

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE GARDENING CLUB

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October 2018 Newsletter

Dear Members,

We have just started our autumn lecture programme which was kicked off by Michael Brown talking about Death in the Garden. Michael gave a highly informed and entertaining talk but in no way tried to discourage us from growing most of the plants he mentioned in our gardens, though there were one or two that should definitely be avoided such as Giant Hogweed!

In November Julie Ritchie of Hoo House Nursery - <http://hoohouse.co.uk/about/> is coming to talk on Winter into Spring. Before this we will have our AGM and Nicky will be taking your renewal of membership. We would like to start a little early, at 1.45pm, to get the AGM completed ahead of our speaker. An AGM Agenda is attached.

As per my earlier email we are now taking bookings for the Christmas Lunch to be held again at The Chase Hotel, maybe not a perfect venue but better than the alternatives we have found at the moment. As last year we are limited to a maximum of 40 people for the lunch so it is on a first come first served basis. Terry Walton of Radio 2 Allotment fame will be giving what should be a very amusing and light hearted talk on his radio experiences after our lunch.

As mentioned last time we really need someone to join the committee to take over from Katrina in arranged our speaker programme. We only have 6 talks a year so it is not a huge job but the quality and variety of our speakers are a very important part of our programme. In the short term I have taken over booking our speakers for the remainder of 2019 but we really need someone to step up and replace Katrina as soon as possible. Katrina was also doing some publicity work for us which also needs to be picked up, this does not need to be a committee role but is very important in keeping our profile up in the local press.

Another plea for help as Jenny Robinson has been doing a sterling job for the past 3 years organising teas but it is really time now for someone else to take over. Again this is only 6 times a year, with Christmas off for good behaviour but with the May Plant Sale Tea and Cakes instead. Please would someone else volunteer to take

over from Jenny. Also special thanks to those who helped out with the teas at our last meeting as there has been a kitchen fire at Walford Village Hall and the alternative arrangements are a little awkward. This may still be the case next month as the smoke damage looked quite extensive.

Very unfortunately Maggie has also decided it was time for her to leave the committee and we wish her all the best and hope to see her at our meetings as often as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and enthusiasm for the club over many years.

Several people have volunteered to organise garden visits for next year. Penny is planning one in Llangrove in early June, David Thompson for one sometime in late July or early August and then Sylvia Neale for one near St Briavels in early September. Nicky and Patti will be organising our plant sale and tea social in May, hopefully the excellent salvia plantsman will return as well as Nicola with her lovely summer bedding plants.

Just a reminder that bookings are now being taken for our 2019 Coach Holiday to Hampshire. More details as per the earlier booking forms and on the website. We will be leaving from Ross-on-Wye in the morning of Sunday June 23rd, returning late afternoon on Thursday June 27th, our base will be The Winchester Hotel and Spa in Winchester. As usual single rooms are very limited, and almost gone, so please book now if you would prefer one.

The price for the four nights to include the hotel, some lunches and teas as well as all the gardens is provisionally £555 for people sharing a twin room and £610 for those in a single room. The hotel price is fixed but we know from experience that some of the garden prices will rise slightly. There will be a reduction for National Trust members as in previous years.