

## Gardening Club Notes for Thursday February 23rd

Our Vice Chair, Sue Brown welcomed 23 members and guests to the meeting, which proved to be an interesting and thought provoking talk by Alison Ensor on Permaculture. There are so many things to hear and learn about permaculture so I would suggest that you visit Alisons' web site <http://www.permaculture-alison.co.uk/> for a fascinating tour.

The definition of permaculture is the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient

The definition of agricultural ecosystems is defined as all the organisms (animals, plants, microbes) in a certain habitat, plus also the environment that they live in (such as the soil, a pond, or a mountainside).

With me so far? I hope so!

I think it is best described as making use of whatever you have around you and to think about any long-held views you have on gardening. Alison mentioned no dig gardening which I have done myself for many years but was something I picked up before I ever heard of permaculture, for example, I grow potatoes under black plastic which stops the light turning them green and means the potatoes are closer to the surface and therefore easier to pick, I've also grown them under layers of grass which has the same effect.

## Notices

March 30<sup>th</sup> Members Spring Competition

April 27<sup>th</sup> Ned and Bumps (alias Sir Edward Lutyens & Gertrude Jekyll) - Jim Cooper

May 25<sup>th</sup> Heritage of Wheat & Bread (with samples) - Ded and Liss

June 29<sup>th</sup> Evening visit - To be arranged

And finally.....

## Gardening Quotes

Who loves a garden still his Eden keeps;  
Perennial pleasures plants, and wholesome harvest reaps.  
~A. Bronson Alcott, "The Garden," *Tablets*, 1868

I say, if your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life. ~Bill Watterson, *Calvin & Hobbes*

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view. ~H. Fred Dale (*Thanks, Anne*)

Gardening requires lots of water — most of it in the form of perspiration. ~Lou Erickson

*Observation.* — Nevertheless, what a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it. ~Charles Dudley Warner, *My Summer in a Garden*, "What I Know about Gardening: Third Week," 1870

Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes. ~Author Unknown

There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at their work, you would find them smiling. ~Mirabel Osler

Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it. ~Author Unknown

In every gardener there is a child who believes in The Seed Fairy. ~Robert Brault, [rbrault.blogspot.com](http://rbrault.blogspot.com)

Science, or para-science, tells us that geraniums bloom better if they are spoken to. But a kind word every now and then is really quite enough. Too much attention, like too much feeding, and weeding and hoeing, inhibits and embarrasses them. ~Victoria Glendinning

The best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for him there. ~George Bernard Shaw, *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*, 1932

And finally.....finally.....

For the moment, this is my last report for the gardening club, I hope you have enjoyed them, I tried my best.

Shaun Colvin