



## Drinkstone Gardening Club - report to the Parish Council June 6 2022

We welcome everyone to the DGC, from total novices to experts. We have 38 loyal members which is very heartening after the lock downs. Our financial position is healthy - we have a positive balance in May 2022 of £439.67.

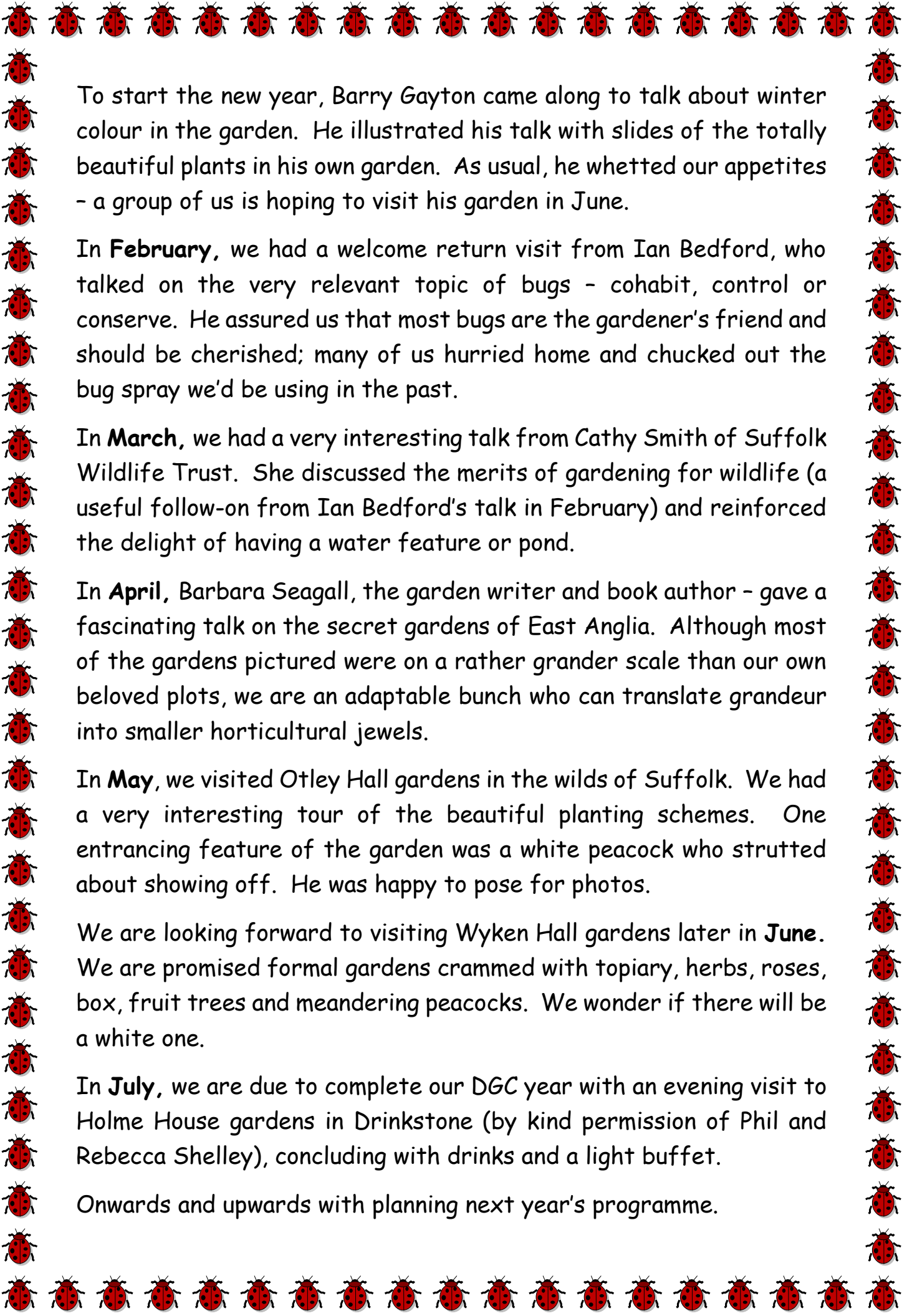
We are sad to report that we have lost a valued member this spring - Carole Robinson - who cheerfully served refreshments at our meetings.

### Our meetings for the year 2021 - 2022

For our first meeting in **October**, Matt Tanton Brown came along to talk about old-fashioned shrub roses. He is very knowledgeable on this topic and was able to answer members' questions on how to get the best out of this heritage plant.

In **November**, Ruth Goudy - the well-known writer and broadcaster on the benefits of gardening - talked about how flowers benefit our well-being. An interesting talk and confirmation of what we gardeners already knew.





To start the new year, Barry Gayton came along to talk about winter colour in the garden. He illustrated his talk with slides of the totally beautiful plants in his own garden. As usual, he whetted our appetites - a group of us is hoping to visit his garden in June.

In **February**, we had a welcome return visit from Ian Bedford, who talked on the very relevant topic of bugs - cohabit, control or conserve. He assured us that most bugs are the gardener's friend and should be cherished; many of us hurried home and chucked out the bug spray we'd be using in the past.

In **March**, we had a very interesting talk from Cathy Smith of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. She discussed the merits of gardening for wildlife (a useful follow-on from Ian Bedford's talk in February) and reinforced the delight of having a water feature or pond.

In **April**, Barbara Seagall, the garden writer and book author - gave a fascinating talk on the secret gardens of East Anglia. Although most of the gardens pictured were on a rather grander scale than our own beloved plots, we are an adaptable bunch who can translate grandeur into smaller horticultural jewels.

In **May**, we visited Otley Hall gardens in the wilds of Suffolk. We had a very interesting tour of the beautiful planting schemes. One entrancing feature of the garden was a white peacock who strutted about showing off. He was happy to pose for photos.

We are looking forward to visiting Wyken Hall gardens later in **June**. We are promised formal gardens crammed with topiary, herbs, roses, box, fruit trees and meandering peacocks. We wonder if there will be a white one.

In **July**, we are due to complete our DGC year with an evening visit to Holme House gardens in Drinkstone (by kind permission of Phil and Rebecca Shelley), concluding with drinks and a light buffet.

Onwards and upwards with planning next year's programme.





## Gardening Club Committee

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