

# MOLD GARDENING CLUB NEWS

[www.moldgardenclub.btck.co.uk](http://www.moldgardenclub.btck.co.uk)

## Message from our Chairman

Hi Everyone, this newsletter heralds the new Club year and the AGM in November. The Committee has reviewed the Club Constitution because it needed a complete overall and the present one does not fully represent the objectives and ethos of the club. We have significantly changed the format and it now comprehensively details how the Committee manage the club on your behalf. **The draft will be available for you to review at the October meeting or provided on request.** We hope that you will endorse the changes by voting at the AGM.

Many thanks to all for supporting the club and do enjoy this newsletter.

Christine A Bishop  
Chairperson



## Coffee Morning – Saturday 1st September

Don't forget to come and support us in the Daniel Owen Centre this coming Saturday between 9:30 and 11:30. We need lots of plants for sale, bric-a-brac and also homemade cakes etc. Please get in touch if you can provide any sale items or bring them along between 9-10am on the day.

## Nick Hamilton – 17<sup>th</sup> September

Our first meeting of the 2012-2013 programme is a major event with the son of the much loved Geoff Hamilton giving us a nostalgic and humorous talk about his father and how the garden at Barnsdale has developed over the years.

This is a great opportunity for us to showcase the work of the Mold Gardening Club. Tickets for members are on sale at £2.50 and for the general public at £5. It

would great to fill the hall so please do tell your friends and family about the talk.



**From 25 August, tickets will be available from members of the committee, notably Christine Bishop and Adele Dodd. Mail order requests will be dealt with the week before the event and some tickets will be on sale at the door but book early to avoid disappointment.**

## Programme for 2012-2013

As usual we have a high quality programme for you to enjoy. After Nick Hamilton we revert back to our usual venue at the Bethesda Chapel Hall for the **October** meeting on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Peter Cunnington** (retired curator at Ness Botanic Gardens) will be taking about **The George Forest Experience**. George Forest was possible the greatest 20<sup>th</sup> Century plant collector in China and this talk will also discuss Forest's association with Ness Botanic Gardens.

## 19<sup>th</sup> November – AGM

The committee is proposing some changes to the club's constitution and so it is vital that you come to the meeting to vote on this matter.

**17<sup>th</sup> December** – Local speaker Stephen Maund (a charity coordinator) will talk about **'Ripple Africa'**, the work of an environmental charity based in Malawi. This is also our Christmas meeting so seasonal refreshments will be available. All contributions welcome as usual.

Printed programmes will be available to members at the October meeting.

Doug Pearce – Programme Secretary

## Summer Show – Saturday 21st July

The Summer Show took place at a new venue in Mold, which was the Grosvenor Centre (formally the Darby & Joan Hall). This proved to be a very good facility for both the exhibitors and the visiting public. Staging of exhibits took place from 9.30 – 10.15 and then it was over to our two judges Sue and Mike Wright to judge the 131 exhibits. The following were class winners – Rose Class – Norma Ashton. Annual Class – Norma Ashton Perennial Class – Norma Ashton Pot Plant Class – Caron Thomas Vegetable Class – Caron Thomas Fruit Class – David Giddings. The winner of the Summer Cup for the most points overall was **Norma Ashton**.



Norma Ashton receiving her Rose Class Cup.

I was pleasantly surprised at the quality and quantity of exhibits considering the challenging weather all us gardeners have had to contend with from April to July.

**Graham Wright – Show Secretary**

## Treborth Botanic Gardens (Bangor) and Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens (Menai Bridge)

We had the best weather possible for our outing to Treborth and Plas Cadnant, lots of sunshine but not too hot! After a really inspiring talk to the club earlier in the year

by Nigel Brown, curator of **Treborth Botanic Garden**, a visit to this site was long overdue. We were warmly welcomed by Nigel, and assistant Rosie, with hot drinks and biscuits followed by an introductory talk on the work at Treborth and wonderful descriptions of how various carnivorous plants, orchids and cacti are adapted to survive! So much more to see there, the Woodland Garden, the collections of plants in the greenhouses all alongside the Menai Strait and it is open to the general public all year! The entrance is literally a road immediately to the left before crossing the Menai Bridge!



Nigel Brown showing us some special plants in the rockery.

After our packed lunches were eaten in the welcoming laboratory, we crossed over the Menai Strait, to the outskirts of Menai Bridge town where **Plas Cadnant** is located. Set in a rolling landscape, we were welcomed at the entrance to the Hidden Gardens by the owner Anthony Tavernor who has been restoring the garden since buying Plas Cadnant in 1996.



Plas Cadnant Gardens from the upper terrace

The garden looks great in August, (but is planted for all seasons), full of wonderful hydrangeas (over 100 varieties), herbaceous borders, beautiful vistas in the Walled Garden, a Valley Garden with river and waterfalls and an Outcrop Garden with a ruined folly. A real gem of a garden to



A teasing glimpse of the Valley Gardens

wander around and many will be visiting again! We finished off with a lovely cup of tea/coffee and home made cakes in the brand new timber-framed cafe before our return to Mold. This was a really memorable day out.



More of the upper borders at Plas Cadnant

**Val Pugh – Trip Organiser**



## The benefits of being affiliated to the RHS

Our garden club has been affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society for several years now and at the 2011 AGM several members asked what were the benefits of this association.

The main benefit is that the club is provided with affordable Public Liability insurance so that we can run the club's affairs without worry.

- We have one free copy of the monthly magazine 'The Garden' which is made available for club members to borrow at our meetings.
- The club can have one free annual visit to a RHS garden and in the past ten years we have taken advantage of this by planning trips to the RHS gardens at Harlow Carr in Yorkshire and RHS Wisley in Surrey.
- We have access to the RHS list of speakers and judges.
- We can promote the club's activities on the RHS website.
- We can apply for special rate tickets to attend RHS shows including Chelsea.

The total list of benefits is too long to include here but if you want to know more then please do ask one of the committee members.

## RHS – latest news

The RHS held its eighth annual show in Cardiff in April 2012 and it would appear that this show is going from strength to strength. If enough club members were interested in attending this in 2013 maybe we can sort out a travel package that includes a one-night stay. Do contact either Val Pugh or Anne Brenchley if you would find this option of interest.

Maybe mosses and lichens are not the most exciting of plants but it is sad to hear that 50 of these small and rare plants have been

declared locally extinct in Wales. Wales is home to almost three quarters of the British moss and lichen species, yet a recent survey for the conservation charity Plantlife found one in six are locally threatened.



Dandelions' diversity – you may treat these as a terrible weed but did you know that over 100 different dandelion species have been recorded growing in the Cardiff area alone? Two, found during the National Museum of Wales study, may be new to science.



The war on slugs and snails can be helped with caffeine. Latest research has shown that spraying a 1-2% caffeine solution on soil killed slugs and snails within two days. Filter coffee has the highest level of caffeine so next time you are making a cup make an extra one for the slugs and snails. Coffee grounds can deter slugs but the solution is more effective.

Ash trees are the latest target in a disease scare. This is one of our commonest countryside trees and so it is alarming to hear that the first UK case of ash dieback caused by a fungus, *Chalara fraxinea*, was

found near London in November 2011. We must hope that the Food and Environment Research Agency's efforts at containing the spread of this disease are successful.

**Anne Brenchley**

## **Flintshire Local Voluntary Council**

The club has also become a member of the Flintshire Local Voluntary Council and this required us to update our constitution.

Benefits would be:

- To be kept in touch with what is happening with other voluntary organisations.
- Reduced rates for photocopying and printing services.
- Reduced rate for room booking at their office.
- Can apply for FLVC administered grant funds.
- Access to help, eg with auditing accounts.



## **Finally - Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are normally due at the September meeting but because we will be very busy welcoming Nick Hamilton to Mold and ensuring that everyone who attends his talk has a great evening, we will be collecting subscriptions at the October meeting. Subscription costs have been held at £10 per person for the 2012-2013 season. Please come prepared for the first meeting you attend this season or post your subscription including all your details to our Treasurer:

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