

Upcoming events :

Saturday 9 February : 10am to 2pm

West Yorkshire Organic Group Potato Day
At Shipley College, Exhibition Road, Saltaire,
Shipley, BD18 3JW

**Saturday 16 February to Sunday 24 February
12.30pm to 4.30pm**

Snowdrop Week

York Gate Garden, Back Church Lane, Leeds, LS16 8DW

<https://perennial.org.uk/garden/york-gate-garden/>

Saturday 16 February & Sunday 17 February

Primrose Bank Snowdrop Days

Dauby Lane, Kexby, York YO41 5LH. Talks, GQT and refreshments.

www.primrosebank.co.uk

Friday 22 February to Sunday 24 February : 10am to 5pm

Wakefield Rhubarb Festival

Wakefield City Centre, WF1 1JY

<https://www.experiencewakefield.co.uk/>

Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 April : 9.30am to 5.30pm

Harrogate Spring Flower Show, North of England Horticultural Society,

Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8NZ

Book before Tuesday 16 April to save £2.50 per ticket

<https://www.flowershow.org.uk/>

Signing In :

Please remember to sign in when you arrive at the meeting.

This is required for safety and record purposes.



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www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Next Month's Speaker : 5th March 2019 : 7.30pm

“Cultivation and Propagation”

By the Hoyland Plant Centre

The Hoyland Plant Centre is a family run business comprising Steven Hickman, his wife Elaine, son Colin, and youngest daughter Heather. The nursery was established in 1985, for the last 25 years specialised in Agapanthus and Tulbaghia, with the addition of Nerine and Clivia 8 years ago. All South African plants in the Amarillidaceae family. They hold National Plant Collections of Agapanthus, Tulbaghia and Clivia. Their main business involves exhibiting at all the RHS Flower Shows. They have had Gold Medals at every show for the past 2 years and Best Lindley exhibit in 2017 for their Chelsea Flower Show exhibit. They have also been selected and awarded the prestigious title RHS Master Growers. They travel the country giving talks to clubs & societies in the Spring and Autumn when the show season is less busy. They are kept busy with mail order and visitors/club visits are welcome by appointment. This year for the first time ever they have 2 separate exhibits at The Harrogate Spring Flower Show and Chelsea Flower Show. The second exhibit being Clivias. They visited Clivia breeders in Japan and South Africa last year and have many unusual colours.



Steven Hickman



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Pottering about : by Edward Kilner

With all the cold, wind and rain you might assume that propagation is the last thing on your mind – WRONG!

Winter is the right time to take hardwood cuttings particularly of shrubs and can be part of a pruning regime. Forsythia, Philadelphus, the flowering currants (Ribes) usually pink but White Icicle is one to look out for. The coloured stems of the Dogwoods (Cornus) and shrubbier Willows (Salix) also make ideal candidates.



Roses, especially ramblers and climbers root easily.

Look out for straight lengths about the thickness of a pencil and cut into 10 inch lengths with a sloping cut at the top and a straight cut at the bottom, and cut around a node.

Then there are two options.

1. Make a slit in the soil in a bit of spare land. Open the slit with a spade and fill with grit. Insert the cuttings about 6" deep; heel in and water. Leave in situ until you see new shoots next year. Best left in place for a year.
2. Prepare the cutting as before. Collect in bundles and plant in pots of gritty compost. Water and over winter in a cold frame. Pot singly when new growth appears in Spring.



Many popular herbaceous plants can be produced from root cuttings - the big blousy Oriental Poppies, Acanthus, Crambe, Verbascum and many Campanulas grow well, in fact most herbaceous plants with fleshy roots.



Dig up a plant and remove a few thick fleshy roots remembering which is the top. Cut into 1" long lengths and plant vertically in a good gritty compost. Water in and overwinter in a cold frame. These can establish quickly. Pot on next spring.



Similarly the thin fibrous root of Phlox can be laid horizontally on compost in a tray and lightly covered with compost. Again transfer to a cold frame. Shoots will appear next spring. Pot on.

If you don't want to feel the cold, spend a few hours perusing the plant and seed catalogues. Think about "plug" plants, an economical way to provide masses of colour.



It's good to see Busy Lizzies (Impatiens) back on sale. We very nearly lost the whole group from a virus a few years ago.

Future Contributions

Please submit any comments or contributions for future newsletters to Mary Harrison at 73 Pavilion Way, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5QN. Or by

E-mail - me@thepigsty.me
Telephone - 07912 513236

