

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

OFFICE	OFFICERS	TEL NO
Chairman	Mr J Poole "MEADCOTT" Badshot Lea Rd	01252 319621
Secretary	Mrs. B Ames 97 Longacre, Ash	01252 686303
Treasurer	Mr. Ian Chant 54 Aldershot Road, Church Crookham	07850 498544
Show Secretary	Mrs. B Winton 2 Elm Hill, Normandy	01252 333756
Social Secretary	Mrs. H Chant 54 Aldershot Road, Church Crookham	07754 888994
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

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R.H.S. LONDON AND WISLEY

We are affiliated to the RHS who's benefits include competitive insurance cover, free gardening advice, a free group visit to an RHS garden, (54 members to visit Wisley club trip in Summer) access to medals (Banksian medal) and show stationery and a free monthly copy of The Garden magazine (see Brenda Winton if you wish to view). Our membership number is 10564709.

EDITORS NOTES

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- SUMMER SHOW 3rd JULY
RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show – 4–9 July
RHS Flower Show Tatton Park – 19–23 July
 - OUT MEETING 7th AUGUST
AUTUMN SHOW 9th SEPTEMBER
-

GARDENING CALENDAR JUNE

June is all about regular, consistent maintenance of your plants; in short, remember to weed, water and feed your plants, and do it often.

Feed

Pay special attention to container plants, bedding plants and veggies. Liquid-feed tubs and baskets every two weeks if you haven't already mixed in controlled-release fertiliser. Feed tomatoes, peppers and aubergines with a high-potash feed such as Tomorite every two weeks (also useful for feeding pelargoniums).

Harvest

June is also the time for harvesting onions – the right time is when the leaves turn yellow.

Bring indoors out

To maximise on summer blooms, move any summer flowering house plants into the garden.

THE MESSAGE OF THE GARDEN**Coping** with Frustration

Where I live, the month of August is hot and dry. The bounty of spring spinach and peas has long been consumed and replaced. The final harvest of pumpkins and the larger tomatoes has yet to come. Beneath the scorching sun, my plants begin to wither. Hardier weeds creep in. Fruit doesn't set. Discouragement grows.

Many things can kill a garden. Hail. Heat. A scourge of locusts. As the garden's attendant, we can feel like we are a failure when the garden doesn't do well. Especially when our friends post photos on social media of an Eden-like paradise and all we have to show is a bug-infested mass of flowerless vines.

A bug's social media is the wind, on which she sends a chemical message to others of her kind saying, 'Good eats here!' Then more come to play and chomp and make our garden look a right mess. But she is happy, as are her offspring.

Should we gardeners be happy for the bug? Maybe. My loss of a tomato is more disappointment than true hardship. For many people, the loss of a crop equals true suffering and death. So perhaps I can take the loss of a crop as a moment to pause in gratitude for the fact that I will still eat tonight, as will my children.

And yet the frustration is real. To squash down my own sorrow when all my courgettes rot from the inside and I don't know why does no one any good, least of all me. So when my garden does poorly, I have to hold the dialectic of grief and acceptance. I am sad, even angry.

The compost benefits when I toss a whole crop of 'useless' courgette plants in the heap. My perspective is valid, and so too is the perspective of the bugs and the nematodes that benefit from the loss of my garden. In mindfulness, we can hold both. We can hold, too, the tension of holding both perspectives. We breathe into that space.

WE ARE ONE AND WE ARE TWO

A garden is a relationship, or many intertwined relationships. In any relationship, there is connection and there is separateness. That is the (somewhat confusing) dynamic of every relationship: we are one and we are two. Always. We are of the world and we are separate from the world. When I hug my partner, I am connected to him, and at the places where we touch, we are also aware of our being separate. Our boundaries, where I end and he begins are also where we connect.

When all is going well in the garden, I am not as aware of this ever-present dialectic, how I am part of my garden and at the same time wholly distinct from it. When the garden starts to fail, I see more clearly how my desires - a bounty of vegetables and a flourish of flowers - are maybe not the desires of the insects or the chickens who consumed my crop. I become uncomfortably aware of how I am not actually in charge here. When the cause of my garden's 'failure' is even further out from my usual awareness, like a hailstorm or a late frost, I am

forced into awareness of all the greater relationships I am in. I am a part of the planet and its weather, and yet I am my own self, distinct from my surroundings. Ebb and flow.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

So when my garden fails, I become aware of energies greater than me, which can be overwhelming and confusing, but this awareness can also help me to see that perhaps failure is not what it seems. There is the story of the farmer whose horses ran away, and the village said, 'Oh, too bad'. Then the horses came home and brought some wild horses with them. The villagers said, 'Oh, how lucky!' Then his son was training the wild horses and was thrown and broke his leg. 'Oh, too bad', the villagers said. But then the army came looking for soldiers to recruit, and did not enlist the boy with the broken leg, and the villagers said, 'Oh, what luck!', for the boy's life would be spared. There is a bigger picture, and when the garden fails, we can keep in mind this larger picture, even when we don't know exactly what that is. We can give it up to the cosmic compost and move on.

THIS MONTHS RECIPE

Naan Breads

It is great fun making your own naan breads. You can decide what size and what flavours to add, or you could just have plain ones. Here is a basic recipe with some suggestions for additions

You will need

1 lb. plain flour

1/2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. sugar

2 tsp. dried yeast

Quarter pint warmed milk

2 tbsp. vegetable oil

5 fl.oz. plain yoghurt

1 egg, lightly beaten

Suggestions for added flavour - to be added after mixing all the dry ingredients together from the yellow column and before moving on to the rest of the column: the 'wet' column: Ground coriander Dried basil Dried marjoram Crushed garlic Black pepper

To do

Put all the dry ingredients into a large bowl.

Add any or all of the suggested ingredients for added flavour.

Add the wet ingredients & mix well.

Knead for about 10 minutes & place in a lightly oiled bowl.

Allow to rise in a warm place for about an hour.

Once doubled in size, re-knead into tear-drop shaped naans, whatever size you prefer.

Cook on a hot cast-iron plank, or on a griddle or hot plate of an Aga for about 3 minutes each side.

Turn over and cook the other side for a further 2-3 minutes

APGC TRIPS

Wisley 22nd July 1:00 pm

Our annual visit to Wisley, Free entry to all members. Minibus leaves Victoria Hall at 1pm, returning approx. 5:30pm, cost for those on minibus £6 each. If you wish to use your own transport, then meet us outside at reception at 1:30pm for your Free Ticket. Please let Ian know you are going so he can get sufficient tickets

GARDENER'S INJURYTIME

DAVID WHEELER

Outside work has been a tad underpowered for the past few months, not least because of my partner's hernia operation in early April.

Not one to do things by half, Simon turned out to have two hernias - one on the left side, one on the right (yes, we called them Keir and Boris, and they caused agony in equal measure).

He elected to have repair surgery for both on the same day. The prescribed post-hernia-op recuperation period is between six and eight weeks. During that time, rest is essential and the lifting of anything other than a mug of tea or a crafty roll-up is verboten.

Within a month though, I caught him eyeing up the lawn mower. So I hid the petrol can and ear-defenders, which proved only to increase his sense of 'challenge'.

The operation, performed at a private hospital, has so far proved enormously successful and the expense (less than £3,000) and a waiting time of just three

months from diagnosis to knife - against the local NHS waiting time of three years - have paid off.

Twinges of pain remain occasionally felt (Keir causes most angst -I speak apolitically), while a hitherto daily soundtrack of groans and gripes has largely diminished. The petrol can and ear-defenders are back where they belong. The sound of the mower purring in the far-off orchard is music to my 76-year-old ears.

Throughout injury time, we have had the now-indispensable help of a day-a-week gardener, Daniel. Thirtyish, tall, muscular, knowledgeable and obliging, he turns up punctually every Friday morning and it takes much persuasion on my part to pull him aside for even a ten-minute coffee break. He's worth his guineas.

An elderly friend, alas recently departed, added considerably to the anxiety caused by a terminal illness by watching the decline of her garden due to her ailing strength. She was an energetic and diligent gardener for most of her 80 years. She was proud that her beautiful garden was crafted - and maintained - by her own hands, and hers alone.

Foolishly, in my opinion, because she was well able to pay for some muscle, she held off employing some help, fearing it would be too pricey or, worse, not carried out as she would like.

Thankfully, she relented a couple of months before her death, and watching a capable young man nursing her beds and borders brought her unexpected pleasure and peace of mind in those final weeks.

With a smile, I hand over a small wodge of used tenners at the end of Daniel's eight-hour day, wishing only that I could afford to engage him more frequently. It isn't, however, his manpower alone that I value. He has good ideas of his own and contributes sagely to the way we are cultivating and developing our new-found 12 acres. And I like the way he'll say if there's a chore he can't handle successfully or, without risking serious injury, expect to perform safely.

Having moved to south-west Wales just 11 months ago, we are yet to see what surprises our garden has in store for July.

Recent delights have been the flowering of a 20-foot bay tree, the bountiful blossoming of numerous wild-cherry trees and the appearance of early purple orchids in the boundary hedgerows. We hope to mark our first anniversary with

modest satisfaction (and the imminent arrival of an ambitious shipment of spring-flowering bulbs).

Let Daniel's presence prevail and may my own reserves continue to contribute usefully. As for Keir and Boris, it looks like goodbye to both of them.

GROWING YOUR OWN MADE EASY

How to ensure you get the best possible harvest from your garden vegetables this year

With everything that's going on in the world even if it takes a bit longer than usual. This at the moment, I've realised this spring how applies only to hardy annuals - I won't sow important it is to me to be able to grow fruit tender annuals outdoors until the end of and vegetables to feed myself and my family. May, to be on the safe side. Rather than trying Luckily, going to my allotment is still allowed to remember when to sow what, I always during the lockdown, but only once a day at check the seed packets - it pays to take heed most and only for short periods of time while, of the times specified on them, of course, observing the social-distancing Partly because there may be a degree of rules. So I'm doing as much preparation as failure, and partly because it makes sense to possible at home, including sowing as many stagger the harvest over several weeks, I'll seeds as I can in pots on windowsills to be regularly sowing small batches of each minimise the time I spend at the site. veg this year, rather than using the whole

Some seeds need to be sown directly into pack at once. Because I'm usually so busy, the ground, though, so I've put carrots and I have to admit I tend to be a bit chaotic beetroot between my shallots, and I've also when I'm gardening for myself, so whether sown cauliflowers and kale. The trouble is I'll remember to sow subsequent batches that I'm behind with a lot of jobs because of all only time will tell! My theory is that once the wet weather over winter and early spring, the whole plot is cleared and prepped, I'll which made the ground far too soggy to work If s incredible, though, that if s now like solid concrete, making even weeding difficult. All the heavy rain followed by dry days and hot sun has caused a solid 'pan' of soil to form on the surface. I find the best way to deal with it is to give just the area I want to work on a good watering before doing anything, then I fork it over to break the pan and create a good surface for sowing or planting seedlings.

Seeds need warmth to germinate, and I'd normally cover the ones that I've sown outdoors. But as I can't go to the allotment as often as I'd like, I'm leaving them uncovered so that they will benefit more when we get some rain. As a result, some may not germinate because of the cool night-time temperatures, but I think that most will get more disciplined and draw up proper crop plans but, at the moment, I still have brambles to clear in some parts, so it's not a

fully functioning allotment yet. That's my excuse, anyway and, so far, a degree of chaos seems to be working out OK!

Back at home, the seeds I've sown indoors need good air circulation to avoid fungal infections, so I always uncover them during the day and never let condensation build up inside the lid. But at night I recover them to keep them warm until they have their first 'true' leaves - the second pair that appear after germination. Then they need to be moved into bigger pots and, as soon as they start growing well, it's time to begin hardening them off. It's always tempting to leave them in the warm for too long, but I try to avoid it because any further growth will be weak and sappy, and the plants will struggle to cope outdoors later. So I put them outside in their pots in a sheltered spot for a few hours during the day, gradually increasing the time until they are outdoors all day as soon as all risk of frost has passed.

My greenhouse was wrecked by the high winds earlier this year, but one good thing has come out of that. The soil in the little square where it once stood is amazing because it was so well fed and had had lots of compost added, so I'm hoping for lots of healthy crops from there until it can be rebuilt. Once cropping starts all over the plot, I'll be making sure I harvest everything regularly so that the plants carry on producing more - that's especially important with tomatoes, courgettes and all kinds of beans, otherwise they will go to seed. I can't wait!

SUMMER SHOW SCHEDULE

The summer Show follows a slightly different format to the Spring and Autumn Shows.

1. look at the Schedule below and choose which items you would like to enter
2. Ring or Email your entry numbers to Brenda or Hazel
3. On the day of the show, bring all your entries along to the Main Hall for Staging between 7pm and 7.45 pm. **Please complete staging before 7.45pm** (Judging starts at 7:45pm).
4. After staging please go to the Front Small Hall where all other members will congregate for 8pm, where we will have a slide presentation.
5. Tea and Coffee will be available in Front Hall
6. Once judging has completed, all members are permitted to go into Main Hall to view the show

Awards will be presented at 9:00 pm Exhibits may only be removed after the presentation

SECTION 1**FLOWER, FRUIT & VEGETABLE**

Vases are provided, **AND MUST BE USED**, for Classes 71 to 77 & 82 - 86 inc.

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 71. | Rose | Large Flowered (HT) 1 Bloom |
| 72. | Rose | Cluster Flowered, 1 stem. |
| 73. | Rose | Miniature, 1 stem (miniature in all aspects of size of flowers, foliage & growth) |
| 74. | Rose | 1 variety. Shrub Rose or Climbing Rose. 1 stem |
| 75. | Rose | 1 stem any variety judged for fragrance only |
| 76. | Everlasting
Sweet Pea | 3 stems, 1 variety, displayed in a FAN shape. |
| 77. | Annual Sweet
Pea | 3 stems, 1 variety, displayed in a FAN shape. |

All Pot Plants not to exceed 60cm width or depth

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 78 | Pot Plant | 1 Plant, foliage only, pot not to exceed 12.5cm in dia |
| 79 | Pot Plant | Pelargonium. Pot NOT to exceed 25cm in diameter |
| 80 | Pot Plant | Any type not in classes 78 to 79. Pot NOT to exceed 25cm in dia |
| 81 | Pot Plant | Cactus or Succulent. Pot NOT to exceed 25cm in diameter |
| 82 | Delphinium | 1 spike |
| 83 | Pinks | 6 stems any number of varieties |
| 84 | Mixed Flowers | Grown outdoors. Viewed all round. Minimum 3 varieties, Maximum 9 stems. |
| 85 | Flowering Shrub | 1 Spray (in bloom) |
| 86 | Ornamental foliage | 3 kinds, 1 stem of each kind |

Plates are provided for Classes 87 to 92 inclusive

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|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 87 | Lettuce | 1 Any variety. |
| 88 | Potatoes | 3, of 1 variety. |
| 89 | Any other Vegetable | 1 variety, minimum of 2 |
| 90 | Gooseberry | 12, with stalks |
| 91 | Currants, red, black or white, | 6 bunches as grown |
| 92 | Any other Fruit | Number optional |

SECTION 2

FLORAL

Flowers may be purchased. Accessories optional.

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|----|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 93 | Foliage arrangement | An exhibit not exceeding 46cms x 46cms ,
height unlimited |
| 94 | “After Dinner” | An arrangement in a wine glass |

ENTRY FORM

SUMMER SHOW 3rd July 2023

70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84
85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94

Name

Tel No