

# Sully & District GARDENING SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Well it was pleasing to see that we had a large number of our previous members renew their membership at our first meeting of 2018. We also had two new members, so I would like to welcome Nigel Graddon and Diane Nelson to the Sully & District Gardening Society. Those who could not make the February meeting will have the opportunity to renew their membership at our next meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> March – details of this meeting can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

At our first meeting of 2018 we were treated to an illustrated talk on **PROPAGATING** given by Kevin Thomas. There are different methods of propagation for different plants.

**Primroses and Polyanthus** need light to germinate, so sow seeds in plugs with an equal mixture of soil, sand and peat moss. This can be done indoors or out depending on the time of year and the climate in your area. Generally, seeds are sown indoors (outdoors in cold frame) during winter, then pot up early September/ October. Once seedlings have obtained their second or third leaves, they can be transplanted into the garden. They should continue to flower until the end of June.

**Cineraria** (Jester Mix) seeds require light for germination, so do not cover the flower seeds. Plant in a container or tray containing a seed starting mix and lightly press flower seeds into soil. Keep the flower seeds moist and germination should occur in 14 - 21 days. Blooms will appear in 16 - 18 weeks.



**Cuttings** – The easiest of cuttings are the Soft Tip Cuttings or Green Cuttings can be taken from May to June. Soft tip cuttings create a new plant with a distinct root system and the same traits as the parent plant, using the growing tip of a stem from an adult plant. This type of cutting is taken from actively growing stems that have recently begun hardening into woody stems. In most cases you can only propagate plants from soft tip cuttings during the spring and early summer. Do not take cuttings if the plant is still in flower, when you do take a cutting then do this just below a leaf joint or node. You can take soft tip cuttings from Fuchsias, Geraniums and Lavender to name just a few.

### Semi- Ripe Cuttings –



As the season progresses we move on to semi-ripe cuttings. You can do this from July through to September. Semi-ripe cuttings are an effortless way to propagate a wide range of hardy climbers, herbs, ground-cover plants, shrubs and trees – especially evergreens – without the need of special equipment or skills.

How to take semi-ripe cuttings by choosing healthy material that is free of pests and diseases and remove it with sharp, clean tools. It is best to take cuttings in the morning to avoid wilting.

There are four different types of semi-ripe cuttings:

**The basic method** cuts just below a leaf to leave a prepared cutting of 10-15cm (4-6in) in length.

**Heel cuttings** (where the cutting is pulled away with a piece of the stem) can be used – Ceanothus

and Berberis are commonly propagated from heel cuttings.

**Basal cuttings** are where the shoot is severed at its base. There is often a slight swelling here and the cut should go through this area. Brooms respond well to this method.

**Mallet cuttings** are sometimes used for Mahonia. Each leaf is planted as a cutting, burying it with a piece of stem attached.



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**Hardwood cuttings** - are taken from woody plants once the stems have fully ripened at the end of the growing season. Although it is normally recommended that hardwood cuttings can be taken anytime during the dormant season, you'll get much better results during late autumn. You can take hardwood cuttings from both deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs and climbers, but if you are new to gardening, I would suggest you start with easy-to-root, fast-growing deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, kerria, leycasteria, philadelphus, spiraea, weigela and willow. Take the cutting with a 45-degree angle at the top and a 90-degree angle at the bottom as this will be as guide as to which way up you place the cutting in the pot.



### Using Cuttings and Leaf Cuttings to Propagate Your Houseplants

When you have some favorite plants that are outgrowing their place or need to replace some short-lived plants, taking cuttings is a clever way to grow some replacements. It's also a great way to increase the number of plants you have in your collection. Before you start with leaf cuttings, you need to be sure to water the plant you're planning to cut a few



times prior to starting, preferably the day before. This will make sure the leaf will remain full of water and not deteriorate before roots have formed. You should use relatively young leaves for cuttings because their surface hasn't weathered yet. The older leaves don't root rapidly enough to start plants. After you've put the leaf cuttings into compost, place the pan outside of strong, direct sunlight, otherwise, your little leaf cuttings will shrivel up. You're better off placing them on a cool, well-shaded windowsill, which will prevent the leaf cuttings from drying up. Also, keep the compost moist during the rooting. As soon as you see roots and shoots start to develop, you can remove the plastic covering and lower the temperature of the plants.

I hope that these tips from Kevin Thomas will give you the confidence to take cuttings from your favourite plants. Let us know how you get on with any successes you have. Kevin donated a tray of primroses as a raffle prize which was won by Monica Couch.

**The winner of the February members draw for a £10 voucher for Style Gardens was  
Michael Garland**

**Please remember that our next meeting is on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 when we have,**

### **Our Annual General Meeting**

**(this is the formal part of the meeting)**

**Followed by a DVD on Brilliant Gardens**

**Featuring – Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh,  
Ness Gardens Liverpool, Chelsea Physic Gardens, Kew Gardens, Westonbirt,  
Glasgow Botanic Gardens and Wisley RHS Gardens.**

**Do not forget that your membership card entitles you to a 5% discount at  
Style Gardens in Wenvoe.**

Kind Regards

Mike Shepperdson

Chairman

Email – [mshepperdson@outlook.com](mailto:mshepperdson@outlook.com)

