

Gardening Group Wed. 3rd. February

Twenty-one of us arrived at the restaurant in Trelawney garden centre, Wadebridge, where we had lunch before gathering in the conservatory for a demonstration & talk by Nick Bacon, a very knowledgeable gardener at Trelawney. Nick has a varied gardening background, his interest beginning in childhood & spanning forty-six years, including several district & county council posts to where he is today, still studying & giving twenty-five talks a year!

While demonstrating how best to pot plants into a container, he gave many relevant hints like putting bits of polystyrene (for drainage & insulation) mixed with slug pellets into the bottom of the container thus keeping the pellets away from other creatures! More hints. Dip cotton wool buds into treacle then powdered yeast & place by an ant's nest, ants will be attracted by the treacle & take the yeast to feed the queen. The yeast will swell, end of queen! Apparently, ants won't cross a chalk line, squirrels won't take peanuts mixed with cayenne pepper (doesn't affect birds), cats are deterred by muscle pain relief sprayed onto dry teabags placed round the garden, mice hate mint tooth-paste, carrot root fly are deterred by seeing themselves in mirrors placed at both ends of your rows of carrots!

All his tried & tested solutions were quirky, entertaining, inexpensive & worked! There were many more, too numerous to mention here.

No wonder he advised us to bring our notebooks!

Next meeting. Wed. March 3rd. Higher Cherubee, Dolton. A NGS garden opened especially for us. for further details contact Marion Hall 01840 230678.