
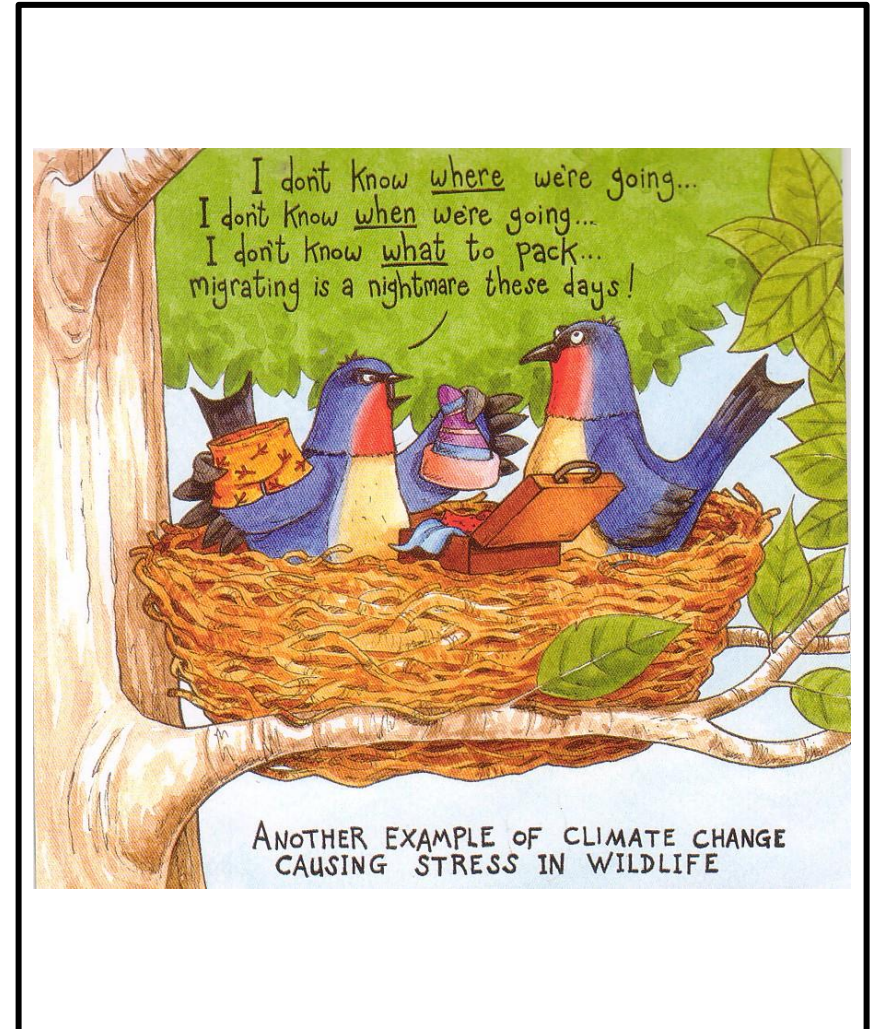


Ash Parish Garden Club

www.ashparishgardenclub.org.uk

 ash parish garden club



Monthly Newsletter Sept 2020

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 18 Glenmount Road, Mytchett	01252 544195
Show Secretary	Mrs. B Winton 2 Elm Hill, Normandy	01252 333756
Social Secretary	Mrs. H Chant 18 Glenmount Road, Mytchett	01252 544195
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
NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN	2
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	2
POETS CORNER	2
THIS MONTHS RECIPE	3
GARDENING CALENDAR SEPTEMBER	4
WORLD'S LARGEST FLOWER	4
COTTAGE STYLE PLANTING	5
FAVOURITE COTTAGE GARDEN PLANTS	6

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.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope everybody is keeping safe, fit and well.

With lockdown I guess that you've all been giving your patch a lot of care and I expect all of your gardens should be looking pristine. However ours is suffering from lack of rain, we are only watering the potted plants and some of the vegetables.

A big thank you to Ian for his weekly quizzes. I had hoped to be seeing you all in September or October but even though the hall trustees are ready to restart controlled bookings depending on size of group meetings in halls unfortunately the speakers are unable to come. Brian tells me that he was hoping for members lockdown gardening stories for the magazine?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

RHS Hampton Court	CANCELLED
AUTUMN SHOW	CANCELLED
RHS Malvern (autumn)	CANCELLED

POETS CORNER***Pear Tree***

Silver dust,
lifted from the earth,
higher than my arms reach.
you have mounted,

O, silver,
higher than my arms reach,
you front us with great mass;

no flower ever opened
so staunch a white leaf,
no flower ever parted silver

from such rare silver;

O, white pear,
your flower-tufts
thick on the branch
bring summer and ripe fruit
in their purple hearts.

THIS MONTHS RECIPE

Chorizo & tomato risotto

The chorizo sausages give this risotto a lovely rich flavour, but you can also try other sausage varieties. Adding the stock a little at a time gives the perfect texture to the rice so it's worth the extra work

SERVES 4 PREPARE 15 mins COOK 35 mins

You will need

1 tbsp olive oil
400g pack 6 Chorizo Sausages
1 onion, chopped
1 pack Mixed Romano Peppers, deseeded and sliced
250g Arborio Rice
100ml red wine
400g can Chopped Tomatoes
500-600ml hot chicken stock
25g basil, shredded

To do

Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the sausages for 5 mins to brown, remove and set aside.

Add the onion and peppers to the pan and fry for 4-5 mins, stirring occasionally. Slice the sausages. Stir the rice into the pan and then add the wine and cook until absorbed.

Add the tomatoes, sliced sausages, a little stock and cover. Cook gently for 25 mins, gradually adding more stock until the rice is tender, the sausages are cooked through (with no pink meat) and the liquid has mostly been absorbed. Season and add the basil to serve.

GARDENING CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

September can be a time of relative peace for the ornamental gardener: generally, there is less to do during this month than other months, apart from collecting seeds from summer-flowering plants.

Maintain water features

For gardens with water features, now is the time to cover ponds with netting to prevent water-logging during leaf fall in the autumn.

Harvest

In a kitchen garden, now is the time to enjoy the rewards of your hard work and pick your vegetables and fruit; remember to dig up any remaining potatoes, otherwise they will be destroyed by slugs.

Protect

Cover any tender salad leaves with bird netting, and pick late-fruiting raspberries and blackberries.

WORLD'S LARGEST FLOWER

Foul-smelling corpse lily discovered in West Sumatra
Leah Crane

INDONESIAN officials may have found the largest flower ever, and it smells awful.

The flower belongs to the Raffles/a genus of corpse lilies or corpse flowers. These stink of decaying flesh, an odour that attracts their insect pollinators.

This flower appears to be the species *Rafflesia tuan-mudae* and it measures about 1.1 metres across - about 4 centimetres wider than the previous recorded largest flower. It was found in the Maninjau Forest Conservation in West Sumatra's Agam region.

The previous record holder bloomed at the exact same spot, hinting that both may be flowers of the same individual plant. *Rafflesia* plants are parasitic and hide inside host plants - in this case a vine -until they are ready to reproduce.

The plant then produces an external bud that slowly blooms over the course of up to a year.



COTTAGE STYLE PLANTING

There are few things as quintessential! English as a cottage garden. Think of one and your mind will drift to a chocolate-box house surrounded by a mass of flowering perennials, roses and climbers. And yet you do not need to have a typical thatched or period cottage in the heart of the English countryside to have and enjoy the cottage garden style.

The 'as nature intended' informal style of mixed planting in the garden can be created around any type or age of property, whether you live in a village, a town or a city. In fact, the benefit of a cottage garden is that the style is perfect for anyone wishing to grow lots of plants in a small area.

Easy Exuberance

The cottage garden is easy to replicate. It may look haphazard, but give some thought to the planning of it. Avoid straight lines, or any defined pattern, and keep things simple. The aim is to achieve an atmosphere of exuberant, free-flowering, cascading borders so try to blend colours, textures, shape and fragrance to provide a succession of interest throughout the season.

Cottage garden style calls for a good mix of plants, which are planted in groups to create drifts or clumps rather than singles. Repeat the plants and colours across the garden to give harmony and flow with the likes of herbaceous geraniums, phlox and campanula. Plant densely, so that plants knit together creating a mass of interwoven flower and foliage. The added bonus is that the plants act to support each other. Add some plants of different heights, such as digitalis or delphiniums. These can be placed in the middle of borders as well as the back to give some random spikes of colour, encouraging the eye to move across the garden up and down to different focal points. This has the added benefit of being great for

the environment, as the diversity of planting attracts wildlife and pollinators to your garden.

FAVOURITE COTTAGE GARDEN PLANTS

Dianthus (Garden Pinks) make fantastic cottage garden plants. They are mound forming, producing a mass of single or double flowers from early spring through the summer and are available in a wide range of colours (certainly not just pink!). The glorious scented white of Dianthus 'Memories' is a particular favourite, or the scarlet red of D.'Passion' that flowers for many months on end. Perfect at the front of any cottage garden border, dianthus is also great in containers on the patio. Look out for a new variety called Dianthus 'Flutterby' that has magenta single flowers with white fringed petals and is very sweetly scented.

The elegant perennial wallflower *erysimum* is a must in any cottage garden. Reliably flowering from early spring through to autumn, it has upright flower spikes of profuse flowers in a wide range of colours. The most popular of all, *Erysimum* 'Bowles's Mauve' has racemes of rich mauve flowers on and off throughout the year. E'Winter Orchid is another stunning variety with orangey red flowers that turn purple with age in the Summer.

Amid to back of border plant to give height to any cottage garden style space is *digitalis* (better known as foxglove.) This easy-to-grow classic of the cottage garden is typically a woodland plant, so likes sun or shade, and will happily grow in dense planting, as it pushes its way through to the light. Robust and reliable, the tall flower spires come in whites, purples or mauves from mid-spring through to summer. *Digitalis* 'Serendipity' has impressive tall spires of lilac pink flowers that grow to 1.2 metres, or there is the newer *Digitalis* Illumination Series of reddish-pink flower spires from spring through the summer.

The year. E.'Winter Orchid' is another stunning variety with orangey red flowers that turn purple with age in the summer.

A mid to back of border plant to give height to any cottage garden style space
The ever-popular iris is a staple of the cottage garden, adding sturdy, upright sword-like leaves and structure to the border with flowers from around May into the summer. Iris are great in sunny spots in well-drained soil. Three new varieties include Iris 'Skyfire', a tall variety that produces flowers of rich fiery orange and golds with red veins. Iris 'Sultan's Palace' will have flowers of velvet deep red, with a coppery beard fringe to the lower petals. And last but not least, a real favourite is Iris 'Superstition'. Producing purple-black flowers with a purple-black beard, I. 'Superstition' is bound to be popular.

The hardy perennial geranium varieties can offer a basis for all cottage garden style planting, in sun or shade. It has ground-cover like foliage and massed drifts of flowers in shades from whites, to pinks, blues and purples. Geranium sanguinum 'Album' is a crisp white-flowered form on small green leaves that spread to fill gaps. Geranium 'Salome' has gold-tinged foliage with slightly marbled green and dusky violet-blue flowers, with dark almost black veining produced all summer long. And finally, the most popular of all Geraniums, G.'Rozanne', produces a mound of marbled green leaves followed by bowl-shaped deep violet-blue flowers with a white centre, profusely borne from spring to autumn. Perfect for the cottage garden style.



"We're only keeping it all going for the sake of the children."