

BOLLAND GARDENING CLUB

# PRESS RELEASE

Bolland Garden Club Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Don Whitton, a retired teacher, nursery man and author from South Yorkshire was this month's speaker. His talk was about 'Late Flowering Perennials' and how they enhance our enjoyment of gardens in the autumn months, bringing delight to us at the back end of the gardening year.

Don is known to a number of members having previously spoken to the club and he was given a warm welcome. He has years of experience in growing perennials both in his own garden and his large allotment just north of Sheffield. A number of his flowers have been featured in the BBC television programme Gardeners World. He is also the holder of a Plant Heritage National collection of Euphorbias for which he holds a great interest and fondness.

During his talk his subject was beautifully illustrated by a large number of coloured slides the vast majority of which showed flowers in the autumn months – sumptuous September, outstanding October and November novelties as he termed them. Many of his photographs were taken in gardens he had visited and also from his own garden and allotment. He particularly mentioned the RHS gardens at Wisley and Harlow Carr. However other gardens such as Bodnant in North Wales, Breezy Knees garden at York and Trentham gardens near Stoke-on-Trent all had their own show of autumn splendor.

Club members, who numbered over 40, were provided with a comprehensive list of late herbaceous perennials. This list detailed gardens good to visit in autumn and detailed flowers which could be seen at their best in each of the autumn months. In September for example Breezy Knees had Euphorbia x arendsii and Alstroemeria Inca goal. Bodnant in October had many varieties of Salvia. Trentham in November was notable for its Euphorbia ceratocarpa and chrysanthemums golden greenheart variety in particular.

Many of the perennials illustrated were magical and inspired our imagination and demonstrated just how special autumn can be. With the warmer weather we are now experiencing a longer autumn flowering season.

Don's talk didn't stop there. In his teacher mode he explained how to identify a daisy. This appears as one plant but is actually made up in its centre with about a thousand individual flowers. We also learned about grasses and how to tell the difference between grasses and sedge by a little rhyme – 'grasses are round right to the ground and the stems of sedges have edges'.

At the conclusion of the talk a vote of thanks was given, coincidentally by a fellow Yorkshireman, former teacher and holder of a local allotment who summed up our thanks

by saying that Don's talk was one of the very best he had heard. Those present were in agreement with that sentiment.

The next meeting is on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 when the speaker is David Redmore who will talk about 'Mixed Planting: Growing Edibles amongst Perennials?'

Clare Stuart

Note for Editors- The Bolland Gardening Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall, Bolton-by-Bowland at 7.30pm unless otherwise arranged.