

Grosmont & District Gardening Club

NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

A message from our Chairperson

Hello Members and Friends,

I am still alive, which is always a plus and if you are reading this, you too are alive and hopefully well. The novelty of lock down is wearing thin, but there is at last, light at the end of the poly- tunnel. Garden centres are re-opening and those members living in England have increased freedom, while those of us in Wales are obviously still imprisoned or being naughty. (Can you guess which category I fall into?)

Our gardens have been a great compensation during a time when we have all felt increased pressures and insecurities. Our delightful roses are still budding, the scent of the honeysuckle is wafting through the air and the birdsong lifts the spirits. It still is a beautiful world and we will meet again.

Best wishes

Christine (Chair)



Marion has been very busy in her garden. Her tomatoes, carrots and salad are coming along nicely!



See Marion's 'Forever Veg' guide for more information on growing this summer!



Jan's garden is certainly blooming in this beautiful weather!



Local Garden Centre Information



Some local garden centres are opening but with special social distancing measures in place or on an appointment only basis for browsing. Please check before visiting.

Red Castle Nurseries

If you would like to visit please book a time slot. **01873 821232**. They also offer a collection service, phone through your order and collect the same day.

Abergavenny Garden Centre

At present they are continuing their Collection and Delivery service but are hoping to be able to offer appointment slots by the end of this week. **01873 853839**

Madley Plants

Madley Plants are operating an appointment based system and the ONLY way to book an appointment is via the website <https://bit.ly/3bh1A9w>. Slots are 45 minutes long and start on the hour from 10am to 3pm. There are three slots available every hour. They have currently paused their plant click & collect service but you can still order compost via the "order" page on the website. **01981 784011**

Pengethley Garden Centre

Pengethley opened to the public on May 13th with strict measures in place. They will also continue with their click and collect service. See website for details.

www.pengethleyonline.co.uk

Calling all compost makers!!

Sue and Ian Mabberley have the garden at Nant y Bedd. Sue has made this very informative video on composting!

<https://nantybedd.com/2020/04/28/perfect-compost-making-and-a-plea/>

Virtual Chelsea Flower Show 2020

I know it isn't just me who is desperately missing Chelsea this year. However, they have gone to incredible lengths to bring as much gardening as they can to the public via the internet. Do have a look and I'm sure it will inspire you further!

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



NGS – Virtual Garden Visits

The National Garden Scheme has worked tirelessly with garden owners across the county to bring the gardens we are unable to visit, into our homes during these difficult times. There are many short videos to watch showing all types of gardens, I'm sure you will have visited some and you will be able to enjoy them all again!

ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/

Forever Veg!.....by Marion.

I hope all your young plants and seedlings are doing well and nothing was lost to the frosts of early May!

Looking forward from here towards early June the night time temperatures are looking much more stable so now is a really good time to start getting your plants hardened off ready to move permanently outside for the summer.

Hardening off should take between 7 to 10 days now. After which plants should be used to being outside and can be planted into their final containers and put in their final position for cropping. You may have been doing this already by moving things outside when the weather is fit during the day and back in at night. Beware of cold winds during the day as they can damage tender plants like Tomatoes and Cucumbers. Have some nice horticultural fleece to hand just in case.

Continued Care. Don't forget to give things as much sun as possible, provide canes for support where necessary and water at least once per day. In hot weather watering may be needed twice a day. Large leaved plants like Courgettes need plenty of water or then can suffer from mildew. Always water at the base of plants. Don't sprinkle water over the leaves as this can create conditions for disease to take hold. If you have used slow release granular plant food then feeding won't be necessary until late Summer, if not then regular feeding of anything in pots with Tomato feed, Liquid Seaweed or Comfrey liquid, will help ensure good crops.

Look out for **Pests.**

Snails can do lots of damage. A few slug pellets applied regularly between pots should hopefully stop them. Aphids are a nuisance. I don't like spraying things I'm going to eat, so I keep a close eye on new growth and squash infections early, or nip out badly affected shoots. If really desperate, populations can be knocked back by Py Spray – but only spray on still days, late in the evening, when the bees have retired as Py will also kill any bees it comes in contact with. Spraying in the evening ensures it will be dry by morning, so the bees will be safe from it.

Keep the crops coming. It isn't too late to start many things off. In fact, if you don't have space to protect things indoors then now is the ideal time to start a few things off outdoors. For instance: -

More Salad, Lettuce, Radish, Spring Onions, Other leafy crops

Courgettes

Cucumbers

Carrots

Basil

Runner or French Beans

Veg for Shade

If all you have for growing is semi shade, then as long as the area gets some sunshine during the day, the following should give you a reasonable crop.

Beetroot

Carrots

Chard

Spinach

Peas

If you need reminders on sowing, look back at the March edition of the Newsletter for more information.

If you have any specific questions Marion would be happy to answer emails from members.

A garden isn't just about flowers.....

Home schooling started in earnest on Monday 23rd March. As an ex teacher I thought it would be fine, I could do this! Fast forward 48 hours and home schooling ended! After tears and tantrums all round, we escaped into the garden.....and we have been there ever since. 60 days and still going strong! My garden has been a cycle track, a football pitch, rugby pitch, fairy garden, a camping ground, a space for watching the International Space Station and the amazing Satellite Trains whilst cwtched up in blankets in the dark. We have planted, watered and loved growing lots of new things and learnt so much about the World around us along the way. We have had idyllic days where we've felt like we have stepped into an Enid Blyton novel, and days where we have cried, fallen, got up, cried some more and laughed until we have cried! My garden will never be a show garden and I've realised it isn't all about flowers anymore. My garden has given my little family a space to grow, learn, observe, and more importantly feel safe during these strange and uncertain times. For now, my show garden will have to wait! 😊 Stay safe and well.

Clare



Committee Members

Chair	Christine Williams
Treasurer	Marion Stainton
Minute Secretary	Jenny Bond
Programme Secretary	Paula Crawford
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Many thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter. If anyone would like to share pictures of their gardens, prize roses or amazing veg, don't be shy! Please do email them for us to see and we can put them in the next newsletter! We hope you are all staying safe and well and will keep you posted on future events as and when the situation improves. With our very best wishes, Grosmont & Distict Garden Club.