC availability. Philip was knowledgeable, unflappable, full of humour and brought some fabulous plants for sale. One lucky member with ticket number 999 won a Hosta which Philip had kindly donated for the raffle. As last time we had a technical glitch. Everything had worked fine before the talk began and then it didn't. We will be working on this during the summer break with some practice sessions to try to resolve the issues.

## New Members' Event

Prior to the plant sale on 21 May, 22 of our 39 new members joined us for tea in the garden and we enrolled our 40<sup>th</sup> new member. This was an opportunity to meet other new members as well as the Organising Team. There was a strict policy of no plant purchases until 3 pm! The sun shone and everyone enjoyed themselves. There was a lot of gardening conversation covering such topics as slugs, foxes, badgers and the soaring price, yet inadequacy, of compost. Thanks to Pat Dury and Sue Knight for baking the cakes and to the tea boys, John and Paul. The latter earned their pint in the Post Office Tavern a little later.

## Plant Sale

In all 20 members donated plants for sale. These were delivered in cold and windy conditions on Friday afternoon. Careful planning for grass cutting on Friday morning had been scuppered by unexpected rain so the tables were not in situ. 4 of us set up on Saturday morning and the sale began after the new members' tea at 3pm. 90 attended the sale. I wasn't involved in the plant selling, but I saw lots of members leaving with bagfuls! The total spend was £590 which has been added to Club funds so there will be wine at Christmas! Thanks to the Team and helpers and all who attended for contributing to a very successful social event.



Plants waiting to join the party



Keen purchasers browsing the tables

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## Coming up soon

**7 September**

### Fergus Garrett – Succession Planting

Fergus Garrett is Head Gardener at Great Dixter, the former garden of Christopher Lloyd. Great Dixter is the home of succession planting so there is no-one better than Fergus to advise us on this subject. Oh, how I wish I could achieve a long border like this one at Dixter - photo taken in July 2013. If I ever manage it I can retire!



## October Meeting **CHANGE OF DATE**

Due to non-availability of the Hall on our usual first Wednesday of the month, the October meeting will take place on

**12 October**

Our speaker, Andrew Tolman, kindly agreed to reschedule his talk – and not for the first time! He was originally due to speak in 2020.

**STUMPERIES, FERNS & SHADY FRIENDS**

## HENLEAZE OPEN GARDENS SUNDAY 3 JULY 1.30 – 5.30

10 local gardens will be participating in this event which is open to members of The Henleaze Society (THS). The application form for programmes was printed in the THS May Newsletter. If you do not have this to hand let me know and I will scan you a copy.

Programmes are free to THS Members and will contain details of the participating gardens. Some gardens will be offering refreshments and/or plants for sale. Any moneys raised will go to a charity of the garden owner's choice.

It would be great to see HGC members at the event. Many of the participating gardens are owned by club members.

## Hanging up their trowels !!



Brian and Pat first joined the Organising Team back in 2010 to assist Jane Voke when she was running the Club. When Jane retired in 2014, together with Andy and Diane Harrison, Pat and Brian formed a team to ensure that the Club could continue. Pat is Club Secretary, Data Protection Officer and a major contributor to the Speakers' Group. Brian is membership secretary and organises the day visits. They have both carried out these activities to the highest possible standard for the last 12 years.

At the December 2017 meeting, Andy Harrison, the then Chairman, asked me if I would join the Team to help book speakers with a view to becoming Chairman – this on the basis that he and Diane were looking to retire within a couple of years and that Brian and Pat would follow them a year or two thereafter. Then Covid came, zoom came and things changed a bit. Pat and Brian stayed on and have been the most ENORMOUS help to me, but now the time has come, they have asked to hang up their trowels. Pat will continue to book speakers for 2023 and will follow through to the end of that year introducing the speakers that she has invited. On behalf of the Club I cannot thank you enough. We will all miss you SO MUCH !! ..... but the time has not yet arrived so more of that later in the year.



More cricket beckons?



Back in 2019 I took over the jobs that had been carried out by Andy and Diane and have since helped Brian by sharing the e-mails with him. Holding the plant sale is a huge perk! Christeen Davis joined us and has done a fabulous job setting up the website and assisting with the administration of zoom. We rely heavily on Ian Sturland for all technical matters. Sue Knight runs the sales table and Richard Kochanski is both Treasurer and Health & Safety Officer. My predecessor, Andy Harrison, wrote in a previous edition of this Newsletter that HGC is successful because it is innovative and we would like to ensure that innovation can continue whilst maintaining the Club's core activities. With the retirement of Pat and Brian, the Organising Team will be reduced by nearly one third, so we need members to come forward to join the Team to ensure that we can continue to be a thriving and vibrant Club.

If you have some admin, IT or technical abilities and/or love visiting gardens, playing with plants, have a bit of time to spare and would like to help ensure the future of the Club, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail, phone or mobile. Details at the end of this Newsletter! It costs nothing to chat over tea or coffee in the garden! No-one will be thrown in at the deep end and, as you can tell, we have a sense of humour! (Thanks to John's cousin for giving effect to my idea).

## Local NGS Openings

Please check NGS website for timings <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/>

Sat and Sun 18 and 19 June	Hillside 35 Westbury Hill Westbury on Trym Bristol BS9
Sunday 19 June *	Crete Hill House Cote House Lane Durdham Down Bristol BS9 3UW
Sunday 19 June	4 Haytor Park Stoke Bishop Bristol BS9 2LR
Monday 4 July *	Berwick Lodge Berwick Drive Bristol BS10 7TD
	* Gardened by Club members