

Gardening Club Notes for Thursday April 28th 2016

Victoria Logue was our visitor for the evening with a talk on propagating.

Victoria was an accountant for many years but gave it all up in 2001 to pursue a career in Horticulture,

Amateurs tend not to feed their plants enough along with keeping plants they don't like or don't want to get rid of in case the plant decides, eventually, to grow; the professionals are more pragmatic, just move them on somewhere, maybe to a plant sale.

It is worth buying a book on propagating.

Most seeds can be re-used for several years providing they are kept in a box in the fridge but definitely NOT parsnips.

When sowing seeds put two thirds compost into pot and top up with vermiculite or perlite and then add seeds.

Dead head when required, this stops the plant making seed and will encourage growth of another flower.

Don't overwater.

Notices

June 30th Evening visit to Barn House, Sandywell Park, Whittington with Supper, payment due by end of May

The trip to see Sir Harold Hillier's garden at Romsey in Hampshire. The overall cost will be £20 for members and £22 for non members, this covers the coach and entry fee.. The trip is scheduled for Saturday July 9th, departing at 9am and returning at 6pm. Payment due by end of May, there are ten seats still available

And finally.....

Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed.

Robert H Schuller

Old seed

The oldest viable seed to have grown into a plant was a date palm seed estimated to be 2,000 years old (making it the only surviving contemporary of Jesus). It was discovered in 1963 when Herod the Great's fortress of Masada near the Dead Sea was excavated. It was planted in 2005 and now Methuselah, as the plant is called, stands over 4ft high. Botanists believe the seed had managed to remain viable for so long because the Dead Sea area's climate is exceptionally dry and stable.

Apple seed

Plant a seed from your Granny Smith or your Red Delicious and the tree that grows will produce fruit that looks and tastes completely unlike the apple you ate.

Each apple seed produces offspring that are individuals, quite unlike their parent. Humans share this tendency, but to a much lesser extent.

Without grafting - invented by the Chinese 3,000 years ago - your sweet and juicy Cox's Orange Pippin would have disappeared centuries ago. The first apples originated in the primeval apple forests of the foothills of the Tien Shan Mountains.

Blown seeds

One dandelion flower head produces 200 seeds; 99.5 per cent of dandelion seeds travel less than 10m; 0.05 per cent more than 10m; and 0.014 per cent more than one kilometre. Hot weather is better than windy weather for seed dispersal as it generates updrafts, allowing seeds to rise higher and travel further.

Shaun Colvin