

Gardening

WITHOUT A DOUBT we have had a very wet April making it almost impossible to work the ground. But as I write this in early May we are enjoying a warm spell and most things are growing fast. Nature soon catches up and soon we shall have forgotten this muddy spring.

Some of my early sowings were not successful. The broad beans took ages to come through and the early peas never put in an appearance, but we will try again.

Now is the time to think about beans and sprouts, but not too hasty with the beans for this variable weather of ours often produces late frosts.

In this old head of mine there is a list of dates throughout the year for the various activities in the garden.

This year the only event to arrive as expected was the glorious show of forsythia but as I said before, nature soon catches up.

On the bright side. There has been a very good show of flowers on the strawberries. No doubt the squirrels have an eye on them so I must take precautions. Cuttings of marguerites and penstemons have rooted readily and are very well forward but one is hesitant about exposing them in case of frosty nights.

Good weather will come and although vegetables are not promising at the moment things may change rapidly. I forecast plenty of berries on the holly, a good crop of apples and lots of spuds.

Will be with you in two months time. Good gardening.

A.V. Mitchell.

Burford & District Horticultural Association affiliated to The Royal Horticultural Society.

Would you like to join the local garden club? The Burford and District Horticultural Association would be pleased to welcome you to its activities. We have a programme of monthly meetings and lectures held during most of the year, normally at the Warwick Hall in Burford.

We hold a Spring and Summer Show, and organise a coach and car outing each year. We have a social event after the AGM and a Summer Garden Evening. We have discount schemes which offer 10% discount at Burford Garden Centre, Hilltop Garden Centre Nursery, Ramsden, and Applegarth Nurseries, Chipping Norton.

The cost of membership is currently £4.00 per annum.

For further information contact:

The Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary Mr. J.A. Kimberley – 01993 822256 or The Hon. Secretary Mrs. P.J. Knightson – 01993 830977.