



HENLEAZE GARDEN CLUB

WWW.HENLEAZEGARDENCLUB.CO.UK

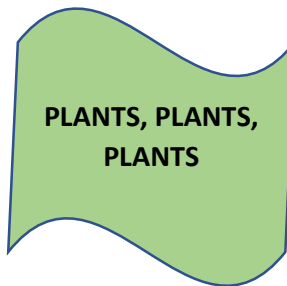


No 63

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Hello Members! Welcome to Garden Club! What a lot has happened since we met for Gardeners' Question Time in March. For seven glorious weeks I had an Assistant Gardener, but he has returned to the golf course following furlough! Who would have thought that after 5 months of continuous rain through autumn and winter we would find ourselves in near drought conditions, but there is some good news - at least now some public gardens are re-opening and we can, at last, share our own gardens with a few friends. 2020 will be a year to remember, or should I say forget? Sadly, we are unable to welcome Sally Nex this evening to talk to us about 'Year Round Veg' – having decided to turn my little cut flower beds into veg beds this year, I really could have done with her advice, but Sally will visit us in October next year. Your Organising Team very much hopes that we will be able to hold a viable meeting in September when Andrew Tolman will amaze us with 'Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends'. In the meantime, we hope you will enjoy our special Lockdown edition of the Newsletter.



There are plants waiting for you and more on the way! In the hope that rules might be further eased, we would like, if possible, to hold a Club plant sale during June or July. We are looking forward to this as a much needed opportunity to meet even if only at a social distance.

Message from Chris Purvis

I still have some plants for sale. I have been selling off my drive to neighbours but now that restrictions are slightly relaxed I wondered if people would like to see me on a one-to-one basis, with social distancing at an agreed time to help clear the rest of my plants. All proceeds to the Botanic Garden which as you know has had to sadly cancel all events, including the Bee Festival. I've got grasses, succulents and perennials. My phone numbers are 0117 9245656 or 07981 247 893 and people can park across our drive.

Geoff Hamilton's Potato Slug Resistance Trials

A major problem when growing potatoes in Bristol clay is slug damage. The longer they are in the ground, the greater the damage, so this is not a problem with earlies, but can be serious for maincrop potatoes. Many years ago Geoff Hamilton conducted trials at Barnsdale on 14 varieties of second early and 10 maincrop and published the results in Gardeners' World Magazine. The table below shows the total and undamaged yield for the five best varieties in each class. (I've lost the original specification for the trial).

2 nd Earlies	Total	Undamaged	Maincrop	Total	Undamaged
Kestrel	27lb 5oz	25lb 11oz	Valor	31lb 9oz	25lb 4oz
Charlotte	22lb 8oz	22lb	Pentland Squire	25lb 3oz	23lb
Nadine	21lb 10oz	18lb 8oz	Desiree	21lb 8oz	18lb 8oz
Marfona	26lb 4oz	17lb 12oz	Sante	25lb 8oz	17lb 14oz
Wilja	18lb 2 oz	16lb 10oz	Kerr's Pink	22lb 9oz	15lb 9oz

Ever since then I've grown Charlotte (better flavour, texture and storing than Kestrel) and Valor (versatile baker, chipper, masher) along with a few Pink Fir Apple (lower yield but really waxy).

Brian Dury

Day Trips

As those who were booked on our three Day Trips will know, these have been postponed until next summer. Accordingly, we will now visit Kew on 16 June, the Gardens of Usk on 27 June and The Courts on 15 July 2021.



2020

International Year of Plant Health

HRH the Prince of Wales has just introduced Virtual Chelsea with a chat about maintaining plant health. We can all help:

- 1 Clean all tools and footwear thoroughly after use
- 2 Buy from reputable British sources with good biosecurity where plants have been properly quarantined
- 3 Don't be tempted to import plants from your travels
- 4 Keep a close eye on your garden and report anything unusual through the Tree Alert App

Jobs for June

With all the restrictions in place, now is the time to get your garden looking perfect ('yeh, right!' I hear you reply). However here are a few ideas:

- Hoe or pull up weeds before they have time to set seed.
- Lift and divide irises after flowering.
- Keep deadheading.
- Finish bedding out any tender plants.
- Sow wallflower seeds
- Check lupins for aphids
- Divide clumps of primulas
- Plant out sweet peas
- Prune clematis Montana
- Thin apples
- Take cuttings from pelargoniums
- Sow lettuce, beans, carrots, courgettes and peas.

Pat Dury

Take a seat, preferably outside, with a cup of tea or coffee or better still a G & T and have a go at my **Crossword**

Answers on next page – no cheating!!

1			2		3			4
	■	■		■		■	■	
5		6		7		8		
	■		■		■		■	
		9						
	■		■		■		■	
10			11		12			
	■	■		■		■	■	
13								

ACROSS:

- 1 Small evergreen shrub of the Mediterranean region
- 5 The coneflower
- 9 Greek arch at Stowe?
- 10 This Guard gave his name to a Dahlia, a Pelargonium and an Apple
- 13 Society garlic

DOWN:

- 1 Queen of the Sales Table
- 2 This shop in Henleaze Road may whisk you off to exotic gardens
- 3 An open area of grassy land
- 4 This monkey is a bit of a puzzle
- 6 Bushy boundary
- 7 Wife of former PM and a compact deciduous azalea
- 8 Spiny plants
- 11 The innermost section of a chrysalis in a silk cocoon
- 12 Cornus is also ... wood

Here's a question that was submitted for GQT in March, but which didn't make it on the night

Q: I have a selection of large pots on my decking. Chafer grubs eventually find them and move in. How do I stop them? How do I get rid of them?

A: **Chafer grubs** have stout, usually, white bodies curved in a C shape – don't let me put you off, but they resemble a prawn! If uncurved they are about 18 mm (3/4 inch) long. They have light brown heads and 3 pairs of legs at the head end. They eat the roots of grasses and other plants and can turn patches of lawn yellow. Badgers and foxes along with magpies and crows wreak havoc in lawns in order to feed on them. Similar root damage in lawns can be caused by **leatherjackets**, the larvae of the Cranefly or Daddy Longlegs. **Vine weevil larvae** look a bit like chafer grubs in that they are white and C shaped with brown heads, but are smaller, up to about 10 mm long and are legless. They feed on plant roots and can cause a plant to die. The adult is a black beetle which can walk miles eating C shaped notches from plant leaves on its way laying its eggs beneath the soil.



Chafer grub



Vine Weevil larvae



Adult Vine Weevil

Plants in pots are particularly susceptible to vine weevil larvae, so these may be the problem rather than chafer grubs.

Treatment: On Spring or Summer evenings pick off adult vine weevil beetles by torchlight. In Spring, check pots for larvae especially around roots, remove, wash off and repot with fresh compost. Eggs are yellowy brown and can be confused with slow release fertiliser granules. Apply nematodes to compost in August/September. Or if you don't mind using chemicals, apply systemic neonicotinoid acetamiprid (Bug Clear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer) to ornamentals only, not veg.

There is no chemical treatment to control chafer grubs. Nematodes may be applied (not the same species as for vine weevil, so make sure you check which nematode you need). Keep grass well maintained – feeding, watering and moss prevention may prevent damage.

NB: Nematodes are wormlike microscopic animals - some are beneficial, some are not – for example the potato cyst eelworm is a nematode. There are many different species of beneficial nematode sold as biological controls, which are watered into the soil/compost. These are available by mail order including from Amazon. Make sure that you purchase the appropriate nematode for the pest you wish to control – and check when to apply as many nematodes are only effective when the soil has reached a certain minimum temperature.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Santolina 5 Echinacea 9 Doric
10 Grenadier 13 Tulbaghia
DOWN: 1 Sue Knight 2 Tui 3 Lea 4 Araucaria
6 Hedge 7 Norma 8 Cacti 11 Nub 12 Dog



Underplant Roses with Salvias

Thanks to Pat for noting this tip from Sarah Raven – apparently Salvia stems contain sulphur which wards off Blackspot. That's why smutty Victorian cities were full of wonderful blemish free roses!

Did you 'go' to Virtual Chelsea?

Instead of working on the Newsletter, I should have been on my little annual adventure to the Chelsea Flower Show – up to London on the train, stay in the pub at Kew, scramble with the hoards on the tube to Sloane Square and then into the Showground – pushing my long lens through any tiny space available. Of course, it was not to be. On Tuesday morning, my virtual Eggs Benedict was in reality the usual Rice Krispies as I sat down at my lap-top.



**The Breast Cancer Now Garden by Designer, Ruth Willmott
Chelsea 2017**

I was dismissive when the RHS offered Virtual Chelsea, but how wonderful it has been! A couple of the gardens really stood out for me – the tour of Adam Frost's amazing and natural Lincolnshire garden, which he only moved to in 2016 and by contrast, but equally beautiful, Andy Sturgeon's year old courtyard garden in Brighton.

Never having been a huge fan of coir, Medwyn Williams' comparison of growing exhibition carrots in coir as opposed to sand was both informative and surprising.

Ann-Marie Powell showed a glimpse of her Hampshire garden that she mentioned to us in her talk last Christmas.

Well done RHS! You did a fab job - my virtual feet survived the day, I managed to buy my mum a real souvenir tea towel and I was home in time to do the watering but I did miss the real Great Pavilion!

If you missed it, Virtual Chelsea Catch Up is available at:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/virtual-chelsea/catch-up>

c.a.radford@btinternet.com

0117 9628914