
Charlbury Garden Society

Autumn Newsletter



**According to the Met office, this year autumn begins on 22 September 2021
and ends on 21 December 2021**



Coffee & Cake

The Charlbury Garden Society is organising another Coffee & Cake Morning and Plant Swop this autumn!

02nd October 2021 9:30 a.m. to noon

Corner House Garden

Brown's Lane

Charlbury

Everyone welcome!

Just turn up, bringing any spare plants and seeds to add to the selection, and help yourself to something new for your garden.

Cake and refreshments will be available.

Plants will be free but we will be asking for donations to the Garden Society, to help us with our greening projects.

If you have plants to donate and prefer to bring them in advance of the morning, please leave them behind the newly lowered hedge in the Corner House garden (go through metal gates to Memorial Hall, and turn left to enter the Corner House garden) from 29th September onwards.

For enquiries, email secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk.

Would you contribute a home-made cake? Just bring it along on the morning. Cake and unlimited cups of tea or coffee offered in return!



AGM and 'Earthworms', talk by David Knight

Charlbury Garden Society's annual AGM, followed by a talk.

21 Oct 2021 7:30pm

For logistical reasons and to allow maximum participation from our members, it has been decided to hold the AGM + talk on Zoom.

For this reason, it will be for members only.

An invitation to join the event will be sent out a few days beforehand to all members.

David Knight studied earthworms and composting for his PhD and has remained fascinated by earthworms ever since. He is a past director of Northumberland Wildlife Trust and is currently a trustee for the Wild Oxfordshire Charity.



Programme of Events 2021

Note: Due to current restrictions, all dates, events and locations below are subject to change. For latest information, please check individual entries in the Events pages of this website or email secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk.

TALKS

Talks are on Thursdays from 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall or on Zoom while restrictions apply.

Zoom invitations are sent to all members two days before the event.

18 November – Wreath-making workshop with Adam Prest

Following on from Adam's very popular and entertaining demonstration in 2019.

9 December – Members Christmas Social



Programme of Events 2022

FUTURE TALKS AND EVENTS

Talks are on Thursdays from 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall or on Zoom.

Zoom invitations are sent to all members two days before the event.

20 January – 'Gardening for wildlife' (Zoom)

Talk by John Tyler, former Wildlife Warden and former Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society

17 February – 'The herbaceous border at Waterperry through the year' (Memorial Hall or Zoom)

Talk by Rob Jacob, Head gardener at Waterperry

The gardens will be open under the NGS scheme for this year Sunday 19 September 2021

<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/6444>

17 March – 'Wild flowers of the Cotswolds' (Memorial Hall)

Talk by Craig Blackwell, former County Ecologist for Oxfordshire

19 June – Charlbury Open Gardens

After our colourful Virtual Open Gardens in 2020, and sadly the cancellation of the event in 2021, we are planning a bumper event in 2022, in conjunction with the Arts Society, on the 2nd Sunday of the Charlbury Festival (10th to 19th June 2022).

More information nearer the date!



CHARLBURY ALLOTMENTS

by Nicola Morgan

I have judged the Charlbury allotments over many years and know how they can be affected by weather and lack of time. I was pleased to see that this year there has been a marked improvement in the general standard of the plots. Maybe a small upside to the pandemic...

9 Acres suffer from the high trees as do the 5 Ways. Despite this there are some extremely impressive examples of vegetable growing. It's nice to see signs of gardeners relaxing in the outdoors with a beautiful bench made out of logs and planks at 5 Ways set to catch a wonderful view. At all the allotment sites there are chairs set in the fresh air.

There is more evidence of mixed planting with the odd cut flower border as well as a lot of companion planting.

Also, the creative use of spare materials; one gardener has cleverly used the stones dug out of the plot to hold down his netting as well as various bits of scrap brought into use.

There are retired and part timers, experienced and newbies but overall there is a positive feeling around allotment gardening in Charlbury.

Winner - U at Enstone Rd. Zoe Burton

Special mentions:

G Karen Chambers,

O John Moore

F Mr Grant

2 at 9 Acres John Marsh

Blenheim 2 greenhouses, left of gate



A brilliant recipe kindly given by Alison Derham

Sweet Cucumber Pickle

Ingredients

4 large cucumbers

3 medium white onions

2 oz/50g of salt

** For the syrup **

1pt/570ml of white wine vinegar

1lb/454g of soft brown sugar

½ level tsp of ground turmeric

1 tbsp of white mustard seed

Instructions

1. Wash cucumber and slice very thinly. A mandoline is great for this. Watch your fingers!
2. Peel the onions and slice very thinly.
3. In a large colander, layer cucumbers and onions with a sprinkling of salt in between the layers. Weigh down with a plate.
4. Stand for three hours, allowing the water to drain away.
5. After three hours rinse the cucumbers and onions under running water twice.
6. Put your jars in the oven to sterilise them.
7. Put vinegar, sugar and spices in a stainless steel or non stick saucepan and stir over a medium heat until the sugar is dissolved.
8. Add the cucumber and onions to the saucepan and bring to the boil.
9. Boil syrup and vegetables until they change colour – usually 10 minutes fast boil.

10. After ten minutes or so, gently fill warm, sterilised jars with vegetables and vinegar. Don't press down.

11. Cover immediately with plastic lined, sterilised metal lids.

12. When cold, label and store in a cool, dark place, away from damp.

CHARLBURY GARDENERS

Don't forget to check out the Charlbury Gardeners group. It's

at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/charlburygardeners/>

its public, and it's got 202 members. It's a place for chatting and sharing.

CONTRIBUTIONS & HELP

If you would like to contribute anything to the newsletter for the next quarter due in December, please contact us. Photographs and short written articles would be welcomed.

We desperately need someone to join us on the publicity team. A knowledge of MailChimp desirable or a willingness to learn. To find out more contact Angela on: secretary@charlburygardensociety.org.uk

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