

JOIN OUR GARDEN CLUB



Interested in gardening, want to learn more or just share your hobby? Are you a novice? Perfect, we want you!



2023 launch night Wednesday 29th March

7.30pm Barlaston Village Hall, Longton Rd. It's always **FREE** to attend your first event, but please **book your seat beforehand**, by getting in touch via any contact method.

Membership benefits & activities include:

- 10% discount at local nurseries with our membership card
- Regular meetings with a mixture of talks from experts & members hands-on workshops
- Free healthy high antioxidant purple seed potatoes to grow your own spuds at home
- Free plants each month from our plant swap - Bring along your spare plants & swap them
- If you're pruning roses now, then bring your spare hardwood cuttings & swap with others
- Seed swap bank - Do you have spare seed packets you're not using, then bring them along
- 50% seeds discount from Suttons seeds. Collect a catalogue from our events
- Members select a free pack of seeds from the catalogue for growing & swapping seedlings
- Free visit to Dorothy Clive Gardens
- Free zoom talks from gardening experts all over the country
- Did you know one of our Barlaston members (briefly) held a Guinness World Record for the tallest ever teasel !!! Why not join the fun in the 'Tallest Teasel Competition' ?

Other potential ideas we can consider this year: Creation of a social 'Community gardening team', WhatsApp swappers & shopping group, tool amnesty (got spare unloved tools?), pot amnesty, library of gardening books, 'Harvest Celebration Party', plus lots more.

For launch night we'll first have a short introduction to the garden club, then we'll have a talk & demo from **10X Chelsea Gold Medal winning nursery PlantaGoGo who specialise in Heuchera, Heucherella, & Tiarellas**. You will probably have seen them on TV with Carol Klein & Joe Swift. They will be bringing plants for sale, so bring your debit/credit card.

We'll have regular meetings on Wednesdays in the Village Hall & on Tuesdays or Thursdays at The Parish Church. Having different days hopefully gives everyone a chance to attend some of the sessions. Below are the Village Hall Wednesday dates, please ensure you're on our email list to be notified of the additional Tuesday & Thursday Church dates.

March 29th	April 26th	May 24th	June 28th	July 26th
August 23rd	September 27th	October 25th	November 22nd	

It's a beginners garden club so you don't need any experience whatsoever, it's open to everyone. On launch night enjoy an Indian Samosa (or two). Plus if you decide to join, pick up some **FREE** purple seed potatoes.





Hands on interactive workshops include: Activities like pruning & grafting family fruit trees. We run through 'Jobs to do for the month', & members share tips with each other in Q&A sessions. Plus we all know how therapeutic gardening can be for our mental wellbeing, so occasionally in the workshops we have a 'Share your Glooms & your Blooms' chat, which is my attempt to encourage well being conversations. We



ask everyone to bring in a Bloom or something that's looking good in their garden, & we take it in turn to firstly briefly share any Glooms we may have, then to follow up with a brief chat about what Blooms you have brought in to show, or something positive that you've been doing in the garden to lift your mood. It's completely optional, but gives people a chance to talk, open up, & build a connection within our group.

3 formats of open garden events:

- 1) **Autumn virtual open gardens** - During lockdown & in place of the main open gardens event, Barlaston residents shared clips of their gardens virtually in a video. So why not participate in the 2023 village video by taking a 60 second clip during the spring or summer of your garden & what you are growing? Open to anyone in the village. If possible, have someone from your household give an introduction/commentary at the start. Please record in landscape (horizontal view), in highest resolution. Send to Indy via BVGClub@outlook.com For help or info call 074 755 12323. Final video compilation will be released in autumn.
- 2) **Main open garden event** - Our last event was in July 2019 with 25 gardens open, over 800 visitors & a GPS tracked Hopon Hopoff minibus service. If you'd like to participate in the 2023 event, please get in touch.
- 3) **Small local garden visits** - If the main open garden event sounds too daunting, then why not participate in the local garden visits. Over the last few years during covid (instead of the main event), we had small visits to members gardens, restricted to members only so we could manage numbers. This was very relaxed & really enjoyable as it meant villagers could invite neighbours round to their gardens, anytime they wished & it would only be a handful of people. You can pick which ever month, date & time that suits you best. So if you find at some point your garden is suddenly blooming & you wouldn't mind having a few of us around for a gander & chat, then just drop me a note. We're a friendly bunch....well....most of us are !!!

To Join: It's ALWAYS FREE to attend your first meeting, so why not come along to see if you like it first, bring along a friend for free too. If you want to join, it's just £20py & you can sign up in person at the meetings, or online on www.BVGClub.co.uk (check out the website for more info & join the mail list). We're cashless so payments are either; contactless card, chip&pin, QR code or via online bank transfer. If you use a smartphone, please download the 'SumUp Pay' app, this will really help during events.

Tender Shoots Garden Club Network Zoom Talks: TSGCN are a national collection of garden clubs that jointly hold gardening talks from experts via zoom that anyone can join in, there's no charge to attend, everyone is welcome. BVGClub are affiliated to the TSGCN so our members will additionally have access to the full benefits & recordings of the talks. Upcoming talks include: March 27th – George Hargreaves – Best Botanic Gardens of the UK, April 24th – Jackie Currie (Chelsea Gold Medal winner) – How to grow Alliums & the best varieties to choose. 7.30pm, full program of zoom of talks are on our website. Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 404 301 4750 Passcode: bonsai

Venues: Parish Church, Station Rd, ST12 9DA & Barlaston Village Hall, 1 Longton Rd, ST12 9AA Both venues have accessibility facilities & parking available at the rear. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start for all meetings (to around 9pm). If you have worries about covid safety, please get in touch & I'll do my best to ensure we can accommodate you to come along. If you have any ideas/comments/feedback, please complete the survey on the website.

Website



BVGClub.co.uk

Email (join mail list)



BVGClub@outlook.com

Facebook



Call or text Indy



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