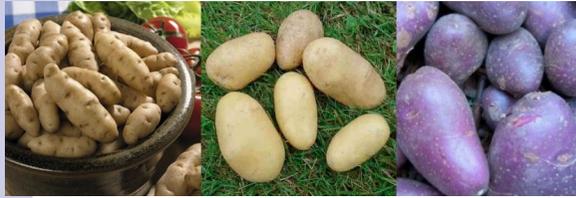


Growing Newsome Potato Day and Seed Swap

Saturday 5th March from 10am to 1pm



At Newsome Scout Hall, Newsome, Huddersfield, HD4 6JJ

Growing Newsome will have 20 different varieties of seed potato available this spring, along with onions, shallots and lots of other vegetable seeds. www.growingnewsome.org.uk

Plant Hunters' Fairs Calendar 2022

When a plant fair takes place within a garden, we arrange a special reduced entry price to the garden. Some gardens on these days are half-price (or better) entry to the garden and entry to the fair is included. Other fairs are free or with a small charge or donation that all goes to maintaining the venue.

See <https://www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk/ticket-links.htm> for links to ticket sales.

Please check their website regularly as tickets do sell out quickly.

Always check event status before travelling at www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk

March

Sunday 20 Ness Botanic Gardens

Wirral, CH64 4AY 10am-4pm Fair: £1.00 Pay on Gate

Sunday 27 Arley Hall

Northwich, CW9 6NA 10am-4pm Fair £2.00 Pay on Gate

April

Saturday 2 Sugnall Walled Garden

Eccleshall ST21 6NF 10am-4pm Fair & Gardens £1.00 Pay on Gate

Sunday 3 Middleton Hall

Tamworth B78 2AE 10am-4pm Fair & Gardens £3.00 TICKETS Now on Sale

Saturday 9 Bodenham Arboretum

Kidderminster DY11 5TB 10am-4pm Free Entry to Fair

Sunday 10 Capesthorpe Hall

Macclesfield SK11 9JY 10am-4pm Fair & Gardens £3.50 TICKETS Now on Sale

Friday 15 Whittington Castle

Oswestry, SY11 4DF 10am-4pm Fair Free (charge to park)

Sunday - Monday 17 - 18 Dorothy Clive Garden

TF9 4EU 10am-5pm Fair & Gardens £5.00 TICKETS Now on Sale

Sunday 24 Cholmondeley Castle

Malpas, SY14 8AH 10am-5pm Fair & Gardens £4.50 TICKETS Now on Sale



BLUEBELL GARDEN CLUB

www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

Next Month's Meeting :
Tuesday : 5th April : 7.30pm

**Roger Parkinson from the
Woodland Trust**



"Conserving our woodlands and hedgerows"

Roger started growing trees from seed 35 years ago not realising that trees would become a large feature of his life. He has received the following awards:

2012 The National Trust's Octavia Hill Award for improving green spaces that benefit people and wildlife.

2013 British Empire Medal for volunteering at Thornes Park and with The Woodland Trust.

2014 and 2016 Woodland Trust Volunteer of the Year Awards.

2015 Mayor of Featherstone's Award for The WW1 Centenary Memorial Woodland
Since then the local Tree Wardens projects have gained awards from Wakefield Civic Society and The Woodland Trust with the main feature being education while carrying out planting projects.

He was also the lead on the restoration of Thornes Park Nursery for community use. He has been a Volunteer Speaker for The Woodland Trust since 2009 and has been fortunate to speak to local schools, community groups, regional and national organisations at conferences spreading the word about the many benefits that trees bring to our communities and our world.

Update of Members details

We are currently updating our database and would like to make sure that we have your up to date address, phone number and email.

Please email Ken with any changes or check with him at the Admissions table.

kenholden65@hotmail.co.uk



Katie Rushworth's Guide to Spring

Spring has finally sprung! Buds are breaking, lambs are appearing across the countryside and the blossom is waiting in the wings to dazzle us come May.

At this time of year, the garden is full of opportunity to get ahead and start making any changes you have had in mind. So if you have a weekend free then here are a few jobs you could be getting on with!



Shrubs and shrub roses can still benefit from a prune now. Always cut to an outward facing bud on the diagonal and aim to create a nice open framework for air to circulate. Trim off any crossing branches and remove any weak growth, doing this will direct all the plant's energy where it's most needed. The general rule of thumb is to trim shrubs immediately after they have flowered, doing this will make sure you don't remove any growth that has already set its flower buds for the following year.

Mulching is a fantastic job that will give great results. Spread a few inches deep of homemade well-rotted garden compost or soil conditioner all over your flower beds and around your plants. Not only will it make the garden look smart, it will suppress weeds, lock in moisture and feed your plants. Anyone can do this job, so get the kids involved too, it's a win win!

Start sowing any veggies you fancy growing – come early May the danger of frosts should have past and you'll be safe to sow directly into the ground – any sowing before that will need some protection with horticultural fleece or a cloche. I like growing unusual salad leaves that I can't get in the supermarkets – I also adore beetroot and there are so many gorgeous varieties besides the usual purple ones you see – try Chioggia with its attractive rose red concentric circles and sweet flavour or the bright yellow Burpees Golden variety.

Herbs are also a must in my family – things like Rosemary and Thyme will jazz up any dish and they're super easy to grow – just give them free draining soil and a sunny spot.



It's amazing what a lick of paint will do to a fence or shed – a change of colour at the back of a border can give an area a whole new lease of life – a dull brown shed transformed with lemon yellow will make your garden seem sunny 365 days a year!

Be bold and add some colour – not only will it revitalise an old structure, it will also protect it further from our changeable British weather – a few containers in the same colour around the garden will tie your new scheme together seamlessly – no green fingers required!

Thinking about planning a new border? Remember to plant a good backbone of shrubs, some of which should be evergreen to give you winter interest. Consider foliage as much as flowers – it's around a lot longer! Use a limited colour palette and repeat the same herbaceous plants throughout the space in small groups – threading some grasses throughout will gel the whole thing together and give your garden that designer edge.



www.katierushworth.co.uk

Tallest Sunflower Competition 2022 – Just a few packs remaining

Sunflower packs containing seeds, compost, fibre pots and instructions are available at a cost of £1.

A photo of your prize-winning Sunflower will need to be submitted along with height either by email to me@thepigsty.me or a printed copy at the September meeting (6th).

A prize will be awarded to the tallest Sunflower grown from one of these packs.

Future Contributions

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

Alternatively by:

E-mail - me@thepigsty.me

Telephone - 07912 513236

