BLUEBELL GARDEN CLUB

www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Next Month's Speaker:

Neil Timm from The Fern Nursery

5th June 2018 : 7.30pm

Neil comes from a family with a history of working in horticulture, and has a life-long interest in the natural world. After making a number of gardens of his own and for family and friends, he started a garden design and landscaping business in 1987. Growing ferns began at about the same time mainly as a personal interest, especially following his introduction to the British Pteridological Society in the mid-1980's, an organisation to which he has belonged ever since. Fern growing soon became a major part of the business as well as an enthusiasm, and in 1992 a move to new premises enabled it to become his main occupation.

In the last three years the Fern Nursery has begun to exhibit ferns at a number of horticultural shows and have in that short time gained over 5 gold medals and 3 silver-gilt, plus two "best in show".

In addition to his own garden Neil also enjoys walking, natural history and helping with running several gardening and natural history groups, and has recently written the Ferns booklet for the Hardy Plant Society.

New Plants for Free -

Now is a good time for taking softwood cuttings

Use the fresh new growth of pelargoniums, lavender, fuchsias and salvias to give you plenty of new plants.

The fresh new growth of many perennials and some shrubs will root very easily, which means softwood cuttings are one of the easiest ways to propagate many plants. April to June is the best time to take these cuttings.

- Fill a seed tray, or 9cm (3½") pots with seed compost. Tap on a hard surface to settle the compost and level.

- Remove the soft growing tips of non-flowering stems using a sharp, clean knife, just above a bud, approximately 7 – 10cm (3-4") long. Only take cuttings from healthy plants.
- If you plan on taking lots of cuttings, put them into a plastic bag to stop them wilting whilst you prepare and plant up the other cuttings.
- Trim the cutting to below a leaf. Strip off the lower leaves. Rooting can be speeded up by dipping the base of the cutting in

hormone rooting powder but this is not essential.

- Make a hole in the seed compost with a dibber, pencil or plant label and insert the cutting. Firm in, label and water.

- Getting the right balance of watering is crucial as the cuttings can dry out quickly but can also be prone to damping off.

Put the cuttings in a heated propagator, or cover the pots with a clear plastic bag to retain moisture around the leaves. Ventilate frequently by either removing the plastic bag and getting rid of excess moisture or opening the vents on the propagator.

- Keep in a bright place out of direct sun.
- The cuttings should root in two to three weeks. Look for signs of new growth and check the base of the pot for signs of root growth.
- Pot on into individual pots when large enough.

Contributions :

Please submit any comments or contributions to Mary Harrison

E - me@thepigsty.me
T - 07912 513236

Or by post to 73 Pavilion Way, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5QN

FREE TO A GOOD HOME :
Monkey Puzzle Tree (Araucana)
1.3m high.

If you would like this tree just come along and dig it up. Jan doesn't want any payment but a couple of hours help in the garden would be very much appreciated. Jan Moskovitch : Telephone 01484 605411 or 07796 563296 or Email janmoskovitch@btinternet.com

GROUNDS for your GARDEN

Next time you visit Starbucks for a coffee, ask them for their used coffee grounds which are free and can be used in the garden, on the compost bins and as a mulch. Some people say they even deter slugs.

NGS Open Gardens : www.ngs.org.uk

May sees lots of Open Gardens under the NGS scheme – look in the Yorkshire booklet or check out what's open on the website

National Trust : Spring Plant Fair
Sunday 20th May : 10.30am to 3pm

Great selection of home-grown plants for sale along with local produce and information stalls. Refreshments, National Trust gifts and hand-crafted wooden items will be on sale, and you'll also have the chance to meet some of the National Trust team.

The Old Goods Yard, Station Road, Marsden, HD7 6DH (next to Marsden train station). www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsden-moor