

Edington & District Gardening Club

On 5th February we were treated to the marvellous knowledge and excellent tips of Richard Cripps, garden and estates consultant. Although the intention was really to focus on the basics of vegetable growing, Richard provided a wealth of information about getting the best from your garden whatever you grow.

He began with some myth-busting and good tips – seeds don't need light to germinate, an easy method to sow seeds, and using left over brassica seed to grow tasty and nutritious micro leaves – the ones that cost a fortune in specialist shops and restaurants!

We were also treated to some excellent tips about 'good housekeeping for healthy plants'... digging and manuring, recognising pests and diseases and crop rotation.

We learnt how to know our soil, how to best use the warmer spots in our gardens and how to plan for a succession of plants rather than one huge glut!

Finally Richard encouraged us to try new varieties as well as the old favourites he showed us in his vintage seed catalogues. He reassured us that more things will go right than wrong, since given water and half-decent weather the seeds will grow and thrive. We are keen to try out his tips so that we have bumper crops for the plant and produce show this year!

Our next speaker is on 5th March, when John Tucker will give us some tips on pruning and caring for shrubs. We meet at 7.30 in the Parish Hall and visitors are always made welcome.

Sandie Lewis