

TREDINGTON & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 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.

Upcoming events

Batsford Arboretum have offered the club four free tickets to a talk by Christopher Smith, co-owner of renowned [Pennard Plants](#) at Batsford on 2nd April . Pennard Plants is based within a Victorian walled garden in Somerset and specialises in edible plants, & heritage & heirloom seeds. The title of the talk is, quite fittingly, 'Tales from the Walled Garden'. The event takes place in the Education Centre at Batsford Arboretum on Tuesday 2nd April at 6.30pm.

Cheltenham & District Orchid Society will be holding their annual show on Saturday 2nd March at Churchdown Community Centre, Gloucester. Entry costs £2.50 (free car parking) and you can bring along an orchid for re-potting for £1. For more information go to www.cheltenhamorchids.org

RHS - tickets are now on sale for 2019 shows.

Tasks in the garden for February/March

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

- Chit potatoes
- Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some vegetable seeds undercover or in propagators .
- Protect blossom on vulnerable fruit trees - peaches, apricots & nectarines.
- Now is a good time to prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering. Also prune evergreen hedges and renovate deciduous hedges. Remove any dead or

weak growth. Shrubs like lilac, forsythia & buddleja benefit if you prune out some old wood to allow new growth to come through.

- Divide clumps of bulbs such as snowdrops and re-plant 'in the green'
- Now is the time to cut back deciduous grasses that have been left standing over winter and to renovate evergreen grasses.
- In March, start thinking about aerating your lawn and applying lawn feed.

Seasonal recipe

This isn't really a seasonal recipe but every year people ask for Barbara's tiramisu recipe - so here it is!

Barbara's Tiramisu

Ingredients

- 1 oblong Madeira cake
- 1 tin ready-made custard
- 1 250gm Mascarpone cheese
- 4 heaped teaspoons of instant coffee
- Hot water (about a cup)
- Alcohol of your choice if you wish

Method

First make the coffee very strong in a small shallow bowl (add alcohol) and allow to cool. While it's cooling, put the mascarpone and custard in a bowl and mix together until fairly smooth. Cut the Madeira cake in half and then each half into about 4 or 5 slices.

Dip each slice of cake into the coffee on both sides and put one half of the cake into the bottom of your dish. Cover with half of the mascarpone cream. Repeat the cake & coffee layer with the other half of the cake and finish with the rest of the mascarpone cream.

Possible toppings

- Crumbled amaretti biscuits
- Cream
- Dusting of cocoa powder

Chocolate shavings

Toasted almonds

Or a combination or any other idea of your own!

This will fill a small dish. If you want to make a large one, just double the quantities.

New plants for 2019

The first two that caught my eye are dwarf forms of popular perennials - verbena bonariensis 'Lollipop', which has all the usual characteristics but is only half as tall, and lupin 'Snow Pixie', a pretty, dwarf & fragrant lupin standing just 12-16" tall (Sutton's Seeds). Meanwhile, Thompson & Morgan have several new introductions including this rather striking dahlia 'Maggiore Fire' or its more subtle introduction, 'Creme de Cassis'.



Lupin 'Snow Pixie'

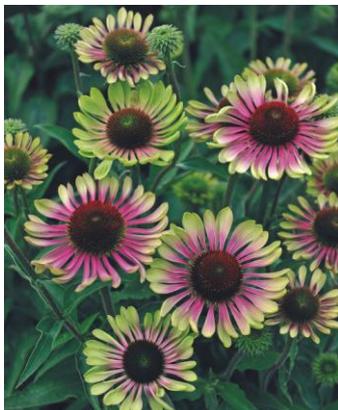


Dahlia 'Maggiore Fire'



Dahlia 'Creme de Cassis'

I love echinaceas and think this lime green & pink one, 'Green Twister', is fabulous. I am also quite taken with another newcomer, a sweet pea named 'Almost Black' from King's Seeds who are also offering this rather wonderful pink dahlia, 'Maldini', of modest height (28").



Echinacea 'Green Twister'



Lathyrus odoratus 'Almost Black'



Dahlia 'Maldini'

I love Sarah Raven's website - her choice of plants chimes with my own favourite colour combinations. I came across this stunning scabious, scabiosa stellata 'Sternkuge'. The pink nasturtium is rather lovely too. This zinnia collection echoes the colours of the echinacea above



Scabiosa stellata 'Sternkugel'



Tropaeolum minus 'Lady Bird Rose'



Cranbry & Lime Zinna collection

Next month

Next month will be our AGM. After we have concluded the formal business of the meeting, Rodney has very kindly agreed to give us a short talk on the history of allotments.