

## ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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## EDITORS NOTES

Brian –Stories to [ernestperry33@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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## BEDDING DOWN ROSES FOR THE WINTER

Dos and Don'ts to make sure your plants are ready

Tony Bracegirdle

AS THE nights draw in and the last of the summer blooms fade, it's time to make sure your rose bushes are well prepared for the winter months. Follow my checklist:

DO remove the last summer flowers, but don't cut plants hard back. It could cause buds that normally stay dormant throughout the winter to burst into growth which would be killed by any autumn frosts. The bushes may be relieved from the energy of producing weak useless shoots throughout the winter, but on no account cut back into growth, which must stand until spring.

DONT apply any fertiliser at this time of year as it would only encourage immature soft, sappy, growth that would be ill-equipped to withstand the winter. If any soft growth is produced due to excessive rain, give the bushes a top dressing of sulphate of potash at a rate of 135gper sq m (4ozper sq yd) at the end of September to harden up stems for the winter.

At the same time, in mild weather, give the bushes a final fungicide spray of sythane (Buyer Garden Fungus Fighter) to help prevent black spot and mildew spores from over wintering.

DO remove any damaged or broken stems caused by the strong late summer winds and heel in any bushes that may have been loosened.

DONT leave any diseased or decaying foliage on plants or lying around on the rose beds. Collect the leaves up and burn or dispose of them.

DO start work on any planned new rose beds towards the end of the month, digging out the beds two spades deep and incorporating plenty of organic material.

DONT neglect your container-grown roses. Remove any weeds and repot into bigger pots as required.

DO visit specialist rose nurseries - in person or online - and local public parks and gardens to see which rose varieties grow well in your area including those that bloom well in the autumn. Then send off your rose orders.

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- AUTUMN SHOW 8th September
  - Garden Club Trip to Wisely has been moved to September 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be leaving the Hall at 1pm
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## **DONT MISS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO TAKE|FREE BRIAR CUTTINGS**

DON'T run out of time to bud your own roses - September is the last month to guarantee success. It's also the last month for rooting miniature rose cuttings and a good time to take briar cuttings, which will be budded onto in 18 months' time.

Take a few mature briar stems about the thickness of a pencil, cut them into 20cm (Sin) lengths, just below an eye (bud) at the bottom and just above an eye at the top. With a sharp knife, gouge out every eye, starting at the bottom but leaving the top two 'eyes' intact.

This prevents suckering from the cutting, once it has produced roots, and exposes more of the cambium layer, giving the cutting a larger area from which to produce its roots.

Find a small patch of land that you can leave for 12 months, clear any weeds and dig it over. Insert the cuttings into the ground 5cm (2in) apart in rows also son (2in) apart, by pushing them down so that only the top two eyes are visible above the soil surface. Then leave them until next September when they will have developed into small plants and can be dug up. You will need to prune the top two eyes - which will have become stems - right back to one eye and replant in the area where they are to be budded.

Plant them shallow in rows about 60cm (24in) apart, with 25cm (10in) between the plants and earth them up like potatoes. This keeps the neck of the plants moist until it is time to bud onto them, when the soil is brushed away.

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## **THIS MONTHS RECIPE**

### **APPLE CAKE**

You will need

12oz self raising flour

3 large apples

(3oz sultanas optional)

pinch cinnamon

6oz sugar

6oz margarine

2 eggs

To do

Mix as pastry, add sugar and fruit (apple sliced). Beat in eggs. Put in shallow tin, sprinkle

sugar on top.

Bake 35 mins. in moderate oven.

Eat hot or cold cut in slices.

Mrs. O. Brown (Ash WI)

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## **HYDRANGEAS (RHS ADVISORY SERVICES)**

There are about a hundred species of *Hydrangea*, deciduous or evergreen shrubs, small trees or climbers native to Eastern Asia, North and South America. Most hydrangeas are grown for their flowers, borne in rounded, flattened or conical heads of conspicuous sterile and small bisexual flowers; but some have good foliage (*H. aspera*, *H. quercifolia*); some have good autumn colour (*H. quercifolia*, *H. serrata*).

*Hydrangea macrophylla* the most widely grown species is native to Japan where it grows at low altitudes never far from the coast. It is the most widely grown of the hydrangeas, with 500 or more cultivars (or hybrids with *H. serrata*) divided into two groups. Hortensias (or mopheads) with heads of large sterile flowers and lace caps with flattened heads of sterile flowers surrounded by large fertile flowers and with heights varying from dwarf (30cm (12in)) to large shrubs (2.5m (10ft)). Many of the modern cultivars with very large heads have been bred for use as pot plants. Flower colour ranges from white to rich blue and deep red.

Situation

*H. macrophylla* cultivars are popular for mass planting or informal hedges in milder coastal regions as they have good tolerance of salt-laden sea winds. In milder areas they may remain more or less evergreen but are deciduous in colder and inland areas.

Avoid exposed east-facing situations where cold easterly winds in late spring may destroy young growths year after year. A good level of soil moisture is needed and it

is advisable to avoid sunny dry situations, giving preference to cool, semi-shady west or northern aspects, as frequent watering with hard mains water may soon affect both pH reaction and flower colour.

Mulch, but with moderation (to around 5cm (lin) as deep mulching may encourage shallower rooting, placing plants more at risk in periods of drought.

### Pruning

Dead heads of mopheads can be removed after flowering, but it is better to leave them on the plant over winter as they will provide some frost protection for the rather tender growth buds below them. Remove the dead heads in early spring, cutting back to the first strong, healthy pair of buds lower down the stem. If there is any frost damage in spring, prune back damaged shoots to just above the first undamaged pair of buds on live, healthy wood.

Lacecaps are hardier and need less pruning, but if faded flower heads are left on the plants a heavy crop of unwanted seeds may develop, considerably weakening the plant, and it is better to remove fading flower heads back to the second pair of leaves below the head.

### Soil

A good, fertile, loamy, garden soil or rich, leafy, woodland soil is ideal. Improve clay by adding coarse grit, and both clay and sandy soil by incorporating well-decomposed organic matter, such as manure, coir or garden compost.

On lighter soils feed moderately in early spring but with caution as too much feeding can encourage excessive soft growth, with plants less likely to develop flower buds and more at risk from frost in colder winters.

### Flower colour

White flowered cultivars will remain white regardless of whether the soil is alkaline or acid. Colour in the range pink to blue is dependant both on cultivar and on the availability of aluminium in the soil, largely determined by soil pH reaction.

Aluminium is responsible for the blue flower colour in hydrangeas. In acid soils it is readily available to be taken up by the roots, but in neutral and alkaline soils it is unavailable to the plant. The flowers of a particular cultivar will be blue at a low pH of 4.5–5, changing to mauvish, then pinkish with increasing pH, to turn pink at pH 7–7.5.

Where there is no obvious chalk or lime in the soil, it may be possible to induce flower colour to change from pink shades to blue by using one of the proprietary hydrangea bluing or colorant preparations, obtainable from garden centres. Use

strictly according to the manufacturer's instructions as excess use may lead to foliage loss. It should be emphasised that it is a waste of time attempting to induce blue flowers if the soil is chalky or contains lime. Instead, improve the pink or red colour by applying a dressing of ground limestone or chalk at 75–100g per sq. m (3–4oz per sq. yd) during the winter.

Blue flowered cultivars

Some cultivars show little or no response to bluing but cultivars which are a good blue colour on good acid soils, or respond well to bluing treatment on neutral or slightly acidic soils are:

AGM - Denotes plants which have received the Society's Award of Garden Merit

'Altona' AGM to 1m (3ft)

'Benelux' to 1.2m (4ft)

'Enziandom' to 1.4m (4ft)

'Generate Vicomtesse de Vibraye' AGM to 1.4m (4ft 6in)

'Marechal Foch' to 1m (3ft)

'Mariessii Perfecta' (syn. 'Blue Wave') AGM to 1.8m (6ft)

General selection White flowers

'Lanarth White' AGM to 1.4m (4ft 6in) 'Madame Emile Mouillere' AGM to 2m (6ft)

'Veitchii' AGM to 2m (6ft) 'White Wave' AGM to 1.5m (4ft 6in)

Pale pink flowers

'Ayesha' AGM to 1.5m (4ft 6in)

Deep pink flowers

'Altona' AGM to 1m (3ft)

Red flowers

'Westfalen' AGM to 1.5m (4ft 6in)

Crimson flowers

'Ami Pasquier' AGM to 1.5m (4ft 6in) 'Geoffrey Chadbund' AGM to 1.5m (4ft 6in)

Purple flowers

'Parzifal' AGM to 1.2m (4ft)

Flowers ageing in the autumn to attractive shades of red and purple

'Altona' AGM to 1m (3ft)

Variegated foliage

'Tricolor' AGM to 2m (6ft) Not in colder areas or situations

Hedge

'Europa' AGM to 2.5m (8ft) Flowers pink or pale blue, depending on soil conditions.

Other species

*Hydrangea aspera* Native to Eastern Asia is a deciduous, blue-flowered shrub growing to 4m (13ft). It is variable in habit. *Villosa* Group, from China, growing to

2!4m (8ft) is one of the best selections for semi-shade. No regular pruning is required.

*Hydrangea paniculata* Native to China and Japan, a shrub or small tree in the wild growing to around 7m (22ft) with cultivars to 2m (6ft 6in) or more. The white flowers are borne in large terminal panicles. Plants can be left unpruned, cut back annually in late winter to obtain larger, but fewer, panicles or trained to a single short stem. Preference is for a good, fertile soil and moist conditions, but it is the most suitable species for drier situations and is tolerant of sun or partial shade.

*Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris* AGM Native to Japan and Korea, a deciduous self-supporting climber which can reach to 20m (60ft) in trees. Suitable for growing on walls, particularly north-facing, and the only species suitable for an east-facing wall. Flowers from June onwards with good yellow leaf colouring in the autumn. No regular pruning necessary, but keep clear of window-frames and guttering. Plant at least 30cm (12in) from walls and avoid hot, dry south-facing situations. *Hydrangea quercifolia* AGM Native to the southeastern U.S.A., a deciduous shrub growing to 4m (13ft) and producing conical heads of white flowers in late summer. Grown primarily for its foliage, which colours very attractively in the autumn. It can be planted in shade to obtain larger leaves but produces the best colours in full sun. Good winter hardiness. No pruning required.

*Hydrangea seemanii* Native to Mexico, a self-supporting evergreen climber for sheltered situations in milder areas, including north-facing walls, but needs sun, or training into sun, for flowers to be produced. No pruning needed.

*Hydrangea serrata* Native to inland mountain areas of Honshu, Japan, this is a deciduous shrub which grows to around 2m (6ft 6in) in height, producing flat-topped corymbs, the ray flowers white, pink or blue. One of the hydrangeas least tolerant of drier conditions where it should be planted in semi-shade. Pruning as for *H. macrophylla*.

*Hydrangea serratifolia* An evergreen, self-clinging climber native to Chile where it can reach 15m (48ft) or more in height. Its small, creamy-white flowers are borne in late summer. Suitable for sheltered walls in milder areas, in sun or shade. No pruning needed.

#### Propagation of hydrangeas

Propagate shrubby species by taking 7.5-10cm (3-4in) cuttings of non-flowering shoots during July - August. Reduce to one pair of leaves, then insert to two-thirds depth in a mix of 2 parts sharp sand to 1 part peat substitute, singly in small pots or several in a larger one. Cuttings still green and supple are best placed in a propagator with bottom heat in the region 13-16°C (55-61°F), or covered with a polythene bag and placed on an east or west-facing windowsill in good light. Firmer cuttings can be inserted in a sandy bed in a shaded cold frame.

When well-rooted pot up into small pots using John Innes potting compost No.1. When established, harden off and overwinter in a cold greenhouse or cold frame.

Propagate climbing species similarly, using 7.5cm (Sin) cuttings of vigorous young side growths taken in June or July.

## AUTUMN SHOWSCHEDULE

### 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	Japanese Anemone	3 blooms, 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	
159	Hanging Basket	Any number of plants growing in a Hanging Basket 38cm Max. diameter (exhibit to be viewed all round).	
160	Begonia	Any type in pot 12.5cm to 25cm	
161	Mixed Flowers	Squire's Garden Centres "Top Vase".( See page 18)	

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

162	Pot Plant	1 Plant ,foliage only, pot not to exceed 12.5cm in diameter
163	Pot Plant	1 Plant, foliage only, in pot 12.5 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 190, the use of which is optional.**

168	Apples	4, Cooking. 1 variety.
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	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 38cm in length, excluding stalk
190	Any other Vegetables.	1 kind, minimum of 2.
191	Basket of vegetables	Any 4 vegetables, 1 of each kind. In a basket. Size at exhibitor's discretion
192	Collection of Vegetables	Squire's Garden Centres "Top Tray" ( see page 19)

**SECTION 3 COOKING AND HANDICRAFT****Plates are provided for Classes 199 to 204 inclusive and must be used.**

197	Jam	1 jar, any kind, (Lid - see note page 17)
198	Jelly	1 small jar, any kind, (Lid - see note page 17)
199	Mince pie	Show 5
200	Chocolate Brownies	Show 5,

- 201 Short bread Show 5
- 202 Homemade Sweets Show 6
- 203 American Oat Cookies Show 5, See recipe page 17
- 204 Any other Cake Approx. 18cm (7") tin.
- 205 Red Wine 1 Bottle, corked
- 206 White Wine 1 Bottle, corked
- 207 Beer 1 Bottle.

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

Maximum size for all Photographs 18cm x 13cm see note 3 on page 17

- 208 Photograph Holiday Memories
- 209 Photograph Building
- 210 Photograph Water
- 211 Knitting A Hand-knitted example.
- 212 Embroidery A piece any size.
- 213 Christmas Card Free standing
- 214 Toy Any medium
- 215 Crochet Any item
- 216 Wood or Metal work Any article
- 217 Any Other Handicraft Not computer generated. (Hand crafted)

## **SECTION 4 JUNIORS**

**All work must be done by the Child unaided**

- Q Make a Vegetable Animal
- R A collection of fallen leaves. Display on A4 maximum sheet
- S Make and Show 4 Sandwiches on a tea plate. Use 2 slices of bread.
- T Any other handicraft

### **AUTUMN SHOW 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145
146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175
176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
191	192					197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205
206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217			

Name				Tel No				
<b><u>JUNIORS</u></b>	Q	R	S	T	Q	R	S	T
Name		Age	Name	Age	Name	Age	Name	Age

Please give your entries to, ring or email:-

Mrs B Winton  
Tel: 01252 329117

OR

Mrs H Chant  
Tel:- 01252 329767

email : [brendawinton@btinternet.com](mailto:brendawinton@btinternet.com)Email: [hazel@chant.org.uk](mailto:hazel@chant.org.uk)**APGC TRIPS 2018**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September RHS Wisley Gardens.** Please note change of date. 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>

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**GARDENING CALENDAR SEPTEMBER****Fruit and vegetable garden****Fruit**

Pick apples and blackberries for use in pies and desserts.

Pick autumn raspberries as they start to ripen.

Harvest cobnuts, hazelnuts and filberts when husks begin to yellow, but before they start dropping.

Finish tying in wall-trained sweet cherries. Pruning should have been completed during the summer.

Cut out fruited canes of summer raspberries and tie in new canes that will fruit next year. Select strong, healthy canes and cut out weak, forked or misplaced ones (such as those growing out into the paths).

Blackcurrants are often pruned commercially this month (straight after harvesting), but it is better for home gardeners to wait until the leaves have fallen, and to prune the plants while dormant during the winter. Valuable time is best saved for more urgent jobs that cannot wait beyond this month.

Water any new strawberry beds planted this season. If you have not yet planted new beds, this is really the last chance to do so, and only then in milder parts of the country. New plants need to establish before the cold sets in.

Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners from vigorous plants.

New trees can be planted once the autumn sets in and the dry weather is over. The soil will still be quite warm in September even if the weather is cool, and the roots of new plants will benefit from this. This is particularly important for peaches and nectarines. Other fruit trees may have a higher tolerance of cold at the roots, and can be planted later.

**Pest & disease watch**

Remove apples, pears and plums affected with brown rot to prevent the disease from spreading.

Prune out any dead, dying or diseased shoots on fruit trees that are affected by diseases such as bacterial canker, cherry leaf scorch, powdery mildew or other problems that can overwinter or continue to worsen. Avoid pruning stone fruits (e.g. cherries or plums) once they are dropping their leaves, as this can make them vulnerable to silver leaf. Peaches and apricots can be sensitive to cold, so for this reason are best pruned in spring and summer.

Net or cage ripening fruits to protect them from birds.

Monitor yields on soft fruit crops, as older plants frequently become infected with viruses, which reduce yield. They may need replacing.

### Vegetables

Continue to sow vegetables for overwintering, to mature next spring: turnip, spinach, winter lettuce, Oriental vegetables and seed of overwintering onions, both salad and bulb types.

Plant overwintering onion sets in late September.

Spring cabbages that were sown last month are probably ready for planting out.

Cover them with horticultural fleece or netting to stop the pigeons shredding them.

Dig up potatoes before slug damage becomes a problem. Leave them out to dry for two to three hours before storing. Only store sound tubers in paper sacks or boxes.

Regularly pick fast maturing vegetables, such as French beans, runner beans, courgettes, cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes, to prevent them becoming stringy, tough or bitter and to encourage further crops.

Remaining outdoor tomatoes should be picked by the end of the month and ripened indoors. The whole truss can be cut off to allow the fruits to ripen 'on the vine', perhaps under a cloche or on a windowsill. Any green fruits can be used in chutneys. Aubergines may still be cropping in the greenhouse. Pick them once the fruits have coloured, but before the skins start to wrinkle.

Lift onions and shallots once the foliage has started to die back. Do not be tempted to bend over the tops by hand as this can reduce their effective storage time. Allow them to dry on the soil surface if weather permits, otherwise dry in a well-ventilated shed and store in a moisture-free place. Thick-necked onions should be used rather than stored, as they may be prone to rots.

In cold districts, carrots, beetroot and turnip are best lifted and stored for use over the winter. Only store intact roots. Parsnips should be left in, as they taste better once frosted.

Harvest sweetcorn as it becomes ripe. Push a fingernail into the kernel when the tassels at the end of the cob start to shrivel and brown. If the liquid looks milky, they are ready.

Any remaining globe artichokes should be harvested now, before the buds start to open.

Marrows, pumpkins and squashes may be ready for harvesting. Leave them in the sun, or in a greenhouse/garage, to let the skins harden and dry off, before storing them in a cool, dry, dark place.

When asparagus foliage turns brown, it is time to cut it down. Take care of the spines, and give the plants a good mulch afterwards. Any new asparagus beds can be prepared at the same time, adding grit if your soil is poorly drained (e.g. heavy clay).

Celery can be earthed-up for the final time this month, leaving just a tuft of foliage sticking out of the trench or collar in order to blanch the stems. Self-blanching types are less hardy, and should be harvested before the first frosts. Trench cultivars can be left in the ground, although do have some horticultural fleece or straw handy to throw over the tops if severe frosts are forecast in your area. Beware celery rash

when handling the plants, especially in sunny weather - gloves and long sleeves are necessary.

Irregular watering can lead to problems with blossom end rot on tomatoes, splits in root vegetables and pea and bean flowers aborting. Help prevent this by watering during dry spells. Recycled grey water is not recommended for edible crops, but stored rainwater is ideal.

Keep up too with watering winter squash and pumpkins: this will prevent their growth from being checked. Use stored rainwater wherever possible.

Sow green manures, such as mustard and Italian ryegrass, to prevent autumn weeds establishing and to act as a soil improver once dug in during winter or spring.

Alternatively, place black plastic over bare ground after clearing old crops to suppress weed growth.

### Pest & disease watch

Keep up with potato blight and tomato blight control. Outdoor tomatoes are more vulnerable than greenhouse ones. Blighted potato haulms can be cut off and burnt, or placed in the rubbish. The tubers can still be harvested. Precautionary spraying may be beneficial, if the weather is conducive to fungal spread; suitable products are Bordeaux Mixture, Dithane 945 and Murphy Traditional Copper Fungicide.

Potato powdery scab is prevalent in wet weather at this time of year, especially on clay soils. Dispose of affected tubers and rotate crops to prevent the problem building up in the soil.

Common scab and other potato skin problems can be prevalent in dry Indian summer weather, particularly on well-drained sandy soils. Watering is key, and the use of acidic fertilisers may help if you have alkaline soil (which worsens the problem). Be sure to clear debris created when lifting potatoes, and take care not to damage the haulms. Potato debris left out in wet weather could cause the development of fungal diseases such as black leg or fluffy grey mould.

### Herbs

Take cuttings of rosemary, lavender, bay and hyssop.

Cut back flowered herbs, such as marjoram, to encourage a second flush.

Divide herbs before they die back in the cold, in order to keep clumps potted up in the kitchen for winter use.

## **Flower garden**

Sow sweet peas in a cold frame or the greenhouse for early summer blooms next year.

Sow other hardy annuals (e.g. *Consolida*, *Calendula*, *Centaurea*, *Limnanthes* and poppies) in situ. If you have very heavy clay soil, you may get better results by sowing under cover in containers or plug trays, as the seedlings are less likely to rot.

If you sowed any spring-flowering biennials such as *Viola*, *Digitalis* (foxglove) or *Erysimum* (wallflowers), earlier in the summer, they will now need planting out.

This is a good time of year to plant new perennials, especially towards the end of September, as the soil is still warm, but moisture levels are increasing. There is still time for them to establish before the real cold sets in.

Bring inside any tender perennials, such as *Fuchsia*, *Gazania*, *Lantana* and *Abutilon*, before frosts cause damage.

Wait for the first frosts to hit dahlias and cannas before lifting the tubers or rhizomes. In warmer regions, they may be alright left in the ground, but do cover the crowns with a protective layer of straw or bracken.

Buy spring-flowering bedding plants, such as *Bellis*, *Primula*, wallflowers, and violas. Buy or order spring-flowering bulbs. Try to plant daffodils (*Narcissus*) by mid-September for the best results. Tulips are best left until November. Remember that there are many other bulbs to choose from: *Muscari* (grape hyacinths), *Chionodoxa* (glory of the snow), *Scilla*, *Ipheion* and crocuses are all possibilities among many others.

Don't neglect hanging basket maintenance - a little deadheading, watering and feeding can keep them going until mid-autumn. Once they are past their best, re-plant as winter/spring hanging baskets with spring-flowering bulbs, winter heathers, trailing ivies and spring-flowering plants as above.

Continue to deadhead plants such as *Dahlia*, *Delphinium*, *Rosa* and *Penstemon* to prolong the display and give colour well into the month.

Continue cutting back perennials that are fading and dying down.

Now is a good time to divide any overgrown or tired looking clumps of alpines and herbaceous perennials such as crocosmias. This will invigorate them, and improve flowering and overall shape, for next year.

Continue collecting and storing seed from perennials still forming seed heads.

Take cuttings of tender perennials, such as *Pelargonium* and *Osteospermum*. These plants often do better grown from new cuttings each year, rather than being overwintered in pots as adult plants. If you do not have a greenhouse, then use a light windowsill to grow them on.

Some tall late-flowering perennials, such as asters, may still need staking to stop them being blown over in the wind.

Most perennial weeds are vulnerable to weedkiller in early autumn. Applying a product containing glyphosate will ensure that the roots, as well as the top growth, are killed. Glyphosate is carried down to the roots and can carry on working through the winter. It is, however, non-selective, and treasured plants must be protected with plastic sheeting.

Pest & disease watch

Inspect chrysanthemums for signs of chrysanthemum white rust and take immediate action.

Distortion on *Phlox* could indicate the presence of phlox eelworm.

Discoloured leaves on herbaceous plants, such as *Chrysanthemum*, *Anemone* and *Penstemon* could be leaf and bud eelworm.

Powdery mildew can still be a problem in dry, warm Septembers.

## **Trees, shrubs, roses, climbers and hedges**

Climbing roses can be pruned once they have finished flowering; sideshoots from the main framework of branches are cut back to a couple of buds. Any dead, diseased or spindly growth is cut out and the new young shoots are tied in to the supports, from the base. If there is an old, thick and woody, unproductive stem, it can be removed from the base to stimulate more vigorous growth.

Late-summer flowering shrubs such as *Helianthemum* (rock rose) can be pruned this month. Some shrubs that should have been pruned earlier, but were forgotten, will still benefit from being pruned now rather than left until next year. *Ribes* (flowering currant) and *Lavatera* (shrubby mallow) are examples, but do be aware that other shrubs will resent untimely pruning and may flower less next year as a result. Give evergreen hedges a final trim to make sure they are in shape for winter. Keep early-flowering shrubs, such as *Camellia* and *Rhododendron*, well watered during dry periods to ensure good flower bud initiation for blooms next spring. Use recycled or stored rainwater wherever possible.

Thoroughly soak drought-stressed plants and shrubs, especially newly planted ones. As the weather becomes cooler and damper, the soil will better absorb and hold any extra water you give it. Use recycled or stored rainwater wherever possible.

Collect tree and shrub seeds for sowing next spring, such as *Colutea* (bladder senna), *Laburnum*, *Morus* (mulberry) and *Sorbus* (rowan). See collecting and storing seeds and germinating tree seeds.

Take semi-ripe cuttings of evergreen shrubs such as *Cistus*, *Ceanothus* and *Viburnum*.

Take hardwood cuttings of roses, choosing well-ripened, healthy shoots.

If the weather is already autumnal, you can now plant and move shrubs and trees without having to worry excessively about their survival and establishment. Shrubs planted now will get off to a flying start next spring, as they will have had all winter to settle in. See moving established trees and shrubs, planting root-wrapped trees, planting trees at the right level and care of newly planted trees.

Order mature or large plants now for planting in October or once the rains have moistened the soil.

Clear dead leaves promptly once they start to fall, as rotting leaves can be a source of disease in the garden. They are, however, useful on the compost heap and can be shredded first with a shredder or mulching mower, to help them break down quicker.

**Pest & disease watch**

Good garden hygiene helps to prevent disease carry-over from one year to the next, so it is vital to rake up and destroy (or throw out) any affected leaves. Do not compost them or leave them lying, as this could spread the disease. Instead, burn them or place them in the domestic refuse bin destined for landfill. Diseases such as black spot on roses, leaf blight on quince, and scab on apples and pears can all be reduced in this way.

Honey fungus fruiting bodies will begin to appear in late September and early October, indicating possible areas of infection. However, there are many harmless fungi that appear at this time, so don't be overly alarmed. Saprophytic fungi (i.e. living entirely on dead matter) pose no threat to living garden plants. Honey fungus may be more common in areas of woody planting, whereas harmless fungi often pop up in areas of damp lawn, for example.

Powdery mildew can still be troublesome in warm, dry, Indian summer weather. Unless it is severe, it will probably clear up once the rains arrive.

When doing any pruning, take the opportunity to examine branches for signs of disease. Small cankers, die-back, and rotten, hollow stumps at the centre of old shrub bases, are best removed early before they spread further.

## START PLANTING FOR NEXT YEAR

Get perennials settled in before bad weather arrives

Pam Richardson

ALTHOUGH the garden continues to sparkle with late-flowering perennials, September is often considered to be the start of a new gardening year. It is certainly a good time to assess the border and start planning and planting for next year.

Whether the garden has lived up to expectations or not, there are always plants that you wish you had and gaps to fill, as a visit to the garden centre or nursery will soon confirm!

Now is a good time to plant perennials because the soil is warm and the promise of autumn rainfall means that plants will have a chance to settle in before the really cold weather arrives. Another advantage is that you can buy late-flowering plants such as asters and helenium while they are in bloom, which is useful when you are choosing colours for a border.

Tap plants out of their pots if possible to check that the roots are healthy, but not clogging the container.

Weeds on the surface of the pot such as liverwort and mosses can mean the plant has been in the container for a long time, so check it over carefully before buying.

Before you plant, weed the area; pull out any annual weeds and dig out perennial weeds such as dandelions or thistles, removing all the root. If planting new areas, tackle weeds such as couch grass, bindweed or ground elder before you plant (if left they will rob the soil of nutrients and invade the roots of your new perennials). Spray them with glyphosate or dig them out.

10 perennials to plant now

Aster – Helenium – Achillea – Rudbeckia – Sedum – Solidago – Phlox – Ceum – Japanese anemones – Honarda.

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## CLUB EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES –

**Please contact secretaries direct for further details.**

September 2018

1st Ascot AUTUMN SHOW, at Carnation Hall, Winkfield

Peter Cleare 01344-622086

1st Bramshott/Liphook AUTUMN SHOW and plant sale. Church Centre 2.00-4.00

Ann Haussauer 01428-723045

1st Dunsfold/Hascombe AUTUMN SHOW 2.30-4.30 Winn Hall, Dunsfold

Sue Simper 01483-200286

- 1st Frensham AUTUMN SHOW 2.30 pm Marindin Hall  
Ruth Murphy 01252-793267
- 1st Onslow Village ANNUAL SHOW 3 pm  
Anne Bradbeer 01483-563421
- 1st Sandhurst AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW, Visitors 3pm  
Chris Dresler 01420-768965
- 2nd Jacobs Well AUTUMN SHOW  
Pam Lomax 01483-767225
- 3rd Ash Parish Gardening on the wild side, with Paul Patton  
Beverley Ames 01252-686303
- 3rd Ashtead AUTUMN SHOW, 1.30 pm  
Jennie Pilford 01372-373348
- 5th Godstone Autumn Aspirations, with Paul Patton  
Richard Clarke 01883-740004
- 6th Aldershot Floral Design Demo: Mellow Magic by Sue Blandford.  
Princes Hall Dee Kelly 01252-350944
- 6th Sunningdale B & B Sale 6.50 , then Patio Gardening with Steve Bradley  
Pat Bond 01344-623891
- 8th Ash Parish AUTUMN SHOW 2.30-4.30 Ash Victoria Hall  
Beverley Ames 01252-686303
- 8th Cheam/Cuddington AUTUMN SHOW 2.00-4.30  
Nick Clarke 0208-644-9291
- 8th Chiddingfold AUTUMN SHOW  
Georgia Lacey 01428-683120
- 8th Churt AUTUMN SHOW 2.30 pm Village Hall  
Maggie Wright 01428-715304
- 8th Cobham AUTUMN SHOW/HERITAGE DAY  
Marg. Burton 01932-865395
- 8th Ewhurst AUTUMN SHOW 2.30-4.30 Glebe Centre  
Anne Dyball 01483-271812
- 8th Headley Hants AUTUMN SHOW 2.30 pm Village Hall  
J. Howard-Duff 01428-714073
- 8th Leatherhead ANNUAL SHOW, Leatherhead Parish Hall, 2.00-5.00  
Euan Niven 01372-279079
- 8th Merrow ANNUAL SHOW, 2.30 pm  
Jenn. Bayley 01483-572781
- 8th Puttenham/Wan. AUTUMN SHOW 2.30pm Markwick Hall  
Mag. Forwood 01483-813855
- 8th Shalford/Peasmarsh/Chilworth AUTUMN SHOW Village Hall, Open 5.30-6.15  
David Bunting 01483-561532
- 8th Witley AUTUMN SHOW 2.30pm Chichester Hall  
Gina Ellerton 01483-488460
- 9th Peaslake/Shere AUTUMN SHOW Village Hall,  
Shere Scilla Roe 0790-155-4415

- 9th Surrey Chrysanth MAIN SHOW, Toyota plc, Yew Tree Bottom, Gt Burgh, Epsom  
Kevin Tait 01420-474528
- 9th Tilford AUTUMN SHOW 2.30-4.00 Tilford Institute  
Janet Arm 01252-783133
- 10th Yateley Autumn Perennials, with Rosy Hardy  
Hazel Goddard 01252-874532
- 11th Ashford Windsor, Saville & Frogmore Gardens, by John Anderson  
B. Baghapour 01784-247907
- 11th Ewell Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in Asia, by Dr. Tim Utteridge  
Lynne Mason 0208-393-9257
- 11th Worplesdon From cutting to garden centre, with Graham Spencer  
Sheila Dyke 01483-481841
- 12th Ascot The Basingstoke Canal, a rangers view, with Geoff Peach  
Peter Cleare 01344-622086
- 12th Grayshott Putting plants to bed in the winter, with Ray Broughton  
Ros. Henshall 01428-607879
- 12th Virginia Water The lost worlds of Venezuela, by James Rosindell  
Linda Gillham 01932-564834
- 13th Egham LATE SUMMER SHOW  
Chris. Harberd 01784-452146
- 15th Banstead AUTUMN SHOW, 2-5 Community Hall, Banstead  
Diana Beck 01737-271243
- 15th Elstead AUTUMN SHOW 2.00-4.00 Village Hall  
Kathy Deaville 01252-702630
- 15th Epsom AUTUMN SHOW, St. Martins Junior School, Epsom  
Sue Anderson 0208-393-0892
- 15th Thursley AUTUMN SHOW 2.30 Village Hall  
Pat Clake 01252-706869
- 17th Epsom Big Ideas, small gardens, with Simon Horrill  
Sue Anderson 0208-393-0892
- 18th Tilford Plants have feelings too! By Peter Almond (Note change)  
Janet Arm 01252-783133
- 19th Onslow Village Planning & Planting for the year ahead, by Stephen Austin  
Anne Bradbeer 01483-563421
- 19th Chiddingfold Alliums, with Jackie Currie  
Georgia Lacey 01428-683120
- 20th Churt Autumn Herbaceous Perennials, with Rosemary Hardy  
Maggie Wright 01428-715304
- 20th New Soc. Camberley Hardy Geraniums for your Garden, by Thomas Stone  
Chris.Thompson 01252-837640
- 22nd Ewell AUTUMN SHOW 2.30-4.30 Blenheim High School  
Lynne Mason 0208-393-9257
- 22nd Wokingham AUTUMN SHOW 2.00 pm St. Pauls Parish Rooms, RG41 1EH  
wha-general@outlook.com

- 23rd Surrey Chrysanth MEMBERS SHOW, Abinger Hammer Village Hall  
Kevin Taitt 01420-474528
- 24th Bookham/Fetcham Herbs, with Clare Brown  
Anita Laycock 01372-750818
- 25th Guildford Fuchsia AUTUMN SHOW , The Guide Hall, Guildford GU1 1ER  
Lindsay Farthing 01252-656059
- 25th Milford Greenwich Park, Royal Observatory etc. with Jim Buttress  
S. Miskimmin 01483-421509
- 25th Ripley Biodynamic Gardening talk, by Briony Young  
Liz Cooper 01372-458313
- 25th West End Carnivorous plants around the world, with David Tite  
Judy Douch 01483-475133
- 27th Frensham/Dockenfield Growing conservatory & greenhouse plants. J. Negus  
Ruth Murphy 01252-793267
- 27th North Warnborough Climbers for Shade, with Marcus Dancer  
Pam Forey 01256-703412
- 27th Woking Gardening Bulbs, Corms and Tubers with Brian Deaville  
Joy Leach 01483-837359
- 29th Headley Hants. Hampshire Nature in Trust, with Mike Read  
J.Howard-Duff 01428-714073