

Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

Today's programme is in response to the suggestion last year that the Society should provide a lunch for those members attending the AGM. It is apparent that the innovation is popular and very many thanks to Jane parsons and helpers for making all the arrangements.

Let me first review last year's programme. We had an innovation at the Plant Sale morning in that we invited Lotte Prentice to provide a stall of plants for sale alongside offerings from members. This made the event more interesting and was a success and we will repeat the arrangement at our plant sale meeting on 27 April this year.

The Garden Party last year was at Yew Tree Barn where Martin and Iris presented an immaculate garden for us to enjoy, as well as the company of a full-of-beans young Barny on a long leash. Many thanks to you both. We started the evening at the earlier hour of 6pm, which worked well, and we will continue on this basis. This year we will combine the social event with an open gardens visit: up to 8 gardens in the village will be open from 4pm on 15th June for you to wander through to count the weeds and smell the honeysuckle. The party will be held in the village hall from 6pm. Further information will be advised in the Newsletter nearer the day.

Our self-drive Outing last year was to the very interesting garden at Daglingworth House. It coincided with the long drought last summer, so the plants were not at their best and the Howards very kindly offered us a return visit, which we have arranged at the earlier date of 10th May, when we should have a very different experience of this well planned garden.

The heavy snowfall in February meant that we had to cancel the willow weaving event, but Helen Lomberg was happy to re-book for our December meeting this year, and will again include a practical session afterwards for those who would like to practice their skills. Before that we had two interesting talks from Victoria Logue on extending the garden season, and from Fergus Dignan on the work of a volunteer at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. We ended the season with Richard baldwin's entertaining talk on vegetable growing that he had been prevented from delivering last year due to a pile up on the M5. I confess that my strongest recollection of his talk was the astonishing range of containers in which he grew his crops in a very confined garden space.