

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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EDITORS NOTES

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 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
-

THIS MONTHS RECIPE

Strawberry & almond galette

SERVES 6-8 | PREPARE 15 minutes | COOK 30-35 minutes

You will need

320g ready-rolled pastry sweet short crust sheet
650g strawberries, of similar size, hulled and halved
Finely grated zest orange
50g granulated sugar
A pinch of salt
1 tbsp orange Muscat dessert wine
75g Amaretti biscuits, crushed into fine crumbs
25g unsalted butter, melted
2 tbsp caster sugar

To do

Preheat the oven to 220°C, gas mark 7. Remove the pastry from the fridge. Toss 500g of the strawberries in a bowl with the orange zest, granulated sugar, salt and wine.

Unroll the pastry onto a large baking sheet, leaving it on the parchment it comes with. Scatter the amaretti over the pastry leaving a 4cm border around the edge. Pack the fruit in tightly, overlapping, neat rows on top, cut-side up. Drizzle over any remaining sugar mixture. Fold the pastry border in around the fruit.

Brush the pastry edge with melted butter and sprinkle with about 1 tsp of caster sugar, then repeat this process twice more. Bake the galette for 10 minutes, then

lower the oven temperature to 200°C, gas mark 6 and bake for a further 20-30 minutes until golden. Leave to cool.

Slice the remaining strawberries into a pan with 2 tbsp water. Cover and warm over a low heat for 5 minutes or until very soft. Press through a sieve and return to the pan with the remaining 1 tbsp caster sugar. Simmer gently until reduced to a very thick syrup. Brush over the fruit. Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

APGC TRIPS 2018

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 JULY

This is often one of the hottest months of the year and a great time to sit out and enjoy your garden. Keep plants looking good by regularly dead-heading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms. Make sure you keep new plants well watered, using grey water where possible, and hoe off weeds, which thrive in the sunshine.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
- 2 Care for houseplant while on holiday
- 3 Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise
- 4 Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering
- 5 Pick courgettes before they become marrows
- 6 Treat apple scab
- 7 Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up
- 8 Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs
- 9 Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if not given a spring feed

10 Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines

Flowers

Sowing and planting

Autumn-flowering bulbs, such as autumn crocuses, *Colchicum*, *Sternbergia*, *Amaryllis* and *Nerine*, can be planted now.

Some seeds are best planted just after collection, and others may need specific climatic conditions to break dormancy (e.g. some alpiners). If unsure, then sow seeds in 'batches', i.e. one immediately after collecting, one in winter, and one in the following spring.

Cutting back, pruning and dividing

Cutting back plants in baskets followed by feeding can encourage new growth and help revive tired displays.

Cut back delphiniums and geraniums after the first flush of flowers to encourage a second flowering period. Feed after cutting them back.

Deadhead flower borders regularly to prolong flowering. Disbud and dead-head dahlias if growing for large blooms. Leave roses that produce attractive hips.

Divide clumps of bearded iris.

Plants with a carpet-like growth habit, e.g. some alpiners, can become patchy, with central areas dying off. These patches can be in-filled with gritty compost, to encourage re-growth.

Propagation

Take cuttings of patio and container plants ready for next year.

Pinks and carnations that have become leggy, can be propagated by layering or by cuttings. Propagation can improve the appearance of untidy clumps.

General maintenance

Prop up tall perennials such as lupins, delphiniums and gladioli if staking was neglected earlier in the season.

Liquid feed containerised plants and keep well watered in dry spells.

Some late-flowering border perennials may benefit from a quick-acting feed before they come into bloom, especially if the soil is not very fertile.

Mulching borders can help retain moisture, and keep down the weeds - this will save

a lot of work. A really thick layer of mulch (5-7.5cm/2-3in all over) works best.

Most perennial weeds are best dealt with in the summer when the weeds are in active growth. Digging out often works, but applying a weedkiller can be more practical, particularly for large areas.

Planning ahead

Start collecting seed from plants you want to grow next year, especially annuals such as *Calendula*, poppy and love-in-a-mist.

Pest and disease watch

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

Vine weevils can also be a problem at this time of year.

Small holes and tears in new foliage of ornamentals such as *Caryopteris*, *Fuchsia* and *Dahlia* are most likely caused by capsid bug damage.

Watch out for aphids (greenfly and blackfly) on stems and leaves of young shoots.

Sudden collapse of apparently healthy clematis, especially the large-flowered cultivars, could indicate clematis wilt.

In dry weather powdery mildew can play havoc with plants such as clematis, roses and *Lonicera*.

Look out for and treat black spot on roses and scab on *Pyracantha*.

Lawns

Keep mowing regularly, except during drought. In hot weather, set the mower at a slightly higher level than normal for early summer. This can prevent the lawn drying in hot weather.

Last time to apply a liquid summer lawn fertiliser, especially if a spring feed was not given. A soluble feed and weed product may be useful if there are weeds present in the lawn.

Don't worry unduly about brown patches on the lawn - they will recover quickly when the autumn rains arrive.

If a completely green lawn is necessary, then use a sprinkler once a week. Place an open jam-jar on the lawn and leave the sprinkler running for sufficient time for

13mm (0.5in) of water to collect in the bottom of the jar. This is the optimum amount to avoid wasting water, while still wetting the roots sufficiently.

New areas of grass, sown or turfed in the spring, will need extra watering to keep them going through their first summer.

Lawn growth slows down in late summer. Raise the cutting height slightly as the month progresses, to help the grass better resist the wear it suffers in summer.

Troubleshooting

Inspect any yellow patches on the lawn: if they contain small pinkish-red strands, then you may have red-thread in the lawn. This is a fungal disease, common on light soils after heavy rain, when the nitrogen is washed out of the soil. A nitrogen-rich fertiliser should remedy the situation, and the damage is rarely long-lived.

By mid-summer some lawns may be heavily infested by ants. Brushing out the nests on a dry day is the best method of control, and should be done prior to mowing.

Isolated weeds can be dug out or spot-treated with a paint-on weedkiller.

When mowing, take time to generally inspect the lawn. You may notice areas that could benefit from more radical renovation in the autumn.

LOCAL CLUB EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES – JULY 2018

2nd Ash Parish SUMMER SHOW 7.30-9.30 pm Ash Victoria Hall
enquiries via Beverley Ames 01252-686303

3rd Lightwater The Humble Potato, with Stephan White
enquiries via Lynn Bull 01276-502497

5th Aldershot Floral Design Demo: Roseabundance, by Katharine Kerr. Princes
enquiries via Hall Dee Kelly 01252-350944

5th Sunningdale Gardens of Surrey, with Cherrill Sands
enquiries via Pat Bond 01344-623891

7th Churt SUMMER SHOW 2.30pm Village Hall
enquiries via Anne Butler 01428-713543

7th Grayshott SUMMER SHOW 2.30pm Village Hall
enquiries via Ros. Henshall 01428-607879

9th Elstead Elstead Allotments, with Karen Meredith
enquiries via Alison Gravett 01252-703318

9th Yateley Autumn Colours, with Anthony Powell
enquiries via Hazel Goddard 01252-874532

- 10th Ashford More fruit in a small garden, with Paul Patton
enquiries via B. Baghapour 01784-247907
- 10th Worplesdon Hampshire Hops, with Bill Weeks.
enquiries via Sheila Dyke 01483-481841
- 11th Grayshott Behind the scenes at Hampton Court, with Christine Hayward
enquiries via Ros. Henshall 01428-607879
- 11th Virginia Water Pruning trees and shrubs, with Kevin Hobbs
enquiries via Linda Gillham 01932-564834
- 14th Bookham/Fetcham SUMMER SHOW, 2.30 Manor Farm Tithe Barn, Little Book.
enquiries via Anita Laycock 01372-750818
- 14th Cheam/Cuddington SUMMER SHOW 2.00-4.30
enquiries via Nick Clarke 0208-644-9291
- 14th Ewhurst SUMMER SHOW 2.30-4.30 Recreation Ground
enquiries via Anne Dyball 01483-271812
- 14th Thursley SUMMER SHOW 2.30pm Village Hall
enquiries via Pat Clake 01252-706869
- 14th Tilford SUMMER SHOW 2.00-4.30 Tilford Institute
enquiries via Janet Arm 01252-783133
- 18th Onslow Village Blooming Britain, with Colin Jones
enquiries via Anne Bradbeer 01483-563421
- 18th Sandhurst Ground Cover Plants, with Geoff Hawkins
enquiries via Chris Dresler 01420-768965
- 19th New Soc. Camberley Perennials for the Summer Garden, by enquiries via
Margaret Finch Chris.Thompson 01252-837640
- 21st Albury Produce SUMMER SHOW, on the Cricket ground
enquiries via Julie Baxter 01483-203184
- 21st Ashtead SUMMER SHOW (133rd!) 1.30 pm
enquiries via Jennie Pilford 01372-373348
- 21st Banstead SUMMER SHOW, 2-5 Community Hall, Banstead
enquiries via Diana Beck 01737-271243
- 21st Bramshott/Liphook SUMMER SHOW and plant sale. Church Centre
enquiries via 2.00-4.00 Ann Haussauer 01428-723045
- 24th Milford Grace & Flavour gardens in West Horsley, with Su Johnston
enquiries via S. Miskimmin 01483-421509
- 24th West End Woodland craft in Southern England, with Tim Baker
enquiries via Judy Douch 01483-475133
- 26th Hale Gardening competition, in the Village Hall
enquiries via Louise Thomas 01252-821551
- 26th North Warnborough The perfume of plants, with June Baker
enquiries via Pam Forey 01256-703412
- 26th Woking Gardening Fuchsia Top Tips, with Sid Garcia
enquiries via Joy Leach 01483-837359

TALK NICELY TO YOUR PLANTS

HAVE you ever thought about what effects our words have on plants? Probably not, but that was the question posed to students at the international school GEMS Wellington Academy in Dubai. To answer it, they were presented with two Yucca plants, one to lavish with praise, and one to heap scorn on. To facilitate the experiment, recorded voices charmed and chided the two pot plants as well.

After a month, "the results spoke for themselves", as the maligned plant wilted into a sad state. This was a "live experiment to highlight the negative effects of verbal bullying", according to IKEA, which installed the exhibition to mark Anti-Bullying Day. By happy coincidence, the resulting video -viewed more than 300,000 times on YouTube - provided a generous helping of feel-good corporate advertising for the furniture giant.

The brainchild of marketing firm Ogilvy, we are told that the experiment is "based on various theories in plant neurobiology and other scientific studies". Ifs news to Feedback that plants have a nervous system capable of understanding human speech and feeling emotion. No less incredible is that the experimenters knew the two Yucca plants would be fluent in English.

The exhibition was presumably installed amid howls of anguish from the school's science teachers, who must now weed out these nonsensical ideas from the fertile minds of their students. Feedback offered Wellington Academy a chance to comment, but were told "we would like to pass on this opportunity". If only the person responsible for this exhibit had done the same.

FLYING THE RED FLAG

By DAVID WHEELER

Many gardeners find it difficult to accommodate the colour red in their summer flower gardens, yet crave it as part of the autumn foliage palette. Is red just too harsh, too strident, too engulfing of other hues? With blue and white flowers, it can look too nationalistic, like so much flag-waving. It can overwhelm cream and pale yellows, but harmony is restored when it is juxtaposed with yolky, mustardy and ochre yellows. That said, it's all a matter of personal taste and the way each of us as individuals perceive colour. And of course a lot depends on what kind of red it is - gutsy pink, guardsman's tunic, pillar-box and phone-kiosk scarlet, vermilion or magenta-loaded crimson that slides towards purple, and the near-brown red, reminiscent of dried blood.

The great Canadian gardening colourists Sandra and Nori Pope, who so exquisitely 'painted' the walled garden at Hadspen House in Somerset several decades ago with flowers and foliage, said that red 'spells passion, power and pizzazz - clear is the message, unmistakeable the impact. Red is stop lights, fire engines... it creates drama.' Just a small sliver of it, they added, 'creates an edge, a tension'. Celebrated photographer Andrew Lawson reminds us that we 'see red' when we are angry and 'paint the town red' on a wild night out.

Red is not for everyone. At one of my all-time favourite gardens, La Casella, near Grasse, in southern France, it was forbidden while its creator Tom Parr (for 35 years with Mayfair decorator Colefax and Fowler) was alive. His impish partner, Klaus Scheinert, would, however, induce mutinous ripples by occasionally wearing red socks or a red sweater in their south-facing, terraced garden, formerly a jasmine farm, that was primarily a symphony of white and green - with a masterly weaving together of pale and dark blue wisteria dripping through the pergola. The mutinous red was, to say the least, noticeable.

Red can also behave fugitively: it can fade or alter when exposed to sunlight. (See Victoria Finlay's 2002 book, *Colour*, for a vivid account of red paint's mutability in Turner's epic canvases.)

At London's Chelsea Physic Garden there grows one of the most alluring of all roses, *Rosa x odorata* 'Bengal Crimson', a long-flowering China rose with a naturally lax and twiggy habit, 'distinguished throughout the year with single, cherry-red flowers'. But when I last cast an eye over this most covetable of old roses - in January, let it be noted - its flowers were distinctively pink; 'unripe' cherries, perhaps. Is the plant variable? Is its winter countenance paler than its summer tint? In a nurseryman's garden on Mallorca last summer, the very same variety - if we're still talking cherries - bore petals of the deepest morello. I have recently planted a group of five Bengal Crimson bought from Cambridgeshire growers Monksilver, and I keenly await their first flowering to see what surprises they might spring.

The garden reds that please me most include such beauties as *Tulipa sprengeri* (a flamboyant guardsman of a tulip), silky-petalled, oriental poppies, elegantly tall *Salvia confertiflora* (somewhere between brick red and burnt orange), single red peonies, *Clematis texensis* 'Sir Trevor Lawrence', blackish-red sweet Williams (for fragrance, too) and any of the newer, deep-red nasturtiums that have their own way of infiltrating and enlivening other planting schemes. There's a seemingly endless brigade of reds in the geranium (pelargonium) and hydrangea families, and, among other roses of this challenging colour, I treasure 'Munstead Wood', 'Chianti', 'Charles de Mills' and the wholly indispensable 'Souvenir du Docteur Jamain'. Oh, that I could go on for several more pages...