



MALMESBURY GARDEN CLUB

July *NEWSLETTER* 2011

www.malmesburygardenclub.org.uk

Chairman - Ron Peel

Secretary - Ellie Church

Jottings From The Chair



For various reasons, as indicated in the last newsletter, the club committee is now down to eight members and each member undertakes to do a job. In the long term interests of the club it is important that new members are introduced to the committee to ensure the continuing success of the club. This is an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes, and to possibly shadow one of the jobs.



The committee normally meets once a month on the first Monday, except in July. If anybody is interested we would be delighted to welcome them. Please contact me or any member of the committee.

Ron Peel

MALMESBURY GARDEN CLUB'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE 2011



The club's annual plant sale was held in the Market Cross on May 28th and it was very successful. The weather was cool with a few showers, but trade was steady and by 11.30 am almost all produce had been sold.

The amount of plant sales was up a little on last year but the amount of cakes for the cake stall was down so the total sum of money raised by the cake stall, plant sale and raffle was just over £600. In summary, this was just a little more than last year's total.

Once again Pam Lucas took full advantage of the venue and sold 90% of the squares available on the raffle board. The prize, kindly donated by Gail Hughes, was won by Mrs. J Forss from Tetbury Hill, who was very pleased with her win.

I would like to thank Mr. Bush for storing the tables, and Mr. Boswell for transporting the tables to and from the Market Cross. I would also like to say a very big thank you to every one who helped to make it a successful day

I look forward to seeing you all in 2012 for the Club's next plant sale.

Graham Rees—Plant Sale Organiser—Tel. 01666 823093.

MEETINGS-EVENTS-ACTIVITIES

August Bank Holiday Show



Arrangements for the club's August Bank Holiday Show are being sorted out now. There is quite a mountain of paperwork to be prepared - prize cards, benching cards, results sheets etc., and it is all being finalised. All we need now is some good weather so our enthusiastic members can enter in the many classes available. This will ensure another good show.

But of course we can't have a show without the active support of our members. We need help in setting up the show on Sunday morning the 28th, when we get the tables ready in the Town Hall. We also need help on the Monday - the day of the Show. If you can find some time to give a hand, there are lots of jobs to be done especially in the morning, helping exhibitors to find their way about, and later helping to collect the results of the judging.

Everyone who offers to give some of their time will be found a job they can do - although I'm sure you will understand that if everything runs smoothly there may not be a lot to do, but we do need those extra hands to help to sort out the little problems which may arise.

So please - can you help us to put on the Club's Big Show? We would be pleased to accept help from any of our members - please call Derek on 823944 or e-mail derektilney@talktalk.net.



Bulletin Board



Would you like to receive your Newsletter via Email?



Just email me at info@malmesburygardenclub.org.uk and I will add your name to the mailing list.

Editor

(If you do receive your newsletter via email, and you are planning on changing your email address, please let me know and I can make sure there is no disruption to your newsletter deliveries.)

Announcement

Barton Stacy School will be the recipient of the gate money taken at Longstock Water Garden Park on the 21st of August. Mrs. Alex Harrison from Barton Stacey (Tel.01962 761162) is hoping that some of our members may want to visit on that day.

All info can be found www.longstockpark.co.uk. Members without a computer can ring me for further information.

Graham Rees—Tel. 01666 823093.



Daylilies

By Keith



Comments from the garden....

For three years I have waited for a plant I bought to come into flower. I decided to give it one more chance and I am so glad that I did. I think we all know the plant called *Gypsophilla*. Well, imagine it 100 times bigger, with a flower stalk 7ft high and branches going in all directions covered with hundreds of tiny white flowers. The plant in question was *Crambe cordifolia*. It flowered in June and was just amazing. Sometimes it's worth waiting.

Hemerocallis Daylilies

Hemerocallis or daylilies flower from late spring to early autumn and are available in many colours. Over the years new varieties have been bred and crossed giving us a wide range to choose from. Virtually indestructible, they disappear in winter only to re-emerge as one of the first to show spring has arrived.

Normally only the yellow varieties are scented, although slight scent can be given off by a few other varieties. As the name implies, the flower only lasts for one day, but the long stout stems carry numerous lily shaped flowers which give a succession of colour enhanced by the early and late flowering varieties.



In China buds and flowers are added to salads and considered a table delicacy. As with most herbaceous perennials division of clumps will be needed once fewer flowers are being produced.

Daylilies grow in full sun or semi shade and the height varies from 18" to 3ft. The leaves are mid green and strap shaped. They are generally free of pest and disease.

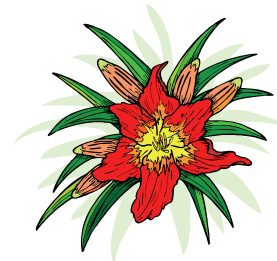
Some varieties I have grown and consider good value include:

- ◇ *H. flava* or *H. lilioasphodelus*, scented yellow flowers ht 30in
- ◇ *H. fulva*, orange/buff ht 3ft.

There are hundreds of hybrids now in cultivation,

here are just a few:

- ◇ *H. 'Black Magic'* deep maroon ht 3ft
- ◇ *H. 'Catherine Woodbury'* deep pink/white ht 3ft
- ◇ *H. 'Stafford'* red/yellow ht 3ft
- ◇ *H. 'Cherry Cheeks'* cherry/pink ht 30in
- ◇ *H. 'Stella de Oro'* pale gold ht 2ft.



Keith's Choice Plants Geranium (or Cranesbill) 'Birch Double'



Double, rose pink flowers on bushy mid green foliage flowering May to September ht 18".

No Disease Please

Hellebore leaf blotch: greyish brown marks develop on the leaves causing large areas to die. Many parts of the plant can be affected, even the flower. A fungus is the cause spreading rapidly in damp weather. Discard affected parts, new growth will soon appear.



Pests Paradise

Chrysanthemum Eelworm: foliage on many herbaceous plants will be troubled by this pest. The leaves turn brown and dry up as this works its way up the plant. Infestation on leaves is normally in late summer, autumn. Microscopic eelworms are the culprit, affecting leaves mostly in damp weather. No insecticide is available, discard affected plants and grow on a different site the following year.

Plants to enjoy in July/August

Crocsmia, Hosta, Scabiosa, Imula, Hemerocallis, Helianthus (sunflower), *Phlox, Clematis, Potentilla, Phlomis, Philadelphus.*

.....Tasks for July/August.....

- Spray roses against pests/diseases and dead head canes
- Prune shrubs that have finished flowering: Spires, Broom, Japonica etc.
- Prune winter flowering heathers, Aubrieta, Alyssum saxatile, Arabis etc.
- Continue to tie in tall growing perennials as necessary
- Prune hard back bearded Iris and apply 2 oz per sq yd general fertilizer
- Feed tubs and hanging baskets at 10 day intervals
- Protect ripening fruit from birds
- Prune back to ground level fruited blackcurrant
- Tie in new growth of loganberry and blackberry
- For yellowing of raspberry leaf, water sequestered iron (iron feed) as directed
- Complete brassica planting—Brussels sprouts, savoy etc. Protect against root-fly
- Spray brassica plants against caterpillars
- Complete late planting of leeks, peas, beetroot, spinach
- Sow spring cabbage seed
- Raise mower height in dry weather.



The Herb Garden



We all should have a vegetable plot, but additional herb plantings are very important to help with pollination. At the beginning of the year, I touched on this very topic. Either planted in pots or planted in different areas of the vegetable plot, herbs can help attract the insects that support pollination for the vegetables/fruits.

There are a few herbs that attract more bees than most. Borage for instance, if planted near beans, will not only help with pollination but it attracts blackfly, keeping them away from your beans. Borage could also be planted near the tomato plants to help stop whitefly and to help with tomato worm. Marjoram also attracts countless bees. The leaves are aromatic and the flowers a delicate shade of pink and white. Rosemary is not only a must in the kitchen but also in the vegetable garden as it helps to repel carrot fly. Rosemary comes in a number of colours and can make a nice low hedge at the end of your vegetable plot. You would not believe how many varieties of mint there are. The variegated ginger mint, ht 18in, apple mint (*Mentha suaveolens*), ht 3ft, and peppermint (*Mentha piperita*) ht 2ft, just to name a few. I have only just touched on the countless herbs that are welcome in the garden. I will write again on this topic in one of the winter news letters.

Seasonal Activities

Continue to sow lettuce to keep a continuation for the summer. When sowing peas, cover them with mesh as the birds will pull them out of the ground as they emerge. Earth up leeks to give you that nice long white stem. Watch for blackfly on runner beans and french beans. The asparagus will be showing its fine fern at this time of year. Examine them carefully since the asparagus beetle will no doubt be present. Spray with bug clear as needed. Keep the onion bed weed free as they should be 'bulbing' up well now. Spray potato hams against blight if they should get affected. This will show as yellowing of leaves with dark markings. You will have to dig them up as the blight will very rapidly affect the potato as well.

No Vegetable Nightmares Please

Onion Neck Rot: The neck and foliage above show signs of yellowing and lacking in colour followed by total collapse. Remove affected bulbs. Hand weed only, especially around the neck of the bulb. Plant on new ground each year. Dust with yellow or green sulphur when storing.

Potato Blight: Potato blight; brown and yellow patches appear on leaves after a rain storm late in June/July. The potato patch can look perfect one day and affected the next, outdoor tomatoes can be affected in the same way. Spray with a fungicide every ten days to minimise disease.

Keith