LONGBURTON GARDEN CLUB

Castle Gardens Speaker: Seasonal Colour and Interest in the Garden

5th November 2026

Whilst Bonfire Night was lighting up the skies outside with fireworks and sparklers, Malcolm from Castle Gardens brought the colours of autumn indoors for an inspiring and informative evening at Longburton Garden Club meeting.

Malcolm shared his passion for gardening through a wonderful display of plants, shrubs and foliage, showcasing the rich yellows, rusts and burgundy tones that make autumn such a spectacular season. The leaves and branches he brought along had all been collected from around the garden centre that very afternoon, demonstrating how our hot summer, combined with warm autumn days and relatively little rainfall, has produced particularly vibrant seasonal colour this year.

One topic Malcolm was especially proud to discuss was Castle Gardens' commitment to using only peat-free compost. Members were interested to hear that one of the benefits of belonging to Longburton Garden Club is the opportunity to order discounted peat-free compost for delivery soon.

Malcolm advised that when purchasing peat-free compost, it is best to buy little and often to ensure it remains in peak condition. He explained that Castle Gardens guarantees its compost has not been sitting in warehouses for extended periods. He also noted that peat-free compost can sometimes be drier than traditional composts and recommended feeding and watering plants regularly for the first six weeks after planting. After a short resting period, the process can be repeated to achieve the best results.

Malcolm went on to talk about a variety of plants such as roses, hellebores, grasses, cyclamen and heathers and suggested some evergreen plants that could be substituted for box hedging, which nowadays is frequently affected by box blight and he also gave us some very useful tips on planting, one being that the greener the foliage, the more shade the plant will generally tolerate while varieties with silvery foliage tend to thrive in sunnier positions.

The evening was both educational and entertaining, packed with practical advice and seasonal inspiration. Malcolm's enthusiasm, knowledge and sense of humour ensured that everyone left with plenty of ideas for adding colour and interest to their gardens throughout the year.



Next Meetings

Longburton Garden Club Christmas Lunch on **Sunday 13th December at Folke Golf Club.**

January Garden Club meeting will be a New Year Lunch and Social in the Cam Vale Community Hall on **Saturday 9th January 2027** from **12.30-2.30pm**.

Thursday 4th February 2027 – SNOWDROPS – THE FAIR MAIDS OF FEBRUARY - talk by Micky Little in the Cam Vale Community Hall – 7.30pm

New Members Welcome!

Interested in joining or attending as a guest? We would love to welcome you.

Annual membership remains £15, with guest visits at £3 including refreshments. Meetings held at Cam Vale Community Hall (CVCH), Wildewood Rise, Longburton, DT9 5FZ – 1st Thursday of the month (except July and August) - For further information please contact Gwenda Brocklehurst – 01963 210700 – or any committee member.