



Welcome!

Welcome to Much Marcle Gardeners' Club

We are delighted that you've joined our club and hope you enjoy being a member.

This leaflet is designed to answer some likely questions and help you get the most from your membership.

What are the club aims?

Set up in 2003, our aim is to **bring local gardeners together to share experiences** and learn more about plants, gardens and our fabulous locality here in Herefordshire.

What does the club do?

Holds monthly events from September to July, which include:

- **Illustrated Talks** – these are held in the Much Marcle Memorial Hall's Bob Dallow Room. We enjoy a wealth of topics from speakers. These have included the history of Herefordshire orchards, pruning techniques, talks on specific plant groups such as herbs and specific plant species including fuchsias and orchids, floral demonstrations and all about bees. Talks from nurserymen and plant enthusiasts often include plants for sale. ***Talks in the hall begin at 7.30 on Tuesday evenings, are £2 each evening per member and include a free cup of tea or coffee.***
- **Visits to interesting gardens** – these often include a talk by the owner or head gardener and are usually within a 1-hour drive of Much Marcle. Car sharing is arranged where possible. ***There is an additional charge for entrance to the garden; this varies from around £4-£8.***
- **Visit to club members gardens** – these are held usually once a season giving us an opportunity to see how fellow members approach their gardening, ask questions and share experiences. ***These events are free to members and include a glass of wine or tea and cake.***

How can I get to know people?

We are a friendly group so always include refreshments at our meetings and many of our garden visits to allow time to chat. An annual 'social' is also included in programme which might be in the summer months with an opportunity to buy plants from other members or in the winter with a quiz or other activities.

How can I join in?

For members wanting to share their green-fingered expertise with the club we have a **'Flower of the Month' competition** that runs from September to May. For meetings held in the Much Marcle Memorial Hall, members are invited to bring a flower from their garden (see separate sheet for more information) to be voted on by the members that evening. Results are accumulated throughout the year and a **prize awarded** to the overall winner at our AGM in January.

Are there any other benefits?

- **Half price seeds** – 50% saving on seeds from Thompson and Morgan are available to all club members. Catalogues are issued at our Autumn meetings.
- **Discounts** – we have negotiated discounts with local garden centres and market stalls - you will need to have your membership card with you to benefit.

Are there any other activities?

We organise **ad hoc events and competitions**. Information is given out at meetings and circulated to club members. This is a great way to get more involved with the club.

Who keeps it all going?

Our **committee**, made up of club members, meets regularly when future activities are planned and any suggestions or queries that have been raised by members are shared. The committee's aims are to continue to improve on the club's success and the club is run under the rules recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society and insured through the Gloucestershire Society of Garden Clubs.

Who do I contact if I have an idea?

All ideas from members are welcome! Speak to anyone on the committee at the meeting or contact us by telephone. Committee contact details are on your membership card.

Can anyone join?

Most of our members come from Much Marcle, Ledbury and surrounding villages. Anyone is welcome and if you have friends interested or just visiting you, bring them along as a guest. Guests are charged £3 for events at Much Marcle Memorial Hall and there is no limit to the number of times guests can attend.

We look forward to seeing you, and your guests, at our meetings and events!