

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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EDITORS NOTES

Sorry for the mistakes in last months Newsletter my laptop has a problem with fractions, the recipe for last month should read for baking times half an hour.

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

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 Brenda Winton if you wish to view*). Our membership number is 10564709.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- RHS Malvern Spring Festival - 10-13 May 2018.
 - PLANT SALE 12th MAY
 - RHS Chelsea Flower Show - 22-26 May 2018.
 - SUMMER SHOW 2nd JULY
 - RHS Chatsworth Flower Show - 6-10 June 2018.
 - RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show - 2-8 July 2018 (Preview 2 July)
 - RHS Flower Show Tatton Park - 18-22 July 2018.
 - AUTUMN SHOW 8th September
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THIS MONTHS RECIPE

Chicken and Lentil Curry

Serves 4

You will need

- 1 tsp ground cumin seeds
- 1 tsp coriander seeds
- 1 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 4 onions, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 3 cm fresh ginger, finely chopped
- 1-3 green chillies, split open
- 400g chicken breast, cut into bite-sized pieces
- Half tsp chilli powder
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- juice of 1 lemon
- 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 150g red lentils

To do

1. Add the cumin and coriander seeds to a dry saucepan and toast for 1-2 minutes. Add the oil and the onions. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring regularly until browned.
 2. Add the garlic, ginger, green chillies and chicken pieces and cook for another 2-3 minutes, stirring regularly.
 3. Add the chili powder, garam masala and turmeric powder along with the lemon juice, tomatoes and 500ml water.
 4. Bring to the boil, mix well, reduce the heat and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring regularly.
 5. Add the lentils and simmer for another 15 minutes, stirring regularly, until cooked.
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MEADOW COMEBACK

Trevor **Dines** reports

Since 2013 the Coronation Meadows project has created 62 locally-seeded wildflower meadows.

It's a warm summer evening and you're doing something you've not done since you were a child - lying down in a flower-rich meadow. All around you grasshoppers are chirping, bees are bumbling and overhead the song of the skylark rises and falls. The air is warm with the scent of flowers: sweet floral tones from clover and vanilla from the orchids. Butterflies flit between the blooms, a soft mist of buttercups punctuated by pink ragged-robin.

But this scene is now incredibly rare. Over 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s - nearly 7.5 million acres - and with them have gone our experiences of what these astonishing places are like.

Fortunately, tiny fragments of ancient wildflower meadow survive. Scattered I across Britain, a few farmers have maintained the traditional pattern of hay making, cutting the grass in late summer once the flowers have set seed, and then grazing hard with livestock until late winter. Although these fields are small - about 2ha on average - their long history of continual management means they are exceptionally rich in wildlife.

Every meadow is different, though. Each species of flower is a thread and the tapestry they weave is as multi coloured and diverse as any fabric. This is really what makes these ancient meadows so special, giving them local character and identity. It's what makes a Carmarthenshire meadow, with butterfly orchids and whorled caraway, different from an Oxfordshire meadow with snake's-head fritillaries and cowslips, or an Argyll meadow with frog orchids and wood-bitter vetch.

It's these precious fragments, these jewels in the landscape, that contain hope for the future. The Coronation Meadows project, launched by HRH The Prince of Wales to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation, aims to halt the tide of continuing meadow loss by realising the Prince's vision to create new meadows in every county of the UK.

The idea is that donor Coronation Meadows provide seed to create or restore receptor meadows in the same county. This is done by taking a crop of green hay, or seed collected using a brush harvester, and scattering it on specially prepared ground.

The process is slightly tricky - you have to juggle the weather, the hay cut and transporting the seed to the receptor site immediately so that it doesn't heat up and cook the seed - but it works beautifully.

These techniques, called 'natural seeding¹', establish many more species of flower more quickly than if commercial seed mixes are used. The meadows not only take on the local character of the original Coronation Meadow: they also rapidly become havens for other wildlife too.

By the end of 2015, 555 acres of meadows will have been created or restored in 44 counties. Over 150 volunteers have helped bring the meadows back to life, for example by haymaking, scything, spreading green hay, hand collecting wildflower seed or surveying meadows for orchids and other flowers.

At the end of the project, in 2017, many more people will have the chance to lie in a meadow once again, and savour the unique sights, sounds and scents of these precious habitats.

APGC TRIPS 2018

Sunday 13th May RHS Malvern Spring Show. Cost £38 each (transport and Entry Fees) Leave Hall at 8:0am, returning approx 6:30pm. Non Returnable Deposit £20 to be paid by 2nd April.(stopping at Wyevale Swindon SN2 7SE, on outward journey)
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/malvern-spring-festival/about-the-rhs-malvern-spring-festival>

Sunday 8th July East Lambrook Manor Gardens. Cost £24 each (transport and Entry Fees) Leave Hall at 9am, returning approx 6pm. Non Returnable Deposit £10.
<http://www.eastlambrook.com/pages/>

Saturday 18th August Great Dixter. Cost £25 each (transport and Entry Fees) Leave Hall at 9:30am, returning approx 6pm. Non Returnable Deposit £10.

<https://www.greatdixter.co.uk/>

On all the above trips a comfort break will be made in both directions.

Sunday 9th September RHS Wisley Gardens. Cost £4 each (for those using minibus only) Leave Hall at 1pm, returning approx 5pm. Free for those who meet us at Wisley at 1:30pm. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley>

GARDENING CALENDAR MAY

With the bulbs fading and the herbaceous border growing in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin in some areas of the UK, depending on regional weather variations. It's also time to get back into the lawn mowing regime, as the lawn will be loving the warmer temperatures this month brings.

Top 10 jobs this month

1. Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
2. Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
3. Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
4. Collect rainwater and investigate ways to recycle water for irrigation
5. Regularly hoe off weeds
6. Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
7. Mow lawns weekly
8. Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
9. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
10. Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs

Flowers

Sowing and planting

Plant out cannas and dahlias when danger of frost is past. Tubers can be planted up with summer bedding in milder areas. In cold areas, it is advised to wait until well into June, or until all risk of frost has passed.

If you want to grow your own spring bedding for next year, many common choices (including wallflowers, pansies, and *Bellis perennis*) need to be sown between now and July in order to flower next spring, as they are biennials.

Winter bedding plants for the following winter can also be sown from now until July.

Cutting back, pruning and dividing

Divide clumps of herbaceous perennials that you want to propagate. Bamboos and clumps of bulbs or rhizomes can be divided in the same way. Cutting back clumps of spring-flowering perennials such as *Pulmonaria* and *Doronicum* can encourage a fresh flush of foliage.

Divide *Primula* (primroses) after flowering, planting them in a nursery bed until they are ready for planting out again in the autumn, for a display the following spring.

Divide hostas as they come into growth.

Spreading and trailing plants such as the annual *Lobularia* (sweet alyssum), and the perennials *Alyssum* and *Aubrieta*, can become tatty and patchy. Trimming them back after flowering encourages fresh growth and new flowers.

Lift and divide over crowded clumps of daffodils after they have flowered.

Deadhead tulips and daffodils.

Propagation

Take softwood cuttings of tender perennials like *Argyranthemum*, *Pelargonium* and *Fuchsia*. They will provide new plants for display later this summer.

Perennials that are showing new shoots from the crown can be propagated via basal stem cuttings.

General maintenance

Apply a liquid fertiliser to spring bulbs after they have flowered, to encourage good flowering next year, and help prevent daffodil blindness.

Allow the foliage of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs to die down naturally.

Lift clumps of forget-me-not once the display wanes, and before too many seeds are released. They can become invasive if left unchecked.

Put supports in place for herbaceous plants before they are too tall, or for those - like peonies - that produce heavy blooms.

Harden off plants raised from seed and cuttings by leaving them outside for gradually increasing periods of time. Start with only the warmest part of the day, and build up to overnight exposure. Doing this for 10-14 days before planting them outdoors permanently (whenever the risk of frost has passed), will reduce any check to their growth while establishing in their final position.

Thin out direct sowings of hardy annuals. This is best done in two or three stages at fortnightly intervals. Final spacing should be between 10-20cm (4-8in), using the upper limit for tall or spreading plants, and the lower limit for smaller plants. Prick out indoor sowings when they are large enough to handle without damage.

Hoe borders to prevent annual and perennial weeds from spreading and seeding themselves.

Sweet peas need training and tying in to their supports to encourage them to climb and make a good display.

Pinch out the leading shoots on plants such as *Chrysanthemum* and *Helianthus* to encourage bushy plants. However, if tall thin sprays are preferred, they can be left

un-pinched, perhaps removing a few buds (known as 'disbudding') to encourage larger blooms.

Liquid feed plants in containers every two to four weeks.

Keep tubs, hanging baskets and alpine troughs well watered. Use collected rainwater, or recycled grey water wherever possible.

Remove faded wallflowers and spring bedding from beds and containers, to make space for summer plantings.

Pot on plants showing signs of being root bound. You can tip out the root balls of unhappy looking containerised specimens, to see if they are indeed pot bound or if they are suffering from some other problem.

Pest and disease watch

Inspect lilies for the scarlet lily beetle as the larvae can strip plants in days.

Vine weevil larvae can be a serious pest of containerised plants, and become active this month. Tip out the rootball of suspect plants, and inspect for the creamy, orange-headed maggots, which tend to curl up into a 'C' shape. There are various chemical and biological controls available.

Aphids can multiply rapidly during mild spells. Remove early infestations by hand to prevent the problem getting out of hand. Protect sweet pea plants in particular, as they can get sweet pea viruses..

Continue to protect lily, delphinium, hosta and other susceptible plants from slugs and snails.

Remove dead leaves from around the basal rosettes of alpine plants to prevent rotting.

Top dress spring-flowering alpines with grit or gravel to show off the plants and help prevent rotting around the neck.

Lawns

Mow regularly and continue adding clippings to the compost heap.

Use the half-moon edging iron, or a spade, to create a 7.5cm (3in) gutter around the lawn edge. This will prevent grass from creeping into the border from the main lawn.

Apply a high nitrogen summer lawn fertiliser to encourage a healthy-looking lawn.

Sowing new lawns or over-seeding dead patches can still be carried out in early May.

Prepare the ground for sowing, by cultivating, levelling and lightly firming beforehand. Do not walk over or mow newly sown grass until it has reached a height of 5-7.5cm (2-3in), and then only give it a light trim at the highest setting.

Ensure new lawns (either from turf or seed) do not dry out during dry spells. Keep off them for as long as possible to allow establishment. Don't worry over a flush of weed seedlings in newly seeded turf. These will disappear once regular mowing begins.

Troubleshooting

If moss is a problem, choose a combined fertiliser and mosskiller when feeding the lawn.

Selective lawn weedkillers will kill the weeds but not the grass or any naturalised bulbs. However, be warned - they will kill wild flowers growing in the turf.

LOCAL CLUB EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES – May 2018

1st Jacobs Well Surrey Landscapes and Flowers, with Jill Fry for information please contact Pam Lomax 01483-767225

1st Lightwater Earthworms, with Dan Carpenter for information please contact Lynn Bull 01276-502497

3rd Sunningdale Car Boot Plant Sale behind Village Hall 6.50 pm for information please contact Pat Bond 01344-623891

5th Chiddingfold Plant Sale for information please contact Georgia Lacey 01428-683120

5th Grayshott Plant Sale 10.00-11.30 am Village Hall for information please contact Ros. Henshall 01428-607879

5th Thursley Plant Sale 10.30-12.00 Village Hall for information please contact Pat Clake 01252-706869

7th Ash Parish Wisley through the months, with Linda Dolan for information please contact Beverley Ames 01252-686303

7th Yateley Plant Sale at May Fayre, on the green. for information please contact 10-5 Hazel Goddard 01252-874532

8th Ashford The Devil's Garden, with Russell Bowes for information please contact B. Baghapour 01784-247907

8th Banstead Open Evening / Art in the Garden 7.30 Banstead Prep School for information please contact Diana Beck 01737-271243

8th Worplesdon Roses of Mottisfont Abbey Gardens, with Thomas Stone for information please contact Sheila Dyke 01483-481841

9th Grayshott Hydrangeas, with Sally Gregson for information please contact Ros. Henshall 01428-607879

9th Witley Hampshire Hops, with Bill Weekes for information please contact Gina Ellerton 01483-488460

10th Aldershot Floral Design Demo: Just where the fancy takes me, by David Ryland for information please contact Dee Kelly 01252-350944

10th Nat Veg Soc. In search of unusual edibles. Paul Barney. East Horsley V. Hall for information please contact Beth Otway 01483-420989

11th Dunsfold/Hascombe Perennials through the seasons, by Sandy Worth for information please contact Sue Simper 01483-200286

12th Ash Parish Plant Sale 10.00-1.00 Ash Victoria Hall for information please contact Beverley Ames 01252-686303

12th Ashted Bring and Buy Plant Stall and Coffee morning for information please contact Jennie Pilford 01372-373348

12th Ewhurst Plant Sale 10.00-11.30 Village Hall for information please contact Anne Dyball 01483-271812

12th Headley Hants Plant Sale 10.00-12.00 Village Hall for information please contact J. Howard-Duff 01428-714073

12th Onslow Village Table Top Sale, 9.30 am Anne Bradbeer 01483-563421

12th West End Plant Stall at Sports Pavilion, Benner Lane, 10-11.30 Judy Douch 01483-475133

14th Elstead Gardeners World filmed our garden, with Jack Salway Alison Gravett 01252-703318

14th Esher/Molesey 20 plants that changed the world! With Colin Jones for information please contact Ann Beauchamp 0208-9791415

14th Yateley Lavender Fields, with Tim Buckler for information please contact Hazel Goddard 01252-874532

16th Cheam/Cuddington Buckets of Colour, with Ian Clemens for information please contact Nick Clarke 0208-644-9291

16th Chiddingfold Shrubs and Climbers with Graham Pattison for information please contact Georgia Lacey 01428-683120

16th Onslow Village Preparing for your Show, with Barry Newman for information please contact Anne Bradbeer 01483-563421

16th Sandhurst Plant Sale, then Herbs with Belinda Allen for information please contact Chris Dresler 01420-768965

17th Hale A History of Squires Garden Centres, with Sarah Squire for information please contact Louise Thomas 01252-821551

17th New Soc. Camberley How plants solve crimes, by Dr. M. Keith-Lucas for information please contact Chris.Thompson 01252-837640

19th Elstead Plant Sale, 10.00-12.00 UR Church Hall Kathy Deaville 01252-702630

19th Jacobs Well Plant Sale Pam Lomax 01483-767225

19th Puttenham/Wanborough Plant Sale for Charity. 2.30 pm Markwick Hall for information please contact Mag. Forwood 01483-813855

19th West End Flower Show for Woking Hospice. Chobham V. Hall 10.00-2.30 for information please contact Judy Douch 01483-475133

21st Ripley Floral Arrangements demo, by Trisha Tullett for information please contact Liz Cooper 01372-458313

22nd Milford Encouraging wildlife into your garden, with Andrew Halstead for information please contact S. Miskimmin 01483-421509

22nd West End The Summer Garden, by Margaret Finch from Farley Hill Place for information please contact Judy Douch 01483-475133

24th Frensham/Dockenfield Insects and Wild flowers of SW Surrey, with Jill Fry for information please contact Ruth Murphy 01252-793267

24th North Warnborough Ground Cover, with Geoff Hawkins for information please contact Pam Forey 01256-703412

24th Woking Gardening Round table, tips on growing fuchsias and dahlias Joy Leach for information please contact 01483-837359

WINNING WINDLESHAM IN 2017

Last summer, HMP and YOI Pare became the first ever Welsh winner of the Windlesham Trophy. One of the prison's gardeners shares the reasons he takes part.

I arrived at HMP & YOI Pare in October 2016, and managed to get a job working in the gardens fairly quickly. I was really pleased as I had worked within the horticultural department at HMP Dovegate, where I was previously.

I have an engineering background and have always enjoyed working outdoors, but I find this different occupation very therapeutic. It was a funny start to my time in the garden though - it was a few weeks before I picked up a wheelbarrow. My first task was to break up some pallets, which were to be reused as cupboard doors within the prison's garden shed. I was then asked to create a bug hotel, again out of recycled pallet wood.

After some time building different structures to be located around the grounds, I was finally tasked with some old-fashioned gardening work: weeding the herbaceous border. This gave me a real sense of achievement, as you could really see a difference to the border once I'd finished. I've now worked on various projects and I've picked up quite a few new skills, which I wasn't really expecting - I learned about plant propagation and identification, and rose pruning. I also made some bird boxes and bug hotels.

A world-class garden

Every available green space at Pare Prison has been brought to life with plants. Wildlife is welcomed with wildflower meadows, a solar-powered pond and even a living roof, while vegetable and herb gardens supply fresh produce for the prison kitchens.

The extensive gardens, which could have up to 15 gardeners at work at any given time, has also been voted one of the 12 most beautiful prisons in the world by MSN, the multi-media network.

I'm currently helping to design some flower borders for near the prison entrance.

I take great pride in my work and enjoyed the pressure of maintaining the gardens to a high standard during the Windlesham Trophy judging. I feel very lucky to be able to work in these gardens.

HMP and YOI Pare, a Category B men's private prison and Young Offenders Institution in Bridgend, is the first prison in Wales to win the annual, 30-year old competition.

The coveted RHS Windlesham Trophy rewards the best-kept prison garden in England and Wales. RHS Director of Education, Funding and Communities, Ruth Evans, presented the trophy, an engraved 'Green Goddess' redundant fire-engine bell, in September.

HUMPHRY REPTON AT 200

David Wheeler

Of course you know all about the 18th-century Saudi Arabian war heroine Ghaliyya al-Wahhabiyya, as you do about her contemporaries Egwale Seyon, an Ethiopian emperor, and the Prussian general Friedrich Ludwig Fiirst zu Hehenlohe-Ingelfingen. You don't? Tut tut.

As a gardener, though - which is why you're reading this column - you most certainly know something about Humphry Repton. But what, you may ask, does he have in common with those in my opening tease? Answer: they all died 200 years ago, in 1818 - Repton (aged 68) on 24th March, when yolky-yellow daffodils were aflutter in his myriad 'improved' grounds right across the kingdom.

The last great 18th-century landscaper, born in Bury St Edmunds in 1752, Repton - Capability Brown's successor, no less - having failed as a merchant in early adulthood, turned his eye towards gardens and botany, eventually setting himself up as a landscape gardener in 1788. Within half a dozen years, he had advised on some sixty estates, a number that grew to more than 400 by 1816. The list today reads like the noblest of horti-gazetteers, and at least one source credits him with having 'sowed the seeds of the more intricate and eclectic styles of the 19th century'.

His, let us not forget, was an era of slow travel, begun with a dawn hitching of horses to carriage, unlike the present-day practitioners' fast nip across the shires in polished BMWs and back home for supper the same day. But that stately pace would have instilled a deeper understanding of the countryside, equipping our hero with a vital sense of scale and proportion and, indeed, the vernacular, picking up ideas along the way of how he might reshape his clients' broad acres.

Repton's considerable artistic skills (and, perhaps, entrepreneurial ingenuity) gave birth to his now famous Red Books, red leather-bound volumes that helped prospective patrons see, by explanatory text and - innovatively - watercolour sketches overlaid one upon the other, his 'before' and 'after' impressions. It was the PowerPoint presentation of its day and surviving examples (alas, too few) are the sun around which his reputation still turns. His original work tended to be on a smaller scale than, say, Capability's, and he was not averse to modifying someone else's earlier makeovers.

Where, then, should today's student go to behold Repton's three-dimensional legacy? One might start at Sheringham Hall in Norfolk, whose park - his 'favourite and darling child' - he designed in 1812. Or Hatchlands in Surrey, Attingham in

Shropshire, Brighton Pavilion, Woburn... and Stoneleigh Abbey in Warwickshire (a supposed inspiration for Sotherton Court in Jane Austen's Mansfield Park).

Let's therefore salute Repton on this 200th anniversary of his death, and spare a thought, too, for the untold labourers whose toil and sweat gave life to the ol' boy's many exceptional visions.

SPRING SHOW RESULTS

Most points in Section 1	Spring Cup	1st 64 Brenda Winton	2nd 31 Hazel Chant	3rd 23 Laura Chant
Best exhibit in Section 1	Certificate	Class 35 John Poole		
Best Daffodil exhibit	Silver Daffodil Medal	Class 1 Hazel Chant		
Best Spring Container	Chelsea Silver Medal	Class 29 Margaret Neate		
New Exhibitor with most points in Section 1	Ken Hooper Cup	1st 23pts Laura Chant 2nd 17pts Ruth Sewell		
Most points Section 2	Spring Shield	1st 10 Ann Poole	2nd	3rd
Judge's favourite floral	Certificate			
Most Points Section 3 Cooking	Home Craft Cookery Shield	1st 14 Laura Chant	2nd 10 Sue Goodchild	3rd 5 Kathy Wagstaff
Best Exhibit in Section 3 Cookery	Certificate			
Most points Section 3 Handicraft	Handicraft Plaque	1st 18 Kathy Wagstaff	2nd 17 Ann Poole	3rd 13 Laura Chant
Best Exhibit in Section 3 Handicraft	Certificate			
Most Points in all 3 Sections together	Michele Cup	1st 76 Brenda Winton	2nd 50 Laura Chant	3rd 45 Ann Poole