

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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R.H.S. LONDON AND WISLEY

We are affiliated to the RHS who's benefits include competitive insurance cover, free gardening advice, a free group visit to an RHS garden, (54 members to visit Wisley club trip in Summer) access to medals (Banksian medal) and show stationery and a free monthly copy of The Garden

magazine (see Beverley Ames if you wish to view). Our membership number is 10564709.

EDITORS NOTES

Brian –Stories to ernestperry33@gmail.com hard copy to Chris

GARDENING CALENDAR AUGUST

August is the first harvest month; it is also the time to begin tidying up your garden as the early-summer-growing plants begin to finish flowering and collapse.

Harvest - Now is the time to pick sweet corn, tomatoes, peas, beans, marrows, pumpkins, artichokes and glasshouse crops such as chillies and aubergines. Push straw or old tiles under ripening squash and pumpkins to stop rotting on the soil surface.

Protect - Tie in tall late-summer perennials to stop them flopping over.

Prune - Lavender and rosemary will have finished flowering by now, so lightly trim them gently shear the new soft growth, but don't cut into the older brown wood. Likewise, trim off foliage from strawberries once they've finished fruiting. In the middle of the month stop outdoor tomatoes by pinching out the uppermost terminal shoot.

Water & Mow - Water in dry spells, from a water butt or by re-using lightly used bathwater. Mow the lawn at least once a week. Raise the blades if the weather is hot and dry to stop the sward turning brown.

Pick pumpkins this month as well as tomatoes, artichokes and glasshouse crops such as chillies and aubergines

THIS MONTHS RECIPE**Rock buns****You will need**

100 g (4 oz) butter or margarine
225 g (8 oz) plain flour
to ml (2 level tsps) baking powder
pinch of salt
2.5 ml (half level tsp) mixed spice, optional
grated rind of half a lemon
100 g (4 oz) demerara sugar
100 g (4 oz) mixed dried fruit
1 egg, beaten
about 5 ml (1 tsp) milk, optional

To do

Grease two baking sheets.
Rub the fat into the sifted flour, baking powder, salt and spices until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
Stir in the rind, sugar and fruit.
Make a well in the centre, pour in the egg and a little milk if necessary, to give a stiff crumbly consistency.
Bind together loosely using a fork.
Use two forks to shape the mixture together in rough heaps on the baking sheets.
Bake in the oven at 200°C (400°F) mark 6 for 15–20 minutes.
Makes 12.

Variation

Replace the dried fruit by 100 g (4 oz) chopped stoned dates and 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped crystallised ginger.

PLANTING THE GRASS DIMENSION

Tall grass is the ingredient that introduces year round shape and movement into your garden, so explains Chris James of Graduate Landscapes

This time of year is perfect to add structure and evergreen to your garden. Evergreens will provide an anchor for your summer plants and keep your garden looking alive throughout winter. Before getting busy planting, have a think and plan where everything is going to go, plant where winter light will highlight your garden. Plants with high glossy leaves or silver birch will shimmer and glisten magnificently when light bounces on to their leaves or bark.

Shape and structure can be created using box plants or box balls which are compact, versatile and will keep everything in order. Box comes in many different shapes and sizes, spiral, cone and even animal shapes like chickens! If you fancy creating your own shaped hedge, you can try cutting freestyle or use a topiary wire frame which comes in different 3D shapes.

Conifers are another outstanding winter evergreen which provides rich foliage throughout the year. Dwarf varieties are ideal for the smaller garden and come in a range of bright and unusual colours which will add a little cheer to any part of the garden. To add scale and magnitude, Golden Yew has stunning golden yellow foliage and bright red berries and forms tall narrow columns.

Once you have striking shapes and symmetry in your garden, tall winter grasses like bamboo and dogwood will add movement and height. Grasses arching high and swaying in the breeze will make your garden come alive at this time of year.

Fruit trees and fruit bushes can be planted at this time of year and a little pruning is in order to keep the garden tidy. Prune acers, vines and birches before Christmas, cut any dead stems off wall shrubs and climbers and tie in any wayward shoots.

Don't forget about feeding the visitors in the garden too! This time of year is particularly harsh for birds as they need lots of the energy to keep warm. Suet balls are ideal as they are full of nutritious fatty oils and energy

boosting ingredients. Keep bird feeders topped up and keep an eye that the bird bath doesn't freeze over for too long.

HEATH, MOOR AND MOUNTAIN

BILBERRY *Vaccinium myrtillui* Bilberry is a low shrub of dry upland heaths and moors growing to a height of up to 60cm, though this depends very much on the degree of sheep grazing. It is deciduous and during the winter its blunt, four-sided stems look stark and artificially bare. The foliage develops in the early spring; the fresh green leaves, 1—3cm long and slightly toothed, contrast with the heather among which the plant grows.

The flowers appear in April and May, growing singly or in pairs from the leaf axils. They can be mistaken for fruits at a distance, being round and reddish. Closer examination reveals a short calyx and an almost spherical corolla about 5mm long. This is waxy, pink with a greenish base and pale lipped rim, the shape of an inverted urn. The real fruits develop in July and August and are deep purple or black with a bloom like untouched grapes. They are about 8mm across. Sometimes there are only a few on a bush, perhaps because grouse and voles have reaped the harvest first. However, if there are enough they are well worth picking.

HEATHER *Calluna vulgaris* One of the abiding memories of travellers to the slopes of Kilimanjaro is seeing forests of heather, the plants towering 7 or 8m tall. In Britain, common heather (not of the same genus) is usually 50 or 60cm tall, often much less than that when it is managed to provide food and cover for grouse. It still dominates many upland landscapes, turning many hills purple during August and September.

Heather prefers well-drained lime-deficient soils and thrives on moors and heaths. It is a perennial, its stems woody and branching, and has an evergreen covering of very short leaves (1 or 2mm long). These are triangular in cross section and in four rows up the stem. The flowers are small, 4 or 5mm, and are pale pink/purple, occasionally white, in colour. They appear in a dense inflorescence and remain in a folded papery state for months afterwards. The calyx is longer than the corolla and covers it; what appears to look like the calyx is in fact a quartet of bracts.

Until the turn of the century heather, or ling, was pervasive in the English uplands and was used as a material for bedding, fuel and thatching.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

☒ AUTUMN SHOW 12th SEPTEMBER

FOR PEAT'S SAKE!

Plant growers vow to shun Chelsea show over its 'woke' compost by Tom Lawrence

PLANT growers are pulling out of next year's Chelsea Flower Show because of a 'woke' ban on using peat-free compost.

Show organiser the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is banning plants grown in peat to cut carbon emissions and help save wildlife.

Peat-raised plants were barred at this May's show unless they were propagated before January 1. The date will remain unchanged next year, meaning only those grown 17 months prior will be allowed.

Now two companies that have supplied flowers to gold-winning Chelsea show gardens have withdrawn.

They warn they cannot guarantee a supply of peat-free plants due to their supply chain.

Other growers are likely to follow suit, many saying the rule is hard to comply with.

Michael Buck, head of horticulture at award-winning Creepers Nursery, in Surrey, said it would take a one-year pause from the show. He said that of its 6 suppliers, only three were 'fully peat-free' and warned that there was 'no incentive' for many to change.

He added: 'It's like banning petrol cars and saying everyone has to be driving electric vehicles, but adding it has to happen next year without putting infrastructure in place.'

The RHS, which has been accused of 'wokery' by critics, has written to the 'next Prime Minister', requesting a timescale for peat to be phased out for growers.

In August 2022 the Tory government announced a ban on sales of retail peat at the end of 2024. But that ban did not come into force following Labour's election victory.

An environment department spokesman said: 'This Government has pledged to legislate for a ban on the sale of peat and peat-containing products.' He added that it was working alongside the horticultural sector to achieve this.

APGC TRIPS FOR 2026

Titsey place and gardens, Pitchfront Lodge, Water Lane, Titsey, Oxted, RH8 0SA, 30th August www.titsey.org

Leave Victoria Hall at 11:00am return by 6 pm. Cost £24 each,, includes Transport and Entrance fees. Teas available on site. Stopping on the way at Knights Garden Centre Oxted Rd, Godstone RH9 8DB

SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

Well done everyone who entered and Beverley Ames (our Show secretary) for making it happen so smoothly.

It was nice to see a few new people entering our Show. We actually had more entries for this show than for the Spring Show, which was a first. Well done again. Keep it up. In fact our next Show is coming up fast in September, Let's see some more new entries. The schedule is included in this magazine

Most Points in show. 1st Hazel Chant 28pts, 2nd Peter Barker 24pts, 3rd Penny Slack 20pts

Best Rose. Class 74 Penny Slack

Best Hanging Basket Class 93 Peter Barker

New Exhibitor Peter Barker

AUTUMN SHOW 12th September 2026**SECTION 1 FLOWER, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE**

Vases are provided, AND MUST BE USED, for Classes 131 to 157 inc.

DAHLIA BLOOM SIZE DIAMETERS

	LARGE & GIANT	Over 22cm	}	
	MEDIUM	17cm-22cm	}	These are the National
	SMALL	11.5cm-17cm	}	Dahlia Society Hoop sizes
	MINIATURE	5.2cm – 11.5cm	}	
	POMPON	Up to 5.2cm	}	
131	Dahlia	1 bloom large, or giant, decorative or cactus		
132	Dahlia	1 bloom, medium, decorative or cactus		
133	Dahlia	3 blooms, medium, decorative or cactus		

134	Dahlia	1 bloom small, decorative
135	Dahlia	3 blooms small, decorative
136	Dahlia	1 bloom, small, cactus
137	Dahlia	3 blooms, small, cactus
138	Dahlia	1 bloom, miniature, decorative or cactus.
139	Dahlia	3 blooms, miniature, decorative or cactus
140	Dahlia	3 blooms, pompon
141	Dahlia	1 bloom, ball, any size
142	Dahlia	3 blooms, ball, any size
143	Dahlia	3 blooms, Any size. Any other variety e.g. single, collerette, waterlily
144	Rose	1 stem, large flowered (Hybrid Tea)
145	Rose	3 stems, large flowered 1 or more varieties of Hybrid Tea
146	Rose	1 stem, cluster flowered (Floribunda.)
147	Rose	3 stems, cluster flowered (Floribunda) 1 or more varieties
148	Rose Miniature,	1 stem (miniature in all aspects of size of flowers foliage & growth)
149	Rose Miniature,	3 stems 1 or more varieties (miniature in all aspects of size of flowers foliage & growth)
150	Rose	3 stems, 1 variety i.e. English, Shrub or Climbing Rose
151	Rudbeckia	3 Blooms, 1 or more varieties
152	Cosmos	3 Blooms, 1 or more varieties
153	Alstroemeria	3 Stems, 1 or more varieties.
154	Asters, Double	3 blooms, 1 or more varieties
155	Michaelmas Daisy	1 stem
156	Gladioli	1 spike. (no leaves)
157	Flowering Shrub	1 Spray (in bloom)
158	Fuchsia	1 Plant, in flower, any variety in a pot (viewed all round), as grown. Pot not to exceed 25cm diameter
160	Begonia	1 Plant, any type in pot 12.5cm to 25cm
161	Mixed Flowers	Squire's Garden Centres "Top Vase".

All Pot Plants not to exceed 60cm in width or depth

162	Pot Plant	1 Plant ,foliage only, pot not to exceed 12½cm diameter
163	Pot Plant	1 Plant, foliage only, in pot 12½ to 25cm in diameter
164	Pot Plant	1 plant, other than Fuchsia, in Flower, as grown. Pot not to exceed 25cm in diameter
165	Pot Plant	Cactus or Succulent. Pot not to exceed 20cm in diameter
166	Pot Plant	Orchid in a pot not exceeding 25cms in diameter.
167	Pot Plant	A single culinary (cooking) herb in a pot not exceeding 25cms in diameter.

Plates or doilies are provided for Classes 168 to 189, the use of which is optional.

168	Apples	4, Cooking. 1 variety.
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169	Apples	4, dessert. 1 variety
170	Pears	4. 1 variety
171	Plums	6. 1 variety.
172	Soft fruits	12. 1 variety with stalks
173	French Beans	6, 1 variety Dwarf or climbers
174	Runner Beans	6, 1 variety
175	Beetroot	3, 1 variety
176	Carrots	3, 1 variety
177	Potatoes	3 white, 1 variety.
178	Potatoes	3 coloured, 1 variety
179	Parsnips	3, 1 variety.
180	Cucumber	Greenhouse, ridge or frame.
181	Tomatoes	3, 1 variety
182	Small Tomatoes	1 truss (minimum of 6 ripe tomatoes)
183	Onions	3, 1 variety.
184	Any Vegetable	Funniest Shape
185	Shallots	6, 1 variety. (own plate)
186	Lettuce	1, any variety.
187	Peppers (NOT Chilli's)	3, any varieties
188	Culinary Herbs	3 kinds, 1 stem of each kind (vase provided)
189	Marrow	Grown for culinary use. Must not exceed 35cm in length, excluding stalk
190	Any Vegetable	Grown for weight. Heaviest
191	Any other Vegetables.	1 kind, minimum of 2.
192	Container of vegetables	Any 4 vegetables, 1 of each kind. Size at exhibitor's discretion
193	Collection of Vegetables	Squire's Garden Centres "Top Tray" (see page 19)

SECTION 2**Flowers may be purchased. Accessories optional.**

198	"ELEGANCE"	A design in a candlestick, not exceeding 25cms x 25cms x Height unlimited
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SECTION 3 **COOKING AND HANDICRAFT****Plates are provided for Classes 199 to 204 inclusive and must be used.**

200	Jam	1 jar, any kind,
201	Jelly	1 jar, any kind,
202	Mince pies	Show 5
203	Rock Cakes	Show 5,

204	Rocky Road Show	5 pieces
205	Butterfly Cakes	Show 4
206	Tea Loaf Cake	See recipe page 17 in schedule
207	Any other Cake	Approx. 18cm (7") tin.

Maximum size for all Photographs A5 (148.5mm x 210mm) unmounted

208	Photograph	Holiday Snap
209	Photograph	Weather
210	Photograph	Baby

The following exhibits must have been made in the last 12 months and not previously exhibited or worn.

211	Knitting	A Hand-knitted example.
212	Embroidery	A piece any size.
213	Gift Tag	Any Size
214	Toy	Any medium
215	Crochet	Any item
216	Wind Chime	
217	Any Other Handicraft	Not computer generated. (Hand crafted)

Please give your entries to, ring or email:-

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