

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>TEL NO</u>
Chairman	Mr J Poole "MEADCOTT" Badshot Lea Rd	01252 319621
Secretary	Mrs. B Ames 97 Longacre, Ash	01252 686303
Treasurer	Mr. Ian Chant 145 Carfax Ave, Tongham	01252 329767
Show Secretary	Mrs. B Winton 2 Elm Hill, Normandy	01252 333756
Social Secretary	Mrs. H Chant 145 Carfax Ave, Tongham	01252 329767
Victoria Hall Rep	Mr. Brian Perry 9 Drake Avenue Mytchett	01252 542341
Mag Editor	Mr. Brian Perry 9 Drake Avenue Mytchett	01252 542341
Prog Secretary	Mrs P Slack 16 Firacre Road, Ash Vale	01252 311210

MAGAZINE CONTENTS

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS	1
MAGAZINE CONTENTS.....	1
EDITORS NOTES	1
R.H.S. LONDON AND WISLEY	2
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....	2
GARDENS TO THE RESCUE	2
THIS MONTHS RECIPE.....	3
POETS CORNER	4
APGC TRIPS FOR 2019.....	4
GARDENING CALENDAR AUGUST.....	5
WINKWORTH ARBORETUM.....	5
TAKE CUTTINGS OF CLIMBERS NOW	6
SUMMER SHOW RESULTS.....	7

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

AUTUMN SHOW	7 Sep
RHS Malvern (autumn)	28 - 29 Sep

GARDENS TO THE RESCUE

How to make your open spaces more welcoming to wildlife

It's a sad fact that over the past 50 years there have been declines in two-thirds of the UK's plant and animal species and, as you've probably heard, many once-common garden visitors, such as hedgehogs and house sparrows, are increasingly under threat.

To me, it seems obvious we must use our gardens in a way that could help to reverse, or at least halt, such a worrying situation. So, earlier this month I was pleased to see an inspiring garden designed by Sharon Hockenhull for the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, demonstrating how we can all use our own gardens as mini nature reserves.

Sharon has some great tips that will work in gardens of all shapes and sizes. For a start, she suggests plants that are not only attractive but also pollen-and nectar-rich with a long flowering season, such as *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', *Erysimum* 'Bowles's Mauve' and *Echinacea purpurea*.

It's worth thinking about replacing some of your lawn with wildflower seed or turf too (what better excuse to cut down on the mowing!) or, failing that, even just leaving some grass to grow long can really help, offering shelter for insects that will in turn provide food for birds and other wildlife.

Sharon points out that having some water in the garden, even if it's just a sunken water bowl, will make a big difference to the number of insects, birds, mammals and amphibians that will visit. She also suggests leaving piles of logs or twigs that will attract a whole host of insects and other invertebrates, as well as moss and fungi.

Forget boring fencing, and instead plant a boundary of hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose and bird cherry,

she says. Or, if you'd like something a little more unusual, she recommends evergreen escallonias - their nectar-rich flowers will attract a range of pollinators including hoverflies, solitary bees, bumblebees, butterflies and moths.

With roughly 24 million gardens in the UK, just think what a network of mini nature reserves we could create if we all decide to do just some of these things in our own plots. Now that would really make a difference.

THIS MONTHS RECIPE

Chestnut mushroom & red onion pies

Prepare 35 minutes

Cook 25 minutes

Serves 4

You will need

- 2 red onions
- 2 x 350g packs Diced Butternut & Sweet Potato
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 250g chestnut mushrooms, halved
- 2 tbsp brandy
- 1 tbsp chopped thyme
- 200ml creme fraiche
- Large pinch freshly grated nutmeg
- 375g puff pastry block
- Plain flour, for dusting
- 1 medium Free Range Egg, lightly beaten

To Do

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6. Cut 1 onion into thin wedges and place in a roasting tin with the butternut and sweet potato. Toss with the oil and roast for 15 minutes, then stir in the mushrooms and cook for 10 minutes more. Remove from the oven and divide the mixture between 4 individual pie dishes.

2 Place the tin on the hob, add 2 tbsp water, the brandy and thyme and bring to the boil, scraping any caramelized bits off the bottom. Add the creme fraiche, bring to a simmer and stir in the nutmeg. Divide between the pie dishes.

3 Raise the oven temperature to 220°C, gas mark 7. Cut the pastry into 4 and roll out each piece on a lightly floured surface until slightly larger than the dish. Brush the rims of the dishes with egg, sit the pastry on top, trim the edges and press with a fork to seal. Glaze the tops with egg and pierce the centre for steam to escape. Cut the remaining onion into rings and arrange on top.

4 Bake the pies for 25 minutes until golden brown and piping hot.

FREEZING TIP

Cover the uncooked pies with cling film and freeze for up to 3 months. To cook, remove the cling film and bake from frozen at 200°C, gas mark 6, for 40 minutes until golden and piping hot in the centre.

POETS CORNER**The Garden**

Who loves a garden, loves a green-house too.
Unconscious of a less propitious clime,
There blooms exotic beauty, warm and snug,
While the winds whistle and the snows descend.
The spiry myrtle with un-withering leaf
Shines there, and flourishes. The golden boast
Of Portugal and western India there,
The ruddier orange, and the paler lime,
Peep through their polished foliage at the storm,
And seem to smile at what they need not fear.
The amomum there with intermingling flowers
And cherries hangs her twigs. Geranium boasts
Her crimson honours, and the spangled beau,
Picotees, glitters bright the winter long.
All plants, of every leaf that can endure
The winter's frown, if screened from his shrewd bite,
Live there, and prosper . . .

WILLIAM COWPER (1731-1800)

APGC TRIPS FOR 2019**Sun 8TH SEP Great Comp Garden, Sevenoaks**

<https://greatcompgarden.co.uk/> We shall be having Lunch at the Great Comp Tearoom.

This is a RHS Partner Garden.

Cost for RHS members £10 each

Cost for those without RHS membership £17.50

Leaving Victoria Hall at 10am, returning approx 5:30pm

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 Water in dry spells, from a water butt or by re-using lightly used bathwater.

Mow 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

WINKWORTH ARBORETUM

Winkworth Arboretum was created over 80 years ago as a glorious celebration of trees. It was the creation of local physician and horticulturalist Dr Wilfrid Fox in the 1930s and has been in the complete care of the National Trust since 1988.

The National Trust have drawn up plans for a new visitor centre based on previous consultations with stake-holders, visitors and the local community.

The building will include a café, shop, toilets, visitor reception and office space.

A new car-park will be created and the existing car-park will be integrated back into the Arboretum. This will be better for visitors and help to ease traffic congestion on the road at busy times. They are keen to know what you think of their plans which you can see online. Please email us: winkwortharboretum@nationaltrust.org.uk

The plans are also on display at the Arboretum

They urgently need to increase our income to enable the restoration and continuing care of the Arboretum. Their visitor facilities were built in the 1980s and they are no longer adequate and struggle to cope at busy times. Their staff and volunteers need more space and better resources to carry out their work looking after this special place.

TAKE CUTTINGS OF CLIMBERS NOW

Make more of your favourite plants - they'll be free!

Pam Richardson

Climbing plants really come into their own in summer, clothing bare walls and adding height, colour and often adding scent, to trellises, walls and arches in the garden.

If you have a favourite climbing plant, now is the time to take cuttings and make more plants for free. Every experienced gardener has a favourite propagation method; getting new plants.

Whatever propagation method you use, take your cuttings from healthy plants and choose stems with non-flowering shoots.

The cuttings need to be encouraged to form roots rather than put their energies into flowers and seed. Pinch out the growing tips to make the resulting plants bush out.

Semi-ripe cuttings

Taken from midsummer to early autumn so now is a perfect time. The name describes the firmness of the stem for cutting material that has a slightly woody base and a soft, pliable top. Take these cuttings from lower down on the plant on the growth that has been made this year.

Climbers with large leaves can have their leaves cut in half to reduce moisture loss. It is a good idea to take a plastic bag out to pop the cuttings in so that they stay fresh until you can deal with them.

Easy to root

Climbers such as honeysuckle, Boston ivy, Virginia creeper and ivy are really easy to propagate. Their long stems give plenty of cutting material and they don't need special equipment to give good results. Just keep the cuttings moist and place in a bright sheltered place.

Warm and humid

Other plants such as clematis and tender jasmines need warmth and fairly humid conditions to root well, but at this time of year when temperatures are still high it is possible to get good results without a propagator. Cover cuttings with a plastic bag and keep them in a bright warm place.

Use a propagator

Take semi-ripe cuttings from deciduous climbing plants such as actinidia and Akeba quinata (chocolate vine) and evergreen climbers such as stephanotis; but use

rooting ! powder and keep them in a propagator. Tender evergreen climbers that are treated as annuals in the UK, such as black-eyed Susan (*Thunbergia alata*), will also root in a propagator from cuttings taken now.

'Horizontal' cuttings

Some climbers can also be propagated by pegging cuttings on the surface of compost. Take the cuttings in the same way as for semi-ripe cuttings but make them longer. Cut them to include leaves and buds and then secure lengthways into compost or soil.

These cuttings work best with plants that have firmer stems that can be pegged down without damaging them, such as ivies and honeysuckle.

Wound the stems, by making a small nick on the stem at a leaf node, to encourage the plants to make roots. Peg them down into the soil or a seed tray of compost using a small bent piece of wire or a hairpin.

SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

Well done everybody. There were more exhibits for this show than we have seen in past Summer Shows.

Summer Show Competition (Class 70)

1st Maggie Neate £5 winner

2nd Ann Poole £3 winner

3rd Chris Perry £1 winner

Most Points in Section 1 (F,F&V)

1st 45 pts Penny Slack

2nd = 30pts Laura Chant, Ann Poole, Hazel Chant

Best Rose Exhibit

Penny Slack

New Exhibitor with most Pts

Carol Callaby

Most Points Section 2

1st = 8pts Muriel Brodrick, Ann Poole

3rd 3pts Chris Perry