HOVE GARDENING CLUB
BULLETIN

Issue 19 November 2021

GREAT NEWS! 2022 SOCIAL EVENTS
Monday 17 January and Monday 21 February
7:30 to 10:00pm at St. Leonard's Hall

Although we previously stated we will meet as usual on the third Tuesday of the month, we have been asked by the curate of St. Leonard's Church, Ali Marshall, to move our Club Meetings to a **MONDAY** (instead of Tuesday).

This is because St. Leonard's Hall (formerly Glebe Villas Hall) will be required for Sunday services and prayer meetings on Tuesday nights, while the church is being renovated. Renovations will continue for most of 2022. Because of this, our first face-to-face Club Meetings of the year will be **two FREE Social Events** on Monday 17 January and Monday 21 February.

The Committee hope the change to a **MONDAY** does not inconvenience you too much and we look forward to seeing you at our first live Meetings in nearly two years, for nibbles, a chat and maybe a quiz or two.

Please refer to Page 4 for the booking procedure.

We respectfully request you wear a face covering on arrival and until you are seated. Please wear a face covering if moving around the hall, for your protection and that of others. Hand sanitiser will be available.

A HALLOWEEN VISITOR
Spotted in Shoreham

Peter Pumpkin with his vegetable harvest

MARION'S QUIZ

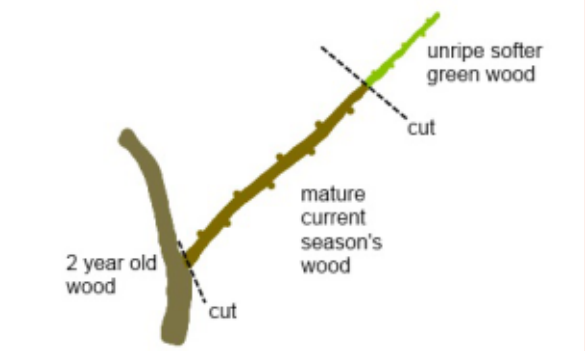
1) What do the Japanese celebrate on 9 September each year?
2) What is the common name for the flower Alstroemeria?
3) True or false? Daffodil leaves should be cut back once the flower has faded.

Answers on Page 4

NOVEMBER HINTS AND TIPS

- Continue to mow lawns, setting mower blades to a height of about 4cm.
- When Penstemon plants have finished flowering, cut back top growth by about one third. Further pruning will be necessary in late spring.
- Take hardwood cuttings from soft fruit bushes such as gooseberries, black-, red- and whitecurrants. Fig trees can also be propagated in this way.
- Growth rates are slower at this time of year, so most plants will not need additional feeding. Excess nutrients might be washed into watercourses by rain.
- Wormeries should be protected in winter. Now is a good time to move them into a greenhouse, shed or garage for the winter months.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous trees, shrubs (see below) and climbers.

Refer to Pat W's tips on page 3 of the September Bulletin.



FROM CUTTINGS TO GARDEN CENTRE
Zoom talk by Graham Spencer

On Tuesday 19 October, award-winning plant breeder and perennial grower Graham gave us a fascinating account of how new plants are developed and then grown for sale to us.
We might imagine the tray of young plants we buy at the supermarket or garden centre started life as seeds which were planted in those tray cells, and that they stayed in the same glasshouse until ready to go to where we buy them. Not so. They have a far more widely travelled existence than some of us have in our lifetimes.

Nemesia Amelie bred by Martine Tellwright and developed by Farplants Group, Arundel

To start with, European plant breeders develop new improved varieties, and the UK is very good at this. Martine Tellwright, a local breeder friend of Graham's will produce 10,000 Nemesia plants in her nursery under controlled conditions of temperature, humidity, soil, and pest and disease control. Typically over 3 years she looks for improvements and selects just one or two, saving the seed for a new variety that breeds true (all identical plants). Each improvement is small, but over the years a new variety becomes noticeably better.
Glasshouse conditions are crucial, especially having everything sterile to avoid disease, and keeping out pests. In 24 hours, a famous Dutch plant breeder, Marco van Noort lost all his glasshouse plants when voles got in!

After 3 years' hard work, the breeder "patents" the new variety to protect ownership. The variety is seen and taken up by growers. This is where the extraordinary journey starts, and Graham chose Martine's Nemesias to illustrate this, with her cuttings going first to a German laboratory in sealed packets with carbon dioxide and cooled to keep them fresh.
(Other breeders send cuttings to the Netherlands and Poland.)

Prize winning hanging basket by Lyn Burrows

The German lab propagates thousands of the Nemesia variety, the elite (clean) stock, and they fly to Kenya where the long days and warm climate greatly speed up growth. Other plants we buy go to Latin American, Mediterranean and other African countries, totalling billions of plants each year. Each time plant material crosses a border, it needs to be inspected and given a health certificate.
During our winter, in insect-free Kenyan glasshouses our Nemesia plants produce mother plants from which millions of cuttings are taken. They are flown back to rooting stations in Germany, The Netherlands and the UK where robots plant the cuttings in cell trays.
Plug plants from mainland Europe may travel to grow bigger at finished plant producers here in the UK, to entitle them to be called "UK grown". Others arrive here at their final size. Either way, they travel in climate-controlled trucks, with the trays on the shelves of the trolleys we see in our supermarkets and garden centres. At Farplants Group near Arundel, one of the largest dispatchers of plants to Waitrose and B&Q, the trays are cleaned and the plant name and price labels are stuck on.

Graham showed us photos of each stage of this intercontinental saga, the most astonishing being the immense size of glasshouses. Typically, workers (in sterile clothing) need bicycles to get between sections where they constantly monitor conditions and the state of plants. This extraordinary process, from seed to sales, involving journeys of thousands of miles and as many as seven destinations, is all happening to satisfy our demand for plants, early in the year and at very reasonable prices, to adorn our gardens, baskets and window boxes.

Left: In huge glasshouses, conditions can be controlled to optimise plant growth and health

DECEMBER GET-TOGETHER WITH THE COMMITTEE

Reggie Veggie

Percy Pumpkin

Suzie Squash

Have you joined Hove Gardening Club during **the last five or six years?** If so, partly because of Covid-19, you may not have met the Committee members. Perhaps you'd like to meet us. We hope so.

You are cordially invited to a pre-Christmas get together at Jacky's home, 16 Park Avenue, Hove, BN3 5RF. Drop in any time from 2:30pm to 5:00pm on Thursday 9 December for tea or coffee, cake and a chat.

Marion

Barney Banana

Pat

Rishi Raspberry

Jenny

Charles & Camilla

Jacky

Maria

Caroline

Tessa

Leila

Artie Choke

Marilyn

Can you spot the Committee among the pictures?
Some of us will be at Jacky's to say hello.
We look forward to seeing you!

BOOKING PROCEDURE FOR 2022 SOCIAL EVENTS

Bookings open on Wednesday 5 January.

- There are 50 available places at each Social Event.
- Social Events in January and February will be **FREE** to attend.
- To reserve your place, email hgcenquiries@gmail.com or text Jacky on 07941 539121 or Jenny on 07854 503968 (If you don't have a mobile or email, please telephone.)
- In your email or text, state Members' names, number of seats required and your prefered month. You will receive a confirmation email or text.
- Bookings close the day before the Event.
- If an Event is fully booked, you will receive an email, text or phone call to that effect, asking if would you like to attend on the alternative evening.
- Although numbers are limited to 50 places at the moment, restrictions may change.
- We regret we are unable to accept requests for Members' guests who are not also Club Members, due to limited numbers.

JANUARY SOCIAL EVENT PHOTO COMPETITION

There are gardening vouchers to the value of £10 and £5 for First and Second Prize in each of the three categories, which are:

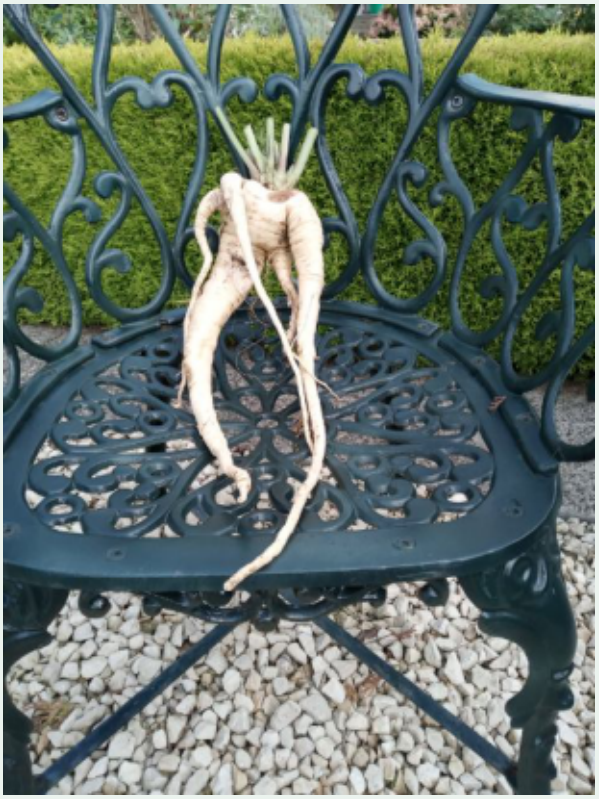
A) Plants on Pavements
B) Our Feathered Friends
C) Trees in Winter

Photos should be no larger than 7in x 5in with your name on the back, and only one entry per person in each category. Bring your photos to the Social Event on Monday 17 January. If you can't attend, post photos to Jacky at 16 Park Avenue, Hove, BN3 5RF (don't forget your name on the back).

MARION'S QUIZ ANSWERS

1) Chrysanthemum Day (Kiku no Sekku)
2) Peruvian Lily
3) False. Leave them on till they go yellow

PECULIAR PARSNIP



Grown by Club Member, Joyce Roberts.
We love sharing your photos with Bulletin readers.
Please send them to hgcenquiries@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER

This is the last issue of the Bulletin. As from next month, there will instead be a quarterly Newsletter. As always, we welcome your contributions.

Bulletin editor: Marilyn High

Please refer to the 2020 Schedule for details of Committee Members.

WEBSITE : hovegardeningclub.co.uk