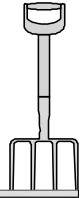
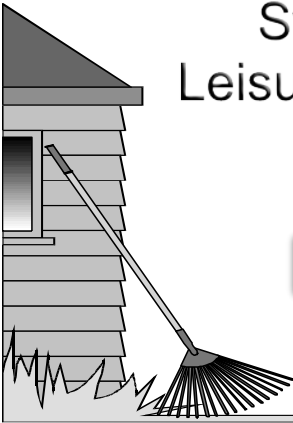


Swindon Allotments & Leisure Gardens Association

Registered Charity no. 1138814

Newsletter

Spring 2020



Rose beds



Woodland Gardens

Members shop



Coach trips

Monthly meetings

& more!

Chairman's Report

This is my final contribution to the magazine as Chairman.

Our Christmas party was attended by 58 member and was enjoyed by all. John and Rachel Monniot provided a quiz, in lieu of our usual entertainment, and this was well received.

Potato day on 11th January was very busy. At the membership table, 20 new members were enrolled in addition to all those renewing their membership.

Sadly, two of our stalwarts, who have manned our tea/coffee + biscuits refreshments for many years, stood down at the November meeting.

Barbara Rawle, one of the ladies, has also resigned from the committee. Jean Dann, her colleague, will also be sadly missed. We thank both ladies for their contribution to our Association.

Volunteers are urgently needed, and it would be good to get several volunteers in order to spread the load.

Irene Cooke will also stand down as Speakers' Organiser at our AGM in May. She has done sterling work, aided by her husband Mervyn. A volunteer is needed to work alongside her in the interim period, and then to take over, please. This role does not necessarily need to be undertaken by a committee member.

Our first coach trip of the year is to the RHS Flower Show at Cardiff on 18th April. Perhaps I will meet some of you there?

For those of you that have your own garden, I wish you Happy Gardening. For those without their own garden, I wish you enjoyment in visiting the many gardens which are open for us to enjoy.

I look forward to seeing you at a meeting or on a trip.

With Best Wishes to you all.

Marilyn Stott

Make a start on the Rose bed

The roses that are commonly referred to as “bush roses” and that produce large, single blooms throughout the summer are in all probability hybrid tea roses. Examples include Elizabeth Harkness, Dutch Gold, Peace and Tequila Sunrise. Hybrid Teas are the roses that produce the long-stemmed blooms sold in florists’ shops. Because of this characteristic they are usually pruned back hard to keep the display reasonably low.

For pruning a good pair of secateurs and sturdy gloves are required. It’s also handy, although not essential, to have a pair of loppers. These will enable you to work in the low centre of the plant without scratching your wrists, arms or ears! Old gardeners used to recommend “pruning with the sun on your back”, which is really just a reminder that rose canes are killed by low temperatures, so you want to wait until the worst of the winter is behind us. That way you can see what wood has been killed and needs to be removed. It’s probably better to be too late than too early, because too late simply means that the first blooms will come a bit later.

The first step is to remove any suckers. These are canes that grow either directly from the soil or from below the graft union of the main stem. They are usually quite vigorous because they are part of the root stock, not the hybrid that produces the flowers. If the base of the sucker is visible on the stem then it can be ripped off by hand and it may be possible to do the same for ones growing straight out of the ground if you can get your boots in to secure the root from which it’s growing. Ripping actually wounds the parent plant which means it’s less likely to throw another sucker from the same spot. Removing suckers should then be an ongoing process through to late autumn.

Turning to the main part of the plant, the first job is to remove any dead wood together with any spindly or crooked shoots. Make sure that what appears to be dead IS ACTUALLY DEAD. Unlike the new green growth, older rosewood will be brown or flaky-barked. Scrape a bit of that bark off first, if it’s green or bright white inside then it’s still live.

Now we come to the artistic bit. You need to select about five strong canes, all originating at or near the base. Ideally they will be evenly spaced around the plant and radiate outwards to form an “upright vase shape”. I always found this most difficult. My roses simply wouldn’t

behave according to my Adam the Gardener instruction book. Don't compromise this process. It's better to have four good, strong canes than four good and one spindly one. Hopefully, with nurturing you'll have five good ones by next year. Where there's a lot of growth you may only get to your five best by a gradual process of taking out the worst, standing back and having another look and so on.

Once you're down to the final four or five cut them back to no less than one third and no more than one half of their total length. The cut should be to a point about a quarter of an inch above an outward facing living bud and it needs to be made at the same angle as the bud. This encourages the rain to run off the stem.

Job done! Well not entirely. Now that we no longer pollute the atmosphere with coal fires there is less sulphur in the atmosphere than there used to be. As a result the dreaded black spot flourishes. So first of all remove all the pruned off wood and rake up any leaf litter that's still kicking around. Don't compost any of it. Either burn it or sneak it illegally into your dustbin. If you already have leaf buds opening on your plants then you should have already given them the first spray of Rose Clear or another fungicide. In any case, give them a spray now. The best way to prevent black spot seems to be to spray early and repeatedly if necessary. In addition, handpicking individual infected leaves for off-site disposal seems to help. Later in the season blackfly or greenfly may be a problem to be addressed, but in early spring there's just one more task.

You are hoping for a good display of blooms, perhaps something to put in the Horticultural Show at the beginning of September. To that end you need to give the plants a good feed of Rose Fertilizer at two ounces per square yard, available at a very reasonable price from our Pickards Field members' shop.

Don Reeve

The January disappointment.

Apologies to those of you who turned up on Thursday 16th January for the monthly meeting which was cancelled at the eleventh hour. Sue Stevens got in touch with as many people as she could. The speaker, Lyn Miles has been re-booked for February 20th and the subject remains snowdrops, of which she is an expert.

New Woodland Gardens

Goddard Park Community Primary School

My very first memory is of me in a garden under a tree digging with my new sea side bucket and spade. I was three! Unfortunately it was a garden in a caravan park where we were on holiday and my Mum got told off!! I think enjoying digging was a taste of things to come! I have always been so happy to be outside with a spade but not digging up other people's gardens unless asked to! I am very privileged to be able to make my living digging and encouraging others to enjoy growing things, caring for the soil and enjoying the rhythms of nature. I am a school Gardening Teacher and Forest School leader. Some of you may know me from the SALGA show where I have been to collect the Best School Garden cup with different schools three times!

At Goddard Park Community Primary School I have worked with the Head Teacher Mike Welsh for over 25 years to provide opportunities for children from the relatively built up area of Park North in Swindon to connect with and enjoy nature. This started with planting a woodland as part of the Great Western Community Forest about 28 years ago. Little did I know then I would still be working at the School and children would be climbing those tiny whips we planted! Over the years the small woodland has been a favourite place with the children for playing and developing imagination and social skills, for bringing lessons to life with practical projects and stories and experiments and observations. The woodland is very well used and loved. It has a fire pit, open classroom with benches, lots of trees and wildflowers and a classroom shed where the children think the woodland witch lives. (Some of them think it is me!).

We do not want to spoil the biodiversity of that woodland through over use and take away the nature that makes it so magical.



Five years ago we planted another new woodland on the field to relieve the pressure of use. Those trees are now taller than a person! The long grass between the trees has increased the invertebrate populations. We have some amazing huge ants nests and lots more butterflies than we used to have. This woodland, adjacent to the old one is becoming a haven for wildlife.

The children love their woodlands. Whenever I walk across the playground I am bombarded by children asking when it is their turn for “woodlands” – what they call their Forest School sessions. It seemed a natural step to give the children even more woodland to play and learn in. Our very determined Head Teacher - Mike Welsh, decided there was too much tarmac in the children’s lives and we should dig up the playgrounds to create woodland gardens. And that is what we have done to two of the playgrounds this year!! (There is still one hard surface playground, and adventure zone, two multi use games pitches and a field for sports).

We have removed the tarmac, on one playground we mounded it up to form mini hills and on the other smaller one it was removed. Over 400 tonnes of top soil has been brought in and a few lorry loads of woodchip as mulch – and we have planted over 400 trees. We have made a great start on a very long term project.

We have had some great support and advice from local firms and organisations. Tiger Plant gave us some time and so much advice, Hills supplied soil and woodchip and the Council also gave us some woodchip. The Great Western Community Forest kindly paid for all the mature trees and the Woodland Trust gave us 100’s of free saplings – and last but not least the parents and children helped do the planting.

So how did we decide what to plant where and how to do it? I did have some previous experience of tree planting and making new woods so I used that knowledge – but it wasn’t enough – so I went on a wonderful Permaculture Design Course.

Permaculture is a design process for sustainability based upon the three ethics of Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share. I used the permaculture principals to design both gardens having first observed how the children play in woodlands and what they like and consulted with the staff, children and parents.

The Top Playground Woodland garden is a Forest Garden full of fruit trees and other plants we can eat or will improve the soil. There will be a compost area with traditional heaps and a tyre wormery and comfrey patch. Wildflower meadows, grassy slopes, a butterfly bank, woodland wildflowers, a bird feeding area, a shady picnic area, paths, seats and logs to climb on will also be added as soon as we have secured the funding to do so.

The Early Years playground is now a Gruffalo Garden with an orchard and hedgerow and willow dome and will have flowers, logs and rocks to climb on, a mud kitchen and lots of water to play with.

We have also been working on another existing garden where we have planted a corner copse and a new hedgerow. In that garden we are also making a butterfly bank. We had an old raised flower bed full of bindweed. We covered it in layers of cardboard, compost and woodchip to make a “Lasagne” bed to get rid of the bindweed. The jury is still out but if it comes back we’ll just do it all again! All our gardens and woodlands are organic and plastic free as much as possible.

We have a vision for our school grounds where every child has access to woodlands and can play and learn in a stimulating, natural, healthy place with the Permaculture ethic of Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share at the core of all we do. We are on a long journey but have made a good start with our investment in the future. – And all from liking digging!

If any SALGA members are dividing perennials or have spare shrubs that would be beneficial to wildlife we would be very happy to receive them. Unfortunately we are unable to collect them but if possible please deliver them to Goddard Park Community Primary School, Welcombe Ave., Park North, Swindon. SN3 2QN

Ruth Parsons

Members shop reverts to opening on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from Sunday 23rd February 2020. Come along to our special opening and see the improvements that have been made to the site during the winter.

Enjoy a tea or coffee and find out about future plans.

Opening times – Saturdays 9 – 12
Sundays 10 – 12
Mondays 10 -12



Members shop & Pickards Field



During the winter, Mick Northcott kept the shop open on a Saturday morning and we have been extremely pleased with the support. The Lottery Award enabled us to make improvements and those who visited the shop during the winter will have seen the differences that have been made to the parking and drainage and the general appearance of the site. Martin Watson, digger/driver carried out the work ably helped by Mick Northcott, Graham Cutler, Brian Reynolds and

Jim Manley who worked extremely hard during a very difficult week of weather.

The shop has now been moved into the first container and the plan for the old building is to make it into a meeting room. We have applied to the Parish Council for a grant to enable us to install guttering onto the containers and have 4 large water butts which will be available for all the Pickards Field allotment holders to use. The plan is also to have a couple of picnic benches.

A range of Kings Seeds are also available in the shop instead of the Franchi seeds.

Marilyn Trew painted the first container at the end of the summer and she will be doing the other three as soon as the weather permits. This will also improve the appearance of the site. If anyone would like to help with the painting, please let us know.

We are all aware of the need to educate children and we plan to prepare a plot, at Pickards Field, and encourage schools to visit. Help to dig and prepare this plot will be gratefully received. This will be in addition to the usual school's gardening competition.

The shop remains open on a Saturday morning from 9-12 and from February 23rd it will be open as usual on Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings. We are planning a "bit of a do" on Sunday 23rd February so please come along and see what's been happening.

Sue Stevens

Do you enjoy GARDENING?

Are you a good ORGANISER?

Can you use WORD and Excel?

Do you have lots of IDEAS and innovative suggestions

Do you enjoy PEOPLE?

Have you got a couple of HOURS free in a month?

If the answer to even ONE of these questions is YES, then we need your help.



Judges at an allotment show at Barby, near Rugby, awarded first prize of five shillings to 'a fine collection of vegetables'. The winners - 25 German prisoners - were not allowed to receive money, so 100 cigarettes were presented instead.

From the Daily Mail archives August 1946.

**SWINDON ALLOTMENT & LEISURE GARDENS ASSOCIATION
NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE**

Members may nominate persons for all or any of the positions listed below. In the event of there being more than one nominee for any office, a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 21st May 2020.

PLEASE NOTE – proposers must obtain the signature of nominees to confirm that they are willing to stand for office.

Currently, both the chairman and the treasurer will be standing down at the AGM as are two committee members. We do have a nominee for chairman and treasurer.

OFFICE	NAME OF NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE
Chairman		
Treasurer		
Secretary		
Membership Secretary		

OFFICE	NAME OF NOMINEE	SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE
Committee members - 10		

Completed nomination forms may be posted to the secretary, Sue Stevens, 25 Ryan Close, Sparcells, Swindon SN5 5WA to reach her no later than 14th May 2020. Forms may be handed in at the members shop on the Pickards Field allotment site, also no later than 14th May 2020.

Membership

Membership renewals are now due from those who haven't paid with their seed order, or at Potato Day or at a recent meeting. Subscriptions remain unchanged at £5 per household and you may be sent to Denis Matthews, 28 Tithe Barn Crescent, Swindon SN1 4JX. Cheques must be made payable to SALGA but, better still, an on-line banking payment to the credit of Salga Account 00020536, Sort Code 40-52-40 will help the Association avoid bank charges.

Membership cards will be available for collection at Pickards Field members' shop. If you prefer you may renew at the Pickards Field shop or the monthly meetings at Gorse Hill Community Centre, you will receive your card at the point of sale. If you would like your membership card sent by post, please provide a stamped, addressed envelope.

Denis Matthews

Name _____

Membership Number (*if known*) _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email address (*please write this very carefully*)

Allotment site (where applicable) _____

I am a UK taxpayer and would like SALGA to treat all subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration until I notify otherwise as Gift Aid contribution, (Delete if not applicable).

Signature

Please add first name in full if signing this declaration.

Discount Seed orders



Thank you to everyone who placed a seed order this year and particularly to those of you who sent them early so that I did not have a large pile to check right on the deadline date. I also would like to thank those of you who sent me a note with your order. I always enjoy reading them. For the record, 123 members placed orders through the scheme in 2019 and received a total of £2,012 discount on the full retail prices.

The number of orders received was up by 7 and the order value was up 10%. This means that we earned commission from Kings of £225 this year. Kings hope to have despatched all orders in the first week of January so I am sure many of you will have already started planting. Let's hope for a good year weather-wise and much success with all your plants.

This year we ordered 210 catalogues and then requested 25 more. They were all issued to members. Because we only received 123 orders, some 112 catalogues, almost half, apparently ended up in the recycling bin. We are wondering how we can ensure only those of you who really want to order receive a catalogue in future. If you have any suggestions we shall be pleased to hear from you.

Anyone who ordered seeds in 2019 will be automatically allocated a Kings catalogue this year, as will all new members joining for the first time this year. If you don't want one for 2020 then please let Denis Matthews, the Membership secretary, know. Equally, if you were a member during 2019 who DIDN'T order seeds, but wish to do so this year, then you also need to let Denis know. His postal address is on the final page of this newsletter or E-mail denismatthews@gmail.com.

If you are short of seeds or realise you have forgotten something, the SALGA shop in Pickards Field is now stocking Kings seeds. They will be pleased to see you.

Happy planting,



Glenys Dingwall.

SALGA Monthly Meetings

- Feb 20 **For the love of Snowdrops”** Lyn Miles
A talk & demonstration from a specialist grower, who will bring various merchandise and if all is well- snowdrop plants for sale
- March 19 **What to do with a glut of fruit and veg?”** Jane Caudwell
A local ex- food teacher will give ideas on making jams, pickles, chutneys and wine and ways to preserve your home-grown food.
- April 16 **Michaelmas Daisies and other Aster**
A talk by Helen Picton from Old Court Nurseries, Colwell, Malver with plants for sale from her nursery. This nursery is well worth a visit in the autumn.
- May 21 **AGM** and members’ **plant sales**
- June 18 **“The Beezz Roadzz”**
A project to help all bees in the countryside by Milly Carmichael
- July 16 **Pest and disease control without chemicals?**
Can it be done? Says the “bug man” Roger Umpleby
- Aug 20 **Immigrant Plants** from Dr Francis Burroughs
- Sept 17 **Grasses and Prairie planting**
with plants for sale from Wanborough Nurseries

Monthly meetings are held at Gorse Hill Community Centre, Chapel Street, Swindon on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Doors open from 7.00pm and the meetings start at 7.30pm. After the announcements, the speaker commences around 7.45pm and the talks last for about 45 minutes. Teas and coffees are served after the speaker and there is a monthly raffle.

**SWINDON ALLOTMENTS & LEISURE GARDENS
ASSOCIATION
Standing Order Mandate**

The Manager,

Bank Name

Bank Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Name(s) of Account holder(s).....

Sort Code.....

Account Number.....

Please pay:

CAF Bank Ltd.

25, Kings Hill Avenue,

West Malling,

ME19 4JQ

For the credit of 'Swindon Allotments & Leisure Gardens Association'
Sort code 40-52-40 account number 00020536, on receipt of this order
and annually thereafter commencing 2nd January, 2021.

The sum of £5 (In words, five pounds).

Reference.....

(Surname plus last six digits of your 'phone number)

Account holder's signature.....

**Please complete and send this form to the Treasurer,
D. Reeve, 7, The Pinnacle, Horder Mews, Swindon, SN1 3ED,
together with the form headed SALGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
2020.**

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intentionally*

Proposed Coach Trips for 2020

Saturday 18th April – Visit to Cardiff for RHS Flower Show

The gardens on display should offer inspiration for your own garden – whatever the size and you may wish to listen to the talks in the Theatre. There are also plenty of opportunities to spend your money!

Depart Gorse Hill: 8.30 a.m. Depart Cardiff: 4.00 p.m.
Cost £30 to include admission and driver's gratuity

Tuesday 7th July – Visit to Moreton in Marsh & Bourton House Gardens

A visit to Moreton in Marsh on market day where we will spend the morning and get our lunch. After lunch, we will move on to Bourton House Gardens. They emphasise that very few refreshments are available at Bourton House.

Depart Gorse Hill: 9.00 a.m. Depart Bourton House: 4.30 p.m.
Cost £23 to include admission and driver's gratuity

Saturday 26th September – Visit to Malvern Autumn Show

Several of you have said how much you enjoyed our trip to the Spring Show in 2019 – so we are to return for the Autumn Show in 2020. We shall be able to visit the Flower and Vegetable Marquees, the Flower Arranging Marquee as well as the Children's Competitions and W.I. Competitions. There are trade stands selling gardening items, outdoor clothing and many other related items. There is usually a display of old caravans, tractors and stationary steam engines.

Depart Gorse Hill: 8.30 a.m. Depart Malvern 4.00 p.m.
Cost £30 (based on 50 people) to include admission and driver's gratuity.

For further information on all of these trips
contact Marilyn Stott
(Tel: 01793 861657)



Tips on Fertilisers



Insecticide & Fertilizer

N = NITROGEN
P = PHOSPHORUS
K = POTASSIUM



These are key to successful growing:

Nitrogen for green leafy growth.

Phosphorus for healthy root and shoot growth.

Potassium for flowering, fruiting and general hardiness.

All fertilisers should quote their N.P.K. ratio on the product packaging, for example, a ratio of 20.20.20. indicates a balanced fertiliser, but a ratio of 10.12.24. would indicate a high potassium fertiliser.

Below is a list of fertilisers with their N.P.K.

GROWMORE. 7.7.7.

FISH,BONE & BLOOD. 5.5.6.

BONE MEAL. 3.17.0.

TRENCH FERTILISER. 6.11.18.

HOOF & HORN. 13.0.0.

POTATO FERTILISER 6.10.10.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA. 21.0.0.

SULPHATE OF POTASH. 0.0.48.

ROSE FERTILISER. 5.5.10.

ONION FERTILISER. 6.8.15.

SUPERPHOSPHATE. 0.17.5.

These are just a few of the fertilisers to try in your garden this year all of which are available in our member's shop.

For regular gardening tips and what to do each week, check out our Facebook page – Swindon Allotment Leisure Garden Association

Winter Chicken Casserole

- 1 kg chicken thighs and drumsticks
- 2 red onions, thinly sliced
- 250 ml red wine
- 2 x 400gm tin of good quality chopped tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon smoked sweet paprika powder
- 1 x 410 gm tin cannellini beans (drained)
- 1 x 450gm jar roasted red peppers, drained and sliced.
- 2 good sprigs of rosemary, roughly chopped.

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C, Fan Oven 160°C, gas mark 4.

2. Sear the chicken in the casserole for 5 minutes until brown all over, and set chicken aside.

3. Add onions and cook for 3-4 minutes, stirring until softened.

4. Pour over red wine (to deglaze the pan) and simmer for 2-3 minutes to thicken.

5. Add tomatoes and paprika, with beans peppers and rosemary.

6. Replace chicken pieces, bring to boil and cover.

7. Put casserole dish in oven and cook for approx. 30 to 40 minutes, until chicken is tender and juices are clear.

8. Serve with spuds or rice or crusty bread.



SALGA Officers & Committee Members

Chairman

Marilyn Stott, 19, Pound Road, Highworth, SN6 7LA 01793 861657

Secretary

Sue Stevens, 25, Ryan Close, Sparcells, SN5 5WA 01793 881198

Treasurer

Don Reeve, 7, The Pinnacle, Horder Mews, SN1 3ED. 01793 423918

Membership Secretary

Denis Matthews, 28, Tithe Barn Crescent, SN1 4JX. 01793 644388

General Committee Members

Sue Camburn, 49, Whitecastle, Toothill, SN5 8HY. 01793 341482

John Edgerton, 29, Beverley, Toothill, SN5 8BH. 01793 642965

Tom Francis, 1, Rosemary Close, Haydon Wick, SN2 2TE. 01793 728582

Viv Dipper, 61 Kitchener Street, Swindon SN2 1EZ 01793 322421

Josie Lewis, 4 Elcombe Avenue, Wroughton SN4 9EL 01793 845154

Cindy Matthews, 28, Tithe Barn Crescent, SN1 4JX. 01793 644388

Gordon Staples, 14, Northern Road, SN2 1NU. 01793 538553

Mick Northcott, 23 Tulip Tree Close, Swindon SN2 1RR 07552 215897

Show Committee Chairman

Mick Carter, 114 Pinehurst Road, Swindon 07769 721739

Acting Secretary

Glenys Dingwall, 5, Applegrove House, Belmont Crescent,
SN1 4DD. 01793 274653

Speaker's organiser

Irene Cooke 43 Thurlstone Way, Swindon SN3 1EQ 01793 339170

