



Drinkstone Gardening Club - report to the Annual Parish Meeting 13 May 2019

We welcome everyone, from total novices to experts. We have 38 members now. Our financial position is healthy - we usually have £500 in hand at the start of each DGC year.

Our meetings in the year 2018-2019

Season of mists and yellow fruitfulness - we started our year in October when Graeme Proctor, the owner of Crown Nursery in Ufford, gave us a most interesting talk on apples. His encyclopaedic knowledge was fascinating, giving inspiration when it comes to choosing a variety and confidence when it comes to pruning.

In November, Matt Tanton Brown, manager of The Place for Plants, gave us a very interesting talk on plants for autumn colour and winter interest. There were plants for every garden - evergreens, deciduous, tall and small and all designed to cheer up the gardener during the dark months to come.

Our January meeting was delightful, bringing light and hope to winter. Dr Ian Bedford, the 'go to' entomologist from Radios Suffolk and Norfolk, gave a talk on butterfly gardening. Those who didn't know their Painted Ladies from their Comma Polygonums at the start of the talk were soon put in the picture.

In February, Andrew Sankey gave a very informative talk on the history of the cottage garden, from Anglo Saxon times to the present day. It was great to be reassured that a garden which is apparently 'all of a guddle' is a true representation of the cottage garden, as long as you include a midden somewhere.

Our March meeting was led by Matt Long, from Riverside Bulbs, who talked about bulbs for spring and summer. He was able to confirm why acidanthera don't come up the following year, why you have to wait three years for nerines to do their stuff and why freesias can generally be a waste of time and effort. He also had some beautiful lilies and dahlias for sale - soon snapped up by members.

April - Karen Kenny from Radio Suffolk gave us a very interesting talk on herbs. She told us the uses of many herbs we knew as weeds; nettles, cleavers, Sweet Cicely and, horror of horrors, ground elder. Apparently, all of these are nutritious and an asset to every garden. Those members who resort to weed killer in the battle against them looked down in shame.

Future events

For our May meeting, we are going to Woolpit Nurseries for a demonstration and talk on summer foliage. It is unlikely that anyone will return empty-handed.

In June we are having an afternoon visit to The Place for Plants in East Bergholt. We've been before in early spring so it will be fascinating to see the garden in high summer. It is unlikely that anyone will return empty-handed.

To complete the year, in July we are having an evening visit to Fullers Mill Garden in West Stow. This is an amazing 7-acre garden with rare plants and something of interest round every corner. Having the River Lark running through it adds to the magic. It is unlikely that anyone will return empty-handed.

In all, we've had an interesting, informative year. We welcome suggestions from our members as to possible future events.

