



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

Bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk

July newsletter 2024

Lots to read in this month's newsletter.

Upcoming events

Lewis Cottage

On Thursday 1st August at 2pm, we will be visiting Lewis Cottage, Crediton EX17 5AA. This is a 4 acre garden located on a SW facing slope. Evolved primarily over the last thirty years, harnessing and working with the natural landscape. The garden has a rose garden, a large natural dew pond, woodland walks, bog garden, hornbeam rondel, winter garden, hot and cool herbaceous borders, fruit and vegetable garden and plant nursery selling plants mostly propagated from the garden. Entry and tea is £10.

Please contact me if you are going so I can give them numbers for teas.
hibly@hotmail.com 07974216556

Christow Show

The Christow show is on Saturday 17th August, the club's display is entitled "Wild Gardens" so if you have are able to contribute any potted wildflowers or plants please bring them to the T.V.C,H on Friday 16th. Jo MacDonald will be creating the display so please contact her If you can offer plants or help, 10647 252430.

Recent Events

Summer Gathering

On Saturday 13th July, around 20 members of the Club went to Silver Birches, in Longdown, the home of Ed and Liz Aldridge, for the Club Summer Gathering. We were blessed with a fantastic warm sunny evening, sitting on the terrace, overlooking their fabulous garden with far reaching views down the valley and beyond, plus great hospitality and company. A very varied cold buffet supper was enjoyed by everyone, while Corony Edwards (our guest judge for the evening) contemplated the entries to the competitions.

The Lewis Denning-Kemp memorial cup for a flowing potted plant was won by Paul French, with a bright red perlagonium.

The Muriel Wickham Perpetual Trophy for a flower arrangement themed “Riviera” was won by Jill French

The Horticultural Cup for a basket of salad crops was won by Anne Rice

The Betty Shaw cup for three stems of roses was won by Paul French

A thoroughly convivial evening, enjoyed by all.

Idestone Barton

On Friday 14th June fourteen Garden Club members visited Idestone Barton. Fortunately the weather held fine for our visit. We were greeted by the owner and folk musician James Studholme who introduced his full-time gardener, Rebecca. Between them we were guided round this truly amazing garden with breathtaking surprises round every corner.

James has transformed this 6 acre garden, formerly comprising fields surrounding the old farmhouse and buildings, over 25 years. It is built on five different levels. The first level comprises a fantastic wild flower meadow including a magnificent greenhouse with a variety of tomatoes and peppers. Rebecca’s office and potting shed were immaculate. Through an archway and looking down was a breathtaking, panoramic view of a swimming pond. A long corridor through a number of rose arches in full bloom led one through the vegetable garden on either side of the path. At the end through a hedge was a secluded garden with an Acer hiding a bronze wild boar. In the garden near the house was a fine herbaceous border and roses in full bloom climbed the side of the farmhouse. A climb up through an expansive rose garden terraced into a steep slope formed the last part of the garden surrounding the house. On the other side of the lane a steep sloping field has become an extensive arboretum boasting a rare Shagbark Hickory also a Tulip tree to name a couple. We climbed the steep hillside and were provided with a welcome cup of tea and cake by Jame’s wife, Charlotte, in their Shed Belgique overlooking their house and garden and far views of unspoilt countryside. Truly a garden to remember.

Whiddon Goyle

On July 4th the Garden Club visited Whiddon Goyle, near Whiddon Down. The current owners have lived there for 8 years and retained much of the previous owner’s garden layout unchanged, including two stately monkey puzzle trees. They have added areas to grow cut flowers which are sold at shops in Moretonhampstead and elsewhere. To make this enterprise work they needed to create a rabbit proof fence around the entire property. At over a 1000ft and with wide open views south over the moor, it was a stunning setting but also required a tall outer hedge for wind/weather protection. Large lawned areas were surrounded by borders of flowering shrubs and perennials. There were also two ponds, one near areas left uncultivated for wildlife habitats; the other, elsewhere in the garden with fish. After our walk around we enjoyed splendid cake and tea.

Let’s hope summer has finally arrived and we can enjoy some lovely days in our gardens and out and about during August.

Hibly

Please send anything for the next newsletter to hibly@hotmail.com.