

Baginton Gardeners

Gardeners Question Time Our biennial GQT on 25th November was well attended as usual with plenty of questions. Unfortunately, Tim Jardine was unable to join us as he'd contracted the Baginton Bug, but many thanks to Mick and Brian for all their advice. Fortunately, Mick brought his dad Pete with him whose knowledge and experience helped the youngsters get away with it! Among the many pieces of good advice we learnt that;

- Roses should be fed from March onwards
- Ferns should be cut down at the end of January and mulched
- Brexit will result in higher prices.

And much more.

Since then we hear Pete fell and broke a vertebrae so we all wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Winter pruning Thanks to Gardeners World for this list;

- Hardy trees, shrubs and fruit bushes can be cut during frost-free weather
- Group 3 clematis, such as viticellas, Clematis orientalis and some of the late-summer flowering hybrids need reducing
- Thin out branches and fruit spurs of top fruit, such as apples and pears
- Carry out formative pruning of young hardy shrubs and trees – remove thin, twiggy growth and reduce the remaining growth by half its length to encourage a strong framework of new shoots
- Summer-flowering shrubs, such as buddleia, Hydrangea paniculata and lavatera can be cut back hard in late winter, just before they start into growth in the spring
- Early to midwinter is your last chance to cut back woody plants prone to 'bleeding' sap – such as birches, walnuts and grapevines – as they bleed if pruned late
- Prune the dead stems of herbaceous perennials at the end of winter to tidy beds and make way for new spring shoots
- Cutting back rose bushes – large-flowered (hybrid tea) and cluster-flowered (floribunda) roses – in late winter is crucial for the promotion of strong shoots low down on the plants with a wealth of blooms in summer.

Xmas Dinner The Christmas dinner was as good as ever with good company, lovely food and first class service from the Baginton Oak team. On behalf of the 27 who attended, many thanks to Anne for organizing it and Elayne for sorting out the money. A number of members got 100% in the Picture Quiz and Julie's name was drawn to win the bottle of champagne. Many thanks to Sarah for organizing the quiz and doing the marking.

AGM Our 2020 committee was elected as follows. Sarah Cusworth, Val Daly, Catherine Weston, Elizabeth Cooke, Lucy Jones, Elayne Meakin (Treasurer), Anne Taylor (Secretary) Robert Taylor (Chair).

Many thanks to Brenda Brown who has retired from the committee after 8 years of service.

50 Things You Didn't Know About Trees This talk by Liz Taylor focused on UK native trees and explained many of the medicinal uses, folklore and myths about our trees. The Woodland Trust was founded in 1972 and sees it as essential that we do all we can to connect children to trees and woodland to support the medium/long term imperative of increasing tree cover in the UK and around the world. Among many interesting snippets we learned that holly trees act as lightning conductors, were used as Christmas trees in pre-Victorian times and it is very unlucky to cut one down. As a volunteer, Liz's fee of £70 was donated to the Woodland Trust.

Fund Raising It was suggested at the recent committee meeting that members might like to bring along samples of any preserves they have made this year for sale in aid of BG funds at £1 per jar or bottle, unless it's fruit gin or similar, which might attract a substantial premium!

Subs Membership in 2020 will remain at £10 plus £1 per meeting for members or £3 per meeting for visitors. Members get 10% off ALL full price purchases at our 4 local garden centres. To enjoy these discounts it's best to join the BG's in January to get discounts throughout 2020.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Cooke for once again printing our membership cards.

David Cheshire Bonsai David has now set up in the same space as John Gillies on Russell's site, offering a superb range of Bonsai. As you can see below, he's down to give us a talk in May and he has agreed to join the 10% off discount offered to BG members on production of a current BG membership card.

Gary Leaver and Avondale Nursery Brian Ellis is retiring and Gary Leaver is now running Avondale. For many years he worked at Hill Close gardens in Warwick, which have played an important role through the years in the history of leisure gardening in the county. Hence we have booked Gary to give us a talk on 16th March. Gary has also agreed to offer 10% discount on production of a BG membership card.

Date	Speaker	Topic
16/03/20	Gary Leaver	A Year at Hill Close Gardens
18/05/20	David Cheshire	The Art of Bonsai
20/07/20	TBA	
21/09/20	TBA	
23/11/20	Robert Taylor	BG biennial Quiz

For more information call Anne or Robert Taylor on 02476301104 or e-mail anne@taylorhousehold.f9.co.uk