



NEWSLETTER 55 MAY 2022

MUSINGS

A leaf-cutter bee makes holes on plant leaves, but it is not a threat to plant health.

So, no mow-May has ended, we can all fill our compost bins with cuttings again, or mulch if your mower enables. The ox-eye daisies were a delight, and it was useful to see where the yellow rattle flowered, if wanting to remove it for better grass roots.

The rhododendrons and azaleas were their usual spectacular selves this year and we were lucky not to have any strong winds to blow them off presumptuously. What a joy it is to stumble across one with a big scent, though, these elusive specimens never seem to have their labels attached and/or I have never found one to buy. Wakehurst have a spectacular selection of over a thousand, if you ever get the chance to go.

It is the month of Chelsea flower show, alliums and cow parsley. The green has arrived in full. Our lawns are bursting forth and giving them a feed just before it rains, will only enhance their green....unless of course you put on too much and burn it (to be avoided). For the past decade, in our garden I have only set the mower at its highest level and have found that it really helps to avoid the dryness and yellowing that often occurs in August if we are short of rain.

It is interesting to note how light oak tree leaves are at this time of year compared to their colour in September. The level of chloroplasts is lower because they have only just sprouted. By the end of summer, they have captured a few months (we hope) of solar rays and are darker as a result. Much like human skin and our melanin which darkens with exposure, although of course we can't make good use of the energy as plants do.

As the evenings warm, we get the opportunity to sit out and enjoy the spectacle of our gardens in moonlight. Our sense of smell is more intense in the dark, especially if scent is near water, so if you are planting white annuals such as tobacco plants, try to put them near it. You may not only enjoy the sight and scent but also the spectacle of evening moths. *Patricia Boddington*

CHAIRMANS CHAT

Hello again everyone. Well, finally the plants have decided to grow. It doesn't seem to matter what propagators I use some plants just know when the right time is and refuse to budge until then! The last packet of veg seeds has germinated for the allotment and most of the garden plants are now in the ground. Even better, the roses and clematis have started blooming really well. Speaking of which, we have just had two very good talks at the Chichester hall. Thank you to Catherine for arranging these. It was lovely to see you all there and feel the very friendly and informal atmosphere that you create. Don't forget that you can come along from 7.00pm and enjoy half an hour of chatting to friends and getting to know new friends, before the talk starts. All accompanied by a glass of wine or soft drink, served with a smile by Jan and Barbara. Everett Leeds, highly respected in the Clematis world, gave us a very knowledgeable talk on Clematis with insight into breeding and practical tips to get the best out of different varieties. I bought some seeds and now we should have asked him how and when to sow shall be emailing him and let you know what I



Then David May visited us local, but well known and



Seale Rose Nursery, with an equal mine of information and he also brought some beautiful and more unusual roses with him to sell. If you buy from Seale Roses you'll have advice for life! You may have seen our stall at Witstock.

Thank you to Jeanette for organising this for us. Due to the early date we were unable to set up our usual plant stall this year but lots of youngsters enjoyed potting up their sunflowers and choosing their fun label toppers. Do check out the updates and information on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter. Happy gardening! Summer is here, hooray!

Christine Cox, Chairman and Secretary

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realise that
them! I
find out.
from our
prestigious,

REMINDER

Floral workshop 16th June. 2.00pm until 4.00pm There are still places on this afternoon event. Details for signing up are on the website witleygardening.org This is run as a non-profit event and is very good value at £25 Tea, cake and good company provided !



COMING UP: JOINT GARDEN VISIT

After a lot of uncertainty we are pleased to announce that our joint garden visit with Milford has been booked at

**Knowle Grange, Hound House Road, Shere, Guildford
GU5 9JH**

Wednesday **afternoon** 29th June from 2pm

Entry fee £6.00 per person - to be paid in advance by
22nd June please.

**Information on the garden can be found on our website,
and via google (or equivalent)**

Booking and payment in advance is essential and can be done on the website under “contact us, garden visit” If you do not have the facility to pay by bank transfer then please email [admin @witleygardening.org](mailto:admin@witleygardening.org) with subject “garden visit” and we will sort something out for you. The owner needs to know numbers for tea and cake so, if you would like this, then please tick the relevant box on the sign up form. There is no need to pay in advance. Many thanks and hope to see you there.

CLEMATIS CUTTINGS

- Take a long, non- flowering shoot and trim off the floppy top down to a pair of leaves.
- Trim off one of the leaves
- Cut the stem below the leaves to about 6-7 cm. This is called an inter-nodal cutting and is quite different to most softwood cuttings. (it took me ages to realise that this was why my cuttings never worked!☺)
- Insert right up to the remaining leaf joint in very gritty(or perlite) compost. Everett Leeds actually uses pure perlite
- Everett then sprays with fungicide as they are very prone to rotting.
- When the fungicide has dried place the pot in a poly bag or propagator .
- The shoots appear before the roots so don't pot up too quickly !!

HOPE THIS HELPS. *Christine*



WILLIAM KENNET type 2 for pruning

KEEPING IN TOUCH:

We have a [website witleygardening.org](http://witleygardening.org) where you can find a lot of information about the club and what's coming up.

We also have a [members' noticeboard](#) on it. If you want to display a message on our noticeboard, please email us at our usual address with your message and state how long you would like it to remain.

See the "Noticeboard" tab on the website for our current notices!

We're now live on [Facebook](#) as well, so follow our page for up-to-date information on all your Witley Gardening Association events and news. See the "Home" page for a live link, or just follow "Witley Gardening Association"

A big thank you to Bob for updating all this for us.