

Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Newsletter No. 53 – February 2020

It is February, the world is waking up and the weather is throwing everything at us. Rain (that's novel), gale force winds, sleet, ice and lovely, cold, sunny days. It is the time that we really start thinking about our gardens, setting seeds and assessing any damage from the weather. We need also to be thinking about wildlife in our gardens and whilst there are many jobs to be done some need to be delayed a little. The RHS February checklist includes putting up bird nesting boxes and completing renovation and pruning of hedges before the nesting season starts but to leave turning of compost heaps until mid-spring to avoid disturbing other creatures that may be sheltering in the dark warmth. And, of course, continue feeding the birds as there is still cold weather to come.

There are many flowers that can be pruned this month – roses, bamboo canes, Wisteria, Campsis, Buddleia and Perovoskia. Winter flowering heathers can be trimmed lightly as the flowers wither. Our schedule this year has some small changes to add a bit of interest so now is the time to think about what you will be showing in the Spring and Autumn. Lots to do, so I wish you happy gardening. Editor



Tulips

Our first event of the year was a talk by Kathrine Lynn on Tuesday February 11th in the Village Hall. This lively talk about Tulips - history and cultivation - was well received. Kathrine was interesting and informative about aspects of the history of Tulips and their likes and dislikes. I certainly learnt new things as I think others did. Kathrine spoke easily and clearly and we were thoroughly entertained. I am sorry so many of you missed it, most likely due to nasty bugs doing the rounds but I hope Kathrine can come again with another interesting subject.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME FOR THE ORCHID EVENT: DETAILS BELOW



Orchids



Many of you will remember the excellent talk by Christine Bartlett last year. This year she is returning with Part 2, Intermediate Level Orchid Growing which will cover another group of orchid types. Again, it will take place in the Village Hall but this time at **7pm on Wednesday**

18th March. Entrance will be £1 for members and £3 for non-members, which will include refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you to this event, so please come along and fill the Hall. If attendance is very low again we may have to reconsider whether these events are really what members want. On the other hand, if you would like different sorts of speakers or events, please let us know. It is your society and the committee will endeavour to accommodate as many needs as possible. An e-mail is acceptable but for those without e-mail a written note to any committee member will suffice. Events with speakers cost between £110 and £150 and is only offset by entrance and raffle money, so we have to get it right.



Looking forward to the Spring Show

The Show will be held on Saturday 4th April. Doors open at 2.30pm and entrance will be free to all. If any members can contribute raffle prizes we would be pleased to receive them.

Also, the theme this time is a Biscuit Bonanza and we plan to have a table with as many varieties of biscuit available to taste and to sell. We invite any members to make biscuits for this event (basic cost of biscuits sold will be reimbursed). Please contact the Show Secretary on 01424 870455 or e-mail sdgs.secretary@gmail.com if you are willing to cook and if so which kind of biscuits just so we don't all make the same type.

For anyone entering items for the show, the Hall will be open from 8.15 to set up your entries and Judging will start at 10.30 sharp. There are no 'enter on the day' categories this year so be sure to get all your entries in on time, i.e. by Thursday evening 2nd April.

TRIPS



Our first trip of the year will be to Leonardslee Gardens and will be organised by Ewhurst, Staplecross and Bodiam Garden Society. This newly restored Grade 1 listed garden should be ablaze with colour from the rhododendrons and azaleas, which should be at their prime in May. The cost for members including SDGS is £24, and for non-members, who are welcome to join us, £26.50 to include coach and entrance. A separate notice will be sent, after the half term break, with details about Leonardslee and important notices about getting around once there, as well as how to book your ticket.