

## Baginton Gardeners

Once again, Darren Rudge presented an extremely informative talk on 'Pruning – Improving What You Have Got' to our meeting in March. His message was clear, we are in control when we lift the secateurs or loppers!

There are 3 rules to help us in pruning our garden plants:

1. You are telling the plant how you want it to grow. So have a vision and plan in mind! Do a few cuts, step back, look at the plant, do more if needed, know when to stop!
2. Why are you pruning? To maintain or improve the size, shape and health of the plant. Good pruning lets in light, water and air, all necessary for healthy growth,
3. Understand a little of how plants grow and where and how to cut. Cut 5mm above a bud, ensure cut is sloped away from the bud to let water run off. Pinch out apex bud to encourage bushier plants.

The 5 basic principles of pruning are D.D.D.X.U. Look for the following when pruning:

D – Dead Wood D - Disease D – Damage X – Crossing branches U – Untypical Growth, look for mutations. So, when should we prune? The general rule is Deciduous plants – November to March, Evergreens – September/October and March. Remember there are times when you will need a specialist, particularly with large trees!

His final message was Know what you want, be inspired by nature and HAVE FUN WITH PRUNING!

The dates for Baginton Open Gardens have been set for Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Anyone who might be considering opening their garden can contact Catherine Weston on 07907119523 or Elayne for more information.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Elayne will be stepping down from Chairing the group from the end of the year. If you would like to consider taking over this role please speak to Elayne soon so that she can work with you to ease you in before hand-over.

The programme for 2024 speakers follows. You don't have to be a knowledgeable gardener to attend but you will learn so much from the expertise of the speakers.

| Date           | Speaker      | Title                         |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 20/05/24 (Mon) | Gordon Malt  | Bulbs, Corms and Tubers       |
| 15/07/24 (Mon) | Lucy Hartley | Ecology in the Modern Garden  |
| 16/09/24 (Mon) | Geoff Hodge  | Propagation – Plants for Free |
| 18/11/24 (Mon) | Quiz         |                               |

Meetings take place bi-monthly at the British Legion, Kimberley Road, Baginton at 7.30 and visitors are always welcome. Visitors pay £4 per meeting.

Membership for 2024 remains at £12 pa + £2 per meeting and includes a 10% on FULL price items at our 4 local Garden Centres (Smiths, Russell's, Avondale and David Cheshire Bonsai). Baginton Nurseries will open from Easter to Autumn but cannot offer 10% reduction as its prices are already wholesale. Membership cards are available at the meetings or by contacting Elayne.

In the meantime if you have any questions or need more information contact Elayne on 02475 013147 or [elaynemeakin@gmail.com](mailto:elaynemeakin@gmail.com)