

# Grosmont & District Gardening Club

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

## A message from our Chairperson

Hello Members and Friends,

Even though we have missed the plant sale this year and all our fun outings, your Committee are making tentative plans for the Autumn. All your gardens should be looking fabulous by now, with not a weed in sight. I can write that with confidence because all of your weeds have made their way to my modest plot where they are thriving. (I am starting a campaign to re-christen weeds under the wild flowers heading.)

At last there is definite progress and our freedom is gradually being reinstated. If it means we all have to wear masks, it is a small price to pay. The right mask can be a fetching little number and

hide a sagging jawline from the world. Yes, indeed, there is a lot to be positive about. So if you see an old lady with a trowel, swathed in a floral mask and tottering on high heels, give me wave and talk to me from at least 2 metres away!

I hope you are all well and happy-ish.

*Christine (Chair)*



Andy and Sue Walker have been busy in their garden and their efforts have been well worth it. Their garden is blooming and I'm sure has benefited from the few drops of rain recently.



## 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.

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### Abergavenny Garden Centre

An appointment system is in operation, please contact the centre to book a slot **01873 853839**. Deliveries are still available. They will be re-opening on Sundays as of June 21<sup>st</sup>.

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### Madley Plants

Madley Plants are open 10-4 daily and are operating an appointment based system. To book an appointment visit the website <https://bit.ly/3bh1A9wThis> Their FB page states 'if you just want to come over, that's fine, and as long as we don't already have 4 households on site, you'll be good to go'.  
**01981 784011**

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### Pengethley Garden Centre

Pengethley opened to the public on May 13<sup>th</sup> with strict measures in place. They will also continue with their click and collect service. See website for details.  
[www.pengethleyonline.co.uk](http://www.pengethleyonline.co.uk)

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### Millbrook Garden Centre, Monmouth

Millbrook Garden Centre are open with social distancing measure in place.

**01600 713770**

## Welsh Organic Wildflowers

Based in Llantilio Crossenny, Welsh Organic Wildflowers have an excellent collection of wildflowers, herbs, trees and shrubs. They are open to the public and you can also make orders via their website. Check out their website for more details.

<https://www.welshorganicwildflowers.com/>

### Members Spotlight



**Name:** Diane Wright

**Garden Club Member since:** 2015

- 1. Describe your garden**  
*Compact!*
- 2. What is your earliest memory of gardening?**  
*Going with my Grandad to his allotment in Hereford. He gave me a colander of peas to shell! He grew lots of vegetables.*
- 3. What is the best piece of gardening advice you have been given?**  
*To weed little and often*
- 4. Which garden tool could you not live without and why?**  
*A Hori knife.*
- 5. Favourite plant/flower?**  
*Roses*
- 6. Dig or no dig?**  
*No dig*
- 7. Worst garden fail in the past 12 months?**  
*Beetroot! They just won't grow!*
- 8. Garden achievement you are most proud of?**  
*I dug up my front garden and re-planted a rose that I brought with me when I moved called 'Warm Welcome'. Everyone admires it.*
- 9. You can have a famous gardener spend a day with you in your garden. Who do you choose?**  
*Adam Frost*

**Thank you Diane,!!**

## Veg Growing – Pest and Diseases.

I hope all of your veg is growing well now the frosts are past and we've had some much needed rain! I only hope it knows when to stop raining as we and our plants do need the sunshine and warmth too.

There is still plenty of time to continue to sow some crops at this stage in the year. Veg like salads, courgettes, beans (of all kinds) would still give you a good crop before the autumn if sown now.

I thought that this time instead of talking about how to grow things, it might be a good idea to talk briefly about some of the worst/most common pests and diseases which might compete with you for your crops and how best to deal with them.

I try to keep my chemical use to an absolute minimum and certainly on anything I aim to eat, so I will not be recommending those as solutions. Besides there are fewer and fewer available to us gardeners.



**Aphids** are inevitable at some point. Be vigilant and check things regularly. A small infestation can be squashed or washed off easily. Damaged tips can be removed. Always look for helpful friends like Ladybirds and their larvae as they will do a much better job than chemicals or squashing, of getting rid of Aphids. Blue Tits also feed aphids to their young – a very good reason not to spray. Bear in mind that Aphids breed very fast indeed – giving birth to live, already pregnant young is their party piece! If the infestation is bad and you decide to spray, use a pyrethrin based insecticide and spray as late in the evening as you can, so after the bees have gone to bed.



**Slugs and Snails.** Only Ferric Oxide pellets are now available. These break down naturally in the soil and are not known to harm other creatures. They should still be used sparingly, it is better to keep reapplying after rain. Which? found that things like egg shell and coffee grounds had little effect, but that the wool pellets and gels were a bit more effective. Nematodes are a biological solution for slugs, which I find very effective on my raised beds. It doesn't work on snails. Keeping beds and borders free from old organic matter is also a good way of reducing the numbers in your garden.



**Fungal Diseases**, like powdery mildew, are often exacerbated by poor physical conditions, such as lack of water or nutrients. Courgettes for instance are really prone to it. Firstly, you can buy resistant cultivars if it continues to be a problem, but courgettes in particular require plenty of water, and a good rich compost to grow in. Always water the soil at the base of any plant. Watering the leaves of any plant will encourage fungal diseases, as will planting too close, which reduces air flow and feeding with too much nitrogen, which causes soft sappy growth attractive to pests. By this time of year, it is best to be applying low nitrogen feeds, like tomato fertilisers or comfrey.

**Weeds.** Keep your veg garden as weed free as you can as weeds can often act as alternative hosts for pests and diseases.

Marion Stainton (June 2020)

## Garden Gallery June 2020



Jan's Philadelphus is looking splendid, as is her Rose '*Crown Princess Margareta*'



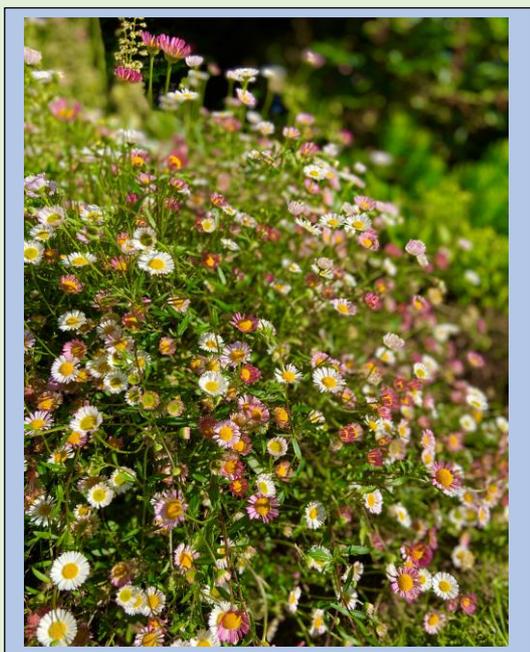
Chris spotted this very rare Scarlet Tiger Moth in her garden. What an amazing find!



Sarah shared this photo of a Pollen Beetle. She informs us they do no harm unlike flea beetles on brassicas!



Jenny captured her rose, Rosa '*Summer Wine*' in full glory! It is a vigorous medium-sized climber with exquisite perfume!



Diane's Mexican Fleabane looks beautiful in the late afternoon sunshine.



Little William on strawberry picking duty! How many actually make it to my kitchen?!

# HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

SATURDAY 27 JUNE — WEDNESDAY 1 JULY  
IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE



For five days at the end of this month, more than 20 Grosmont garden-owners will open their gates – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY TO ONE HOUSEHOLD AT A TIME – for others to see what they've been up to over the past three months, and share some of the pleasure they've gained from their gardens.

## OFFERING A WELCOME, AND A GLIMPSE BEHIND THEIR GARDEN GATE:

York House – Sally and Gary – 240466	Castle House - Di - 241128
Rowan House – Pete and Julie– 241567	Castle View - Dave and Jean - 240104
The Laurels – Bill and Elaine – 241665	Rivendell - Jeremy and Linda - 241209
The Hand – David and Lynn – 240273	The Keep - Gaynor and Michelle - 240066
Ty Dewr - Rob and Bea – 240792	The Bailey - Andrew and Jenny - 241488
Tan-y-Llan – Steve and Julie – 07813 158184	Ty Celyn – Philippa - 241301
Garnet's Orchard – Lee and Debbie – 242067	GROW - Di Pears - 240168
Bank House - Sue – 241301	Rose Cottage - Miriam and Ross - 240726
Castle Acre - Sue – 241078	Zoe and Phil - Annwylfa - 241138
Castle Gate - Stuart and Jan – 240692	Woodbine Cottage - Lynne & Mark - 240350
	Tressenny Brook House - Mike and Pat- 240798

## CALL TO BOOK YOUR SLOT!

THERE WILL BE TWO CENTRAL DONATION POINTS – ONAWAY (JANE MOGGRIDGE) AND THE SHOP (RICHARD).

THERE IS NO SET PRICE TO VISIT THE GARDENS, BUT WE'RE HOPING THAT EVERYONE WILL GIVE GENEROUSLY – ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE IS ONE OF THE MANY CHARITIES THAT IS SUFFERING AS A RESULT OF CANCELLED FUNDRAISING EVENTS THIS YEAR, AND WE'D LIKE TO DO OUR BIT TO HELP.

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 need a willing volunteer to participate in our 'Members Spotlight' section next month! Let me know if you'd like to take part and I will send you some questions (they may vary month to month).

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 & District Garden Club*

For more information: <https://grosmont.wales/>

### Committee Members

Chair	Christine Williams
Treasurer	Marion Stainton
Minute Secretary	Jenny Bond
Programme Secretary	Paula Crawford
Press Notices	Chris Robinson
Social Media	Clare Perks
Newsletter	Jan Eastment
	Sarah Bell

### Contacts

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