

Talks Information 2021

Darren Lerigo

Zoom Talks - Worth Giving A Go!

I am now offering talks via Zoom.

At first, I brushed off the idea, but as Covid-19 continued throughout the spring and summer I realised I needed to at least give them a go. Now, I must say, I am hooked!

Instead of just doing my talks as normal, I have worked hard to use the 'medium' of Zoom and what tools it has to offer to help make the talk and what I teach more fun.

So if you book a Zoom talk with me you will get a mixture of:

Discussion
Screen sharing and
Polling

To make the talk lively and useful for everyone who joins - rather than a passive experience, sitting back and staring at a screen.

20% of Clubs Have Taken Up A Zoom Talk Already...

And I can only see that figure rising, vaccine or not, because people want to come together, have something to look forward to, learn about gardening and meet new speakers from parts of the country they would not normally be able to book.

Zoom talks are great value and have opened up a world of new speakers and ideas to get in contact with!

Booking A Zoom Talk - What You Need To Know:

- I can set up the meeting for you, using my Zoom account if you don't have one. I will send you the invitation to join the week before, for you to share with your group members.
- Cost is £75.
- Talks tend to be 50 minutes, plus q and a afterwards.
- The benefits of Zoom - polling, discussion, screen sharing - are all thrown into the mix to get the most from the event.
- At the start I go through etiquette with people, so they can get use to what they need to do.

If members of the committee would like a trial beforehand, then I am happy to book this in - cost is an additional £15 for a 15 minute practise and can be done anytime before the talk itself.

This may well be a useful way to make sure the online talk experience is as good as it can be, so that people will come back.

A Workshop In September 2021

Some of you will have been on a topiary and pruning workshop with me over the last few years. They are great fun and take place in the stunning topiary garden of Charlotte Molesworth in Kent.

We are running another one in September 2021 so if you are interested please do take a look by clicking the link below, or let the members of your garden club know...

Details Of The Topiary Workshop, September 2021

Talks In Person

I have many of these already booked in for 2021, and should the situation change I will be visiting you to do them.

If Covid-19 is still not allowing us to meet, then I recommend we move the talk to Zoom or rearrange the date - it is not a problem to do either one.

Read below for my talks and more information....

A Speaker For Your Group

Since 2014 I have given nearly 400 talks and workshops, regularly visiting:

- Garden Clubs
- WI's
- U3A's
- Lunch Clubs
- Beekeeping Societies
- Probus Groups
- Flower Festivals
- County Shows and more to give talks on gardening.

"I don't think I've ever had so many positive comments about a speaker, thank you for making my job a success."

Speaker Finder, Garden Club In Essex

I am a practical, hands-on gardener who specialises in topiary. My topiary practise takes me all over the country clipping plants from late spring to autumn.

You can view some of my work here in [The Guardian](#).

"Just to say great talk, hopefully we will see you again when I am booking for next year."

Speaker Finder, Garden Club In Suffolk

Talks & Subjects

My current talks, on five different subjects, are:

What Do I Do With This Space: Garden Ideas From Around The World

My most popular talk, looking at ways to deal with pernicious weeds, how to stop animals eating your best plants, making great borders in small spaces and the benefits of native plants.

Diluted: How We Use Water In The Garden

Living in the driest part of the country made me question how to garden when you don't have water. This talk looks at the problem with a lack of rainfall, or the opposite - how to deal with a garden that gets far too much.

Clippings: Topiary & Pruning Techniques

How to make topiary and why it transforms your garden. This topic is my speciality and one I have taught at lots of places around the UK, including at The English Gardening School in Chelsea.

Helping The Honeybee: The Best Plants For Bees

What actually are the best plants for bees, so you don't waste an inch of your garden.

A Very British Garden: What Do We Actually Grow?

Imagine a British garden and its all peonies, aquilegias and foxgloves in front of a quaint cottage with a thatched roof. In this talk we look at whether this is true - is the typical British garden actually the sweet cliché of our dreams? Includes a section on No-Dig Vegetable Gardening.

What I Need From You

I can bring with me a projector, extension cord, necessary cables and laptop.

If you can provide a table and a screen or blank wall to project onto that would be great.

As would the address of your meeting place and the time you start.

A mic of any description is a bonus but not necessary.

Fee For Your Group

I charge £120 for a talk between 45-90 minutes, depending on your needs. I am happy to do a Q and A session at the end if you wish.

A concession is available for groups of 25 people or smaller.

From 2021, a small fee for travel expenses will be charged if you are based outside of Essex. However I am conscious of how hard it is to pay for speakers and will do all I can to make a talk as affordable for your group as possible, wherever you are in the country.

Please do get in touch to discuss with me how to make a talk happen.

Payment can be made on the day in the following ways:

BACS - details can be provided and is my preferred method of payment

Cheque - made payable to Modern Mint

Cash

"Everyone loved your talk, your sense of humour hit the spot, besides being informative and practical. Hopefully I can get you back!"
Speaker Finder, USA

An Introduction You Can Use

Darren is a gardener who specialises in topiary. He travels the country clipping shapes into shrubs and hedges, training wisteria and pruning fruit trees. He loves gardens full of flowers for the bees and people who plant trees.

FAQ'S

Do you travel anywhere?

I do! I try my best to make the cost as reasonable as possible, so please let me know where you are based so I can work out how much it will cost to get to you from Chelmsford, Essex.

I've had a late cancellation, can you cover?

Most certainly, if I'm free. Just let me know and I will do my best to help.

Can I get a bespoke workshop for my group?

Yes, and it is great fun. Previously I have taught topiary clipping techniques and apple tree pruning, all done in someone's garden.

Contact me to discuss how we can make this happen.

Would you like me to tell other people about your talks?

Yes please, that would be incredibly kind. Thank you!

Contact Me To Discuss A Talk For Your Group

There are several ways to contact me:

T: 01245 357654 M: 077686 39388

E: info@modernmint.co.uk

W: www.modernmint.co.uk

Social Media? Uhhh..... no.

I may be in a garden somewhere clipping, so if I don't pick up just leave a message and I will get back to you.

Look forward to speaking soon, please do get in touch with me if you need a talk,

Thank you,

Darren