

Gardening Club Notes for Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2016

Our vice chairperson, Sue Brown, welcomed members and guests to our February meeting where we heard an interesting talk on Gardening for Bees.

Alan Wells, our speaker, handed out information on the talk and the following is an extract.

## Gardening for Bees

Or

You don't have to keep bees to be a Beekeeper!

My talk is designed to show some aspects of how to garden to encourage insect foragers. The Countryside becomes increasingly denuded of suitable foraging, partly because less land is left to meadows and partly because of the use of herbicides which reduces the wildflower population. No insect is more affected by these changes than the Honey Bee.

Neither you nor I can affect the changes happening to our countryside at global level but at local level we can have a major impact on what happens to our honey Bees and the food that is available to them. What we plant and how we plant it can dramatically increase the attraction of our gardens to the Bee; she has very strict demands and will not bother with your garden if you do not meet them

*We will examine what to plant and how best to appeal to them.*

Each member will receive a full leaflet showing what is favoured by the bees and when they are in flower.

A bit about me...I am a beekeeper and keen gardener located in the Forest of Dean, I am not on a mission to change the world but the world needs more bees and this is my way of encouraging that. Neither interest dominates but they are definitely interdependent.

They give me exercise, serenity, profound pleasure and ....Honey!

Some guide lines for planting:

Try to plant in drifts not dots -it makes it easier for your foraging insects to find them.

Select plants with single flowers not doubles -they are harder to extract nectar from.

Don't be too tidy; insects have a different view on scruffy borders.

Buy a one shilling plant but put it in a five shilling hole

Remember Plants grow in value to insects in Autumn and Winter

Every chemical added to a garden kills the innocent as well as the guilty, let nature take care of the ''bad guys'

Because honey bees are social insects (i.e. They live in colonies) even small parts per billion of chemicals will accumulate in their wax and will, eventually, kill the colony.

One mature fruit tree will provide 2 Kg of nectar in blossom per day -enough to feed the colony for a week.

Lastly, relax and enjoy your garden you are only here once and today will not come again...

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## Notices

Barbara passed around details of a proposed summer trip to see Sir Harold Hillier's garden at Romsey in Hampshire. The cost will be £7.70 per person entry plus the coach fare. The trip is scheduled for Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>, departing at 9am and returning at 6pm.

Spring Show and Annual Show schedules were available as were Blue Kestrel second early potatoes for the spud-in-a-bucket at the Annual Show

March 31<sup>st</sup> Spring Show

April 28<sup>th</sup> Propagating seed cuttings and beyond

May 26<sup>th</sup> Plants of the Season.

And finally..... A BIG thank you to the tea ladies for the sterling work they do.

But definitely finally.....On this day, February 26<sup>th</sup> in years gone by,,,,,

364 AD Valentinian I is proclaimed Roman Emperor

1797 Bank of England issues its first £1-note

1804 Vice-admiral William Bligh (of Bounty fame) ends siege of Fort Amsterdam, Willemstad

2013 A flexible battery capable of being charged wirelessly and folded and stretched is developed

Shaun Colvin