

GLYNNEATH & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

www.glynneathgardeningclub.com



Members' newsletter

October 2013

Hello everyone

Little did we know when we produced the last newsletter that the summer of 2013 would be the best in seven years. Geraniums and begonias thrived in the heat, and fruit and veg were prolific. In our garden, Bill's tomato growing system was a great success and an unexpected result was achieved with sweetcorn. Three plants neglected in their pots and left on the manure beside the tomatoes produced the best and earliest cobs. So next year, the sweetcorn is also going to get Bill's treatment!



After several years when barely a butterfly was to be seen, the whites came out in force, soon followed by clouds of peacocks, tortoiseshells, red admirals and others. The most iconic sighting of any hot summer was the clouded yellow, seen in Pontwalby and Penderyn. Soon the birds will be feasting on the hoards of berries, also a sign of hot summers rather than predictors of cold winters!

We hope that there is plenty to interest you over the coming months and look forward to seeing you at our first autumn meeting in the Training Centre, at 1 pm on Friday 25th October.

The full programme is on the back page of this newsletter.

Isobel & Margaret

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER: ANOTHER RED LETTER DAY

This year's Horticultural Show was up to its usual very high standard, especially the vegetables, and the flowers added a lovely splash of colour to the Town Hall. I had to have two helpers this year in order to carry some of the pumpkins and particularly the 52 pound marrow onto the scales!. (I still did the technical bit - taking the readings). I think we may have to think about a weighbridge next year!

The children put on a fantastic show again this year with paintings, model animals, scarecrows, and sunflower heads, and there were some stunning pictures in the Photography section.

I must say a big thank you to the judges, to all the Gardening Club members who helped to set up the Show, and the ladies of the Women's Institute who provided the tea and cakes. This year we were entertained during the afternoon by the handbell ringers from Cadoxton.

Also a very big thank you to our Show Patron, Mr Les Crick, and everyone who supported the Show through advertisements and buying raffle tickets. The cups and prizes were presented this year by our Show President, Dr Del Morgan, and the Town Mayor, Cllr Robert Parry.

Well done to everyone!

**David Stevens,
Gardening Club Treasurer**



Our website address is: www.glynneathgardeningclub.com

SOUND AS A POUND

DISCOUNT STORE,
PET & GARDEN
SUPPLIES

Stephanie Williams
38 High Street,
Glynneath

Tel: 01639 722444

THE LAMB & FLAG GLYNNEATH

Tel: 01639 721995

Weekly food offers:

OAP Menu
Tuesday & Thursday
12 – 3 pm

Carvery - £7.50
Sunday 12 – 5 pm

NELSON'S COACHES

Tel: 01639 720308

We do a wide variety of
day trips, so if you fancy
shopping,

Christmas Markets
or seeing a show
There is a trip
you will enjoy.



CLUB LIBRARY

We have a wide range of gardening books
available, which you are welcome to borrow.

Pick one up at the start of the meeting and keep
it until the next meeting in the Training Centre.



If you have any at home that you borrowed earlier, could you please bring them back when we start back on Friday 25th October.

THE FULL DIARY FOR THE AUTUMN MEETINGS IS ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

THE SHOW - THIS YEAR'S CUP WINNERS

Ian Smith Cup	For 6 different vegetables	Keith Edwards
Max Boyce Cup	Best leeks – what else?	Keith Edwards
Bill Crew Cup	Highest points in vegetable section	Keith Edwards
Randall Thomas Memorial Cup	Best vegetable exhibit	Bill Crew
The Wimpey Cup	Highest points for flowers/veg	Keith Edwards
Harry Lewis Cup	Highest points in Heaviest/Longest	Keith Edwards
Coal Board Cup	3 vases of cut flowers	Glyn Davies
F E Crick & Sons Cup	Best flower exhibit	Ian Williams
John Nelson Cup	Best overall exhibit in flower/veg.	Ian Williams
John Quick Cup	Highest points in flower section	Ian Williams
Carol Williams Cup	Best novelty birthday cake	Diane Price
Linda Howells Cup	Highest points: Baking/preserving	Heather Jeffries
John Penney Memorial Cup	Best exhibit: Baking/preserving	Susan Jones
Mike Dowley Cup	Tray of 12 onions	Keith Edwards
Mayor's Cup	Best overall photograph	Gerald Davies
Robert Parry Cup	Heaviest pumpkin	Glyn Davies
Banksian Medal	Highest overall points flower/veg.	Keith Edwards
Children's Section:	All the prizewinners received a medal	
Congratulations to all the winners	Model animal	Grace & Lucy Bowen
	Painting of favourite animal	Caelan Thomas
	Scarecrow	Caelan Thomas
	Largest sunflower head	Saul Harrison

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR TAKING PART –
WITHOUT YOU, THERE WOULD BE NO SHOW.**

MOTHS – THEIR NAMES AND LOCAL FINDS

Isobel Carter

In recent years, a few of us from the Gardening Club have ventured out in the summer to do a little wildlife spotting. This year, Mark Thomas brought his light box to Pontwalby for moth trapping. The moths identified by Mark appeared between 9.30 and 11.30 on a warm clear summer's night and amounted to a massive (to us) 40 different varieties. In reality this was a modest number as there are 2500 varieties in the UK as a whole, not including a variety of regular and occasional migrants.

Many moths were named and identified two or three hundred years ago. The first attempt to name them (at least in our society), was made by James Petiver in about 1700. His names did not survive but those used by water colourist, Moses Harris, are still in use; for instance, the Seraphim, the Argent and Sable and the True Lover's Knot. The names are often far more colourful than the moths themselves!

Many of the 40 varieties found by Mark at Pontwalby were insignificant dull browns, yet the names given to them clearly reflect the wonder of the lepidopterists who first found and identified them. The Silver Y has a lovely name but is fairly dull-looking to the non-enthusiast – yet it is one of the most important pollinators in British gardens.

The moths we found were not all dull browns; there were 6 Large Yellow Underwings and 20 Lesser Broad Bordered Yellow Underwings – all as decorative as their names. Another pretty variety was the Canary Shouldered Thorn. All the moths found were common in the UK, pollinating and feeding on plants which are in plentiful supply, for instance, hawthorn, grasses and herbaceous flowers. Had he stayed all night, Mark said that many more varieties would have been found as different moths are active at different times of night.



This is the aptly named Hummingbird Hawkmoth, seen on verbena and buddleia. It looks just like a hummingbird, when it hovers over the plants to feed.

In addition to the moths, noctule, pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle bats were also identified and towards the end of the evening a few Perseid meteors were spotted and finally to crown the evening, the international space station was seen passing overhead.

A complete list of the moths found will appear on the website.

September brings the first mists and mellow fruitfulness of autumn. This is a month of bounty in the garden with apple trees and berry bushes hanging heavy with fruit.

But remember not to discard your windfall crops. Bruised apples provide a key food source for butterflies. You may even witness tipsy Red Admirals and Commas feasting on the fermenting fruit.

If you don't have any fruit trees, don't despair. Empty your fruit bowl of over-ripe extras and leave them in a place where the butterflies can feast.



GARDEN PARTY

The club was lucky again with the weather this year, for the garden party at the end of June.

Chris and Eva accompanied events with their traditional Welsh instruments and committee members provided a feast of cakes and savouries.

John and Sylv provided a range of traditional games and of these, it was the Boules that absorbed the afternoon.

Having studied and circulated the rules, Bill prepared some very professional equipment and guided the novice members of the club through the game. It proved a great focus to the event and will no doubt be a popular element of any future garden parties. If this is the case, members will be competing with the outright winner, who'd never played before – Jackie Morris.



Bill was also innovative in raising £20 for the garden club by charging £1 for each member entering the Boules competition. (One pound to enter - £5 to sit and watch)

The voluntary contributions which we raised towards Neath MIND came to £110 altogether, as the vicar suggested putting the £30 for the hire of the marquee into the MIND kitty.

Sharon Richards, the Manager at Neath MIND sent the following acknowledgement: ***“Thank you for choosing us as the charity to support. This money will make a big difference to a small charity like ours, and we promise to use the money for service delivery in the area”.***

THE WALKING STICK

The function of the walking stick –

Can be used by the able-bodied as well as the sick.

The walking stick is a comfort also a friend

When used it's easy to comprehend.

It doesn't matter what type of stick you choose

If not using one you are the one to lose.

Walking on the pavement or uneven terrain

The help it gives is always the same.

Cut, sanded and made to size

In your esteem it always gets first prize.

There is a multitude of shapes, sizes and styles

For the casual walker or the one who walks miles.

Some might purchase the v-shape for the thumb

Made from hazel, willow or laburnum.

Others may prefer the one with the knob

It doesn't matter as long as it does the job.

The farmer may pick a crook or cleek

Used to hook around the leg of the sheep.

One made from the green tinted holly

Doesn't look amiss with the shepherd and his collie.

Shepherds' invariable choice is the crook,

Carved intricately is the best in anyone's book.

Your choice in selection may be a tricky one,

But whatever your choice treasure it and have fun.



J EMLYN JONES.



GARDENING COURSES AT THE DOVE WORKSHOP, BANWEN Tutor: Graham Morris

There are going to be two gardening courses this autumn at the DOVE Workshop in Banwen, provided by the Workers Educational Association.

INTRODUCTION TO GARDENING

This is an 8-week course, commencing on Friday 4th October, from 10 am – 12 pm. It will cover:

- selecting shrubs and climbers for year-round interest
- controlling pests and diseases
- vegetable crop planning
- lawn maintenance
- planting in containers
- planting in a small greenhouse.

CREATIVE GARDENING

This course is also 8 weeks, commencing on Monday 30th September, from 1-3 pm. It covers:

- ideas and inspiration for garden design
- formal and informal design styles and features
- producing a simple garden design plan.

For further information on these courses, contact Graham on 01639 722105
Or email him on grahamghs@aol.com

For enrolment information, contact Lorraine at the DOVE Workshop on 01639 700024
or email doveworkshop@btconnect.com
Enrolments accepted to 14th October, dependent on demand and spaces being available.

Useful websites:

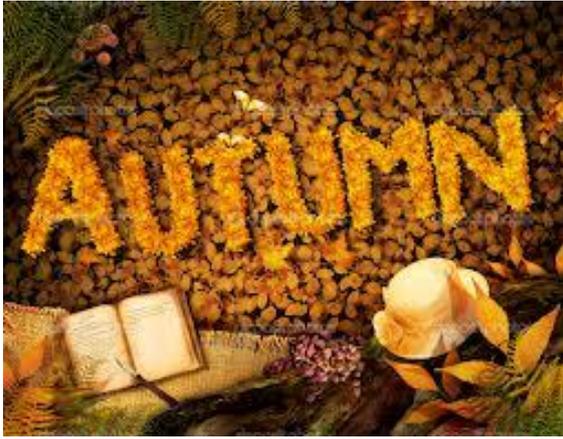
The DOVE Workshop: www.doveworkshop.org.uk
Workers' Educational Association: www.weasouthwales.org.uk

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES

When we visited the Gardens in May, it was the weekend when the West Wales Food Festival was in full swing.

If you are looking for somewhere to visit this autumn, the Garden holds a variety of events throughout the year. For example, Sunday 13th October is Wales Fungus Day. The 19th/20th October is Apple Weekend, and on the Sunday (20th) a 35-strong choir, Hertford Voices, will be performing in the Glasshouse.

If you go on to the website www.gardenofwales.org.uk you can **sign up for e-news**. You will then get regular emails from David Hardy, the Head of Marketing, so that you will never miss out on what events are taking place.



CLUB DIARY

The trips for 2013 may have finished but we hope you will find plenty to interest you in the coming months.

**We start back at 1pm on
Friday 25th October
in the Glynneath Training Centre
and look forward to seeing you.**

Friday 25th October:

SIMON GOODENOUGH

Curator of Horticulture at the National Botanic Garden

We have enjoyed visiting the Garden again this year,
Now we can learn much more about it.

If you want to find out more about the Garden, the website is:

www.gardenofwales.org.uk

Friday 15th November:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Not just an AGM, but a chance to have a cuppa and let us
know what sort of talks you would like next year, and
where you would like to visit.**

Friday 29th November:

JOSEPH ATKIN

Head Gardener at Aberglasney

Joseph writes an excellent article in the Evening Post each Saturday.

To get more of his gardening tips and advice online, you can check out his
archive www.southwales-eveningpost.co.uk

Friday 13th December:

Don't be superstitious – it could be your lucky day.

**DYLYS AYLING will be demonstrating how to make
beautiful table decorations for Christmas.**

Things to nibble, and a special Christmas raffle.

**Friday 24th January
2014**

GARDENING QUIZ

**Graham has promised to come and do one of his quizzes.
It's only fun – and you might even win a prize.**

Isobel will continue getting speakers for 2014. If you have any ideas on subjects,
or items for the newsletter then we would be pleased to hear from you.

You can call us or send an email:

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