

TREDINGTON & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

The aim is to publish the Newsletter every two months (except summer months). In between times, notices of events, lectures, open gardens and other items of interest will be posted on the News page of the website. If you have any contributions please let me know via the contact page on the website or by email - this could be about a garden you have visited, an event you know about that might be of interest to other members, maybe a seasonal recipe you would like to share, or a new plant variety that you have tried.

Programme changes

Regrettably, Duncan Coombes is unable to speak at our November meeting. Glenis Dyer has kindly stepped into the breach and will talk to us on the subject of 'Winter Bloomers' which follows on nicely from Julie Ritchie's talk last month.

Please note an amendment to the programme in April 2020. After our very successful visit to Morton Hall, we have booked again for the afternoon of the 16th in what we are told is the best week for the meadow. Tickets cost £13pp (subject to any amendment) to include afternoon tea in the orangery. Details will follow nearer the time but, as numbers are restricted, initially tickets will be offered to club members only. If there are spare places then these will be opened up to non-members. I am sure you will understand the reason for this.

Upcoming events

Hidcote

25th August - March 2020 [Rachel Dein: Hidcote through the Seasons](#)

6th - 9th December Wreath-making workshops

Tasks in the garden for October/November

Given the way weather patterns are changing, it is with some trepidation that I offer suggestions!

- Lift hardwood cuttings struck last year and move them to their final position
- Plant bare-root trees, shrubs and hedging whilst the soil is still warm. Later in the month prune bush & shrub rose, particularly those in exposed positions, to prevent wind rock over the colder, windier months ahead.
- Once dahlias and cannas have been damaged by frost, cut them back and lift them for winter storage.
- Remove saucers from containers to avoid
- Pot up amaryllis bulbs for Christmas
- Clean out and disinfect your greenhouse before taking tender plants in for protection.
- Remove netting from fruit cages to allow birds to feed on over-wintering insects.
- Instead of leaving your veg garden soil bare over the winter grow some green manure e.g. grazing rye or winter vetch. Your crops will thank you next year and you'll be providing shelter for insects.
- Settle down with seed catalogues and plan for next year!

Seasonal recipe

This one will warm you up during those Halloween and Bonfire parties.

Pumpkin & lentil soup

Ingredients

2 chopped onions	1 litre of stock (chicken or vegetable, hot)
2 chopped cloves of garlic	6-8 stalks fresh thyme, leaves removed (or sage if preferred)
800g of pumpkin flesh, seeds included	50g creme fraiche plus extra for serve
100g red lentils	Seasoning to taste

Method

Fry the onions gently in some olive oil until softened. Add the chopped garlic, pumpkin flesh (but not the seeds), lentils and herbs. Stir and then add the stock. Season, cover the pan and leave to cook for 20/25 minutes until the lentils & pumpkin are tender.

Wash the pumpkin seeds, removing any flesh and pat dry with kitchen towel. Heat a small amount of olive oil in a pan, then fry the pumpkin seeds until they start to pop. Keep them covered unless you like catching them(!). Once they are golden and toasted add a little salt & sugar to bring out the flavour.

Once the pumpkin & lentil mixture is tender, process it in a food processor or blender until it is smooth. Add the creme fraiche and process again. Check the seasoning before serving with swirls of creme fraiche and a scattering of pumpkin seeds and herbs.

You could use other lentils instead of red lentils and swap Indian spices for the herbs.

New plants for 2019

As some of you may have guessed by now, I find Sarah Raven's website and seed & plant catalogue inspirational. I don't normally like marigolds, finding the orange just too garish for my tastes. I do, though, like these two varieties - the soft peachy apricot is so pretty. The seed can be sown now or in the spring, although the plants will be stronger with an autumn sowing.



Calendula off. 'Sunset Buff'



Calendula off. 'Touch of Red Buff'

This rather beautiful bean is on my list for next year. Completely new to me, it will apparently scramble to 6m (!) but is only half-hardy. It needs full sun and there are mixed

views on how well they germinate but the colour looks fabulous. so I am prepared to give it a go. I think it would look great with lime-coloured foliage - here my favourite grass.



Dolichos lablab 'Ruby Moon'

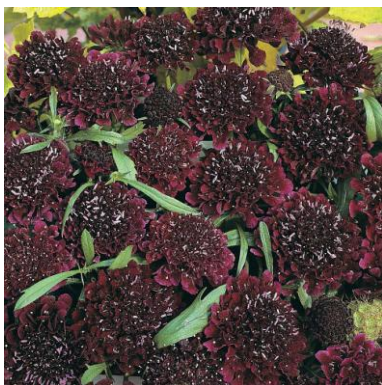


Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'



Lavatera 'Ruby Regis'

Lavatera seems to have gone out of fashion but this short shimmering pink one from Mr Fothergill's has a lovely flower. I found this deep coloured scabious in the Thompson & Morgan catalogue - it would need to be planted against a back drop of brighter colours to show up but the contrast fizzes. Another new one to me is the mix of pink & crimson knautias - these are about a metre tall. Give a splash of contrast with this lime-coloured zinnia.



Scabiosa atro. 'Ace of Spades'



Knautia mac. 'Melton Pastels'



Zinnia 'Benary's Giant Lime'

Next month

As mentioned above, there is a change to the programme next month. Glenis Dyer will be returning to talk about winter-flowering plants

Marian