

# Ash Parish Garden Club

[www.ashparishgardenclub.org.uk](http://www.ashparishgardenclub.org.uk)



Monthly Newsletter June 2019

## 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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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER SHOW	1 July
Gardeners World Live	13 - 16 June
RHS Hampton Court	1 - 7 July
RHS Tatton Park	17 - 21 July
AUTUMN SHOW	7 Sep
RHS Malvern (autumn)	28 - 29 Sep

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## THIS MONTHS RECIPE

### Coffee and Walnut cake

This is a standard Victoria sandwich cake with the following added for each egg:

- 1 rounded tsp instant coffee
- 1½tsp boiling water
- ¼oz finely chopped walnuts
- ¼oz self raising flour for the extra liquid from the coffee

### Ingredients for a 7" tin Cake

6ozs	Softened butter
6ozs	Sugar
6¾ozs	Self Raising Flour
3	Large eggs at room temperature
3tsp rounded	Instant coffee – caffeinated or decaffeinated
4½tsp	Boiling water
¾oz	Finely chopped walnuts

### Decoration

1½oz	Softened butter
10ozs	Icing sugar
2tsp rounded	Instant Coffee
2tbs	Boiling water
	Walnut halves

### Method Cake

1. Make up instant coffee with boiling water, mix well and leave to cool

2. Turn oven to 170oC (fan 160oC)
3. Cream softened butter and sugar in a bowl
4. Beat in eggs one at a time
5. Mix in cooled coffee
6. Mix chopped walnuts with the flour
7. Stir in walnuts/flour mix into the mixture
8. Divide the mixture between two cake tins.
9. Cook in the middle of the oven. After 22 minutes lightly press the top to see if it bounces back. If it leaves a small indentation cook for a couple of minutes more until pressing the top causes the cake to bounce back into shape.
10. Take cake out of tins and leave to cool

**Icing**

11. Make up instant coffee with boiling water, mix well
  12. Mix butter, icing sugar and coffee in a bowl
  13. Add additional boiling water, a small amount at a time, until the icing is smooth and stiff enough to spread on the cake.
  14. Spread half on the bottom of one cake and half on the top of the other.
  15. Sandwich both halves so that the two bottoms are in the middle
  16. Decorate the top with walnut halves.
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**POETS CORNER*****The Rose***

A rose, as fair as ever saw the North,  
Grew in a little garden all alone;  
A sweeter flower did Nature ne'er put forth,  
Nor fairer garden yet was never known:  
The maidens danced about it morn and noon,  
And learned bards of it their ditties made;  
The nimble fairies by the pale-faced moon  
Watered the root and kissed her pretty shade.  
But well-a-day! - the gardener careless grew;  
The maids and fairies both were kept away,  
And in a drought the caterpillars threw  
Themselves upon the bud and every spray.  
God shield the stock!  
If heaven send no supplies,  
The fairest blossom of the garden dies.  
WILLIAM BROWNE (1588-1643)

## 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.

### **Sweet Peppers like the heat.**

Give them some warmth to keep them cropping well

SWEET peppers, sometimes called bell peppers, are easy to grow and will add lots of colour to your greenhouse or windowsill indoors. Grow your own and experiment with new colours and varieties that you can't get in the supermarket.

Although it's too late to sow seed now, young sweet pepper plants are on sale in most garden centres and nurseries.

A recent innovation is the introduction of grafted pepper plants. Proven varieties of sweet peppers have been grafted on to specially selected rootstocks to produce plants that are stronger growing, more disease resistant and heavier cropping than normal.

If you're new to growing peppers, or can't provide your plants with the reliable warmth they need, grafted peppers are well worth a try.

Pot on young pepper plants into pots or growing bags, or plant them in the greenhouse border. You can grow peppers in a sunny sheltered spot outside, but they love warmth, so greenhouse growing is often a better bet in an unreliable summer. Generally, how well peppers do outside will depend on the weather and where you live.

Some pepper plants can grow up to 1.5m (5ft) tall, depending on the variety, so it's best to tie them into a cane for support. This will also help to stop plants keeling over as the heavy fruit develops. Keep the compost or soil moist but don't over water, and feed your plants weekly with a liquid tomato food.

You can harvest peppers when they're still green or leave them on the plant to ripen. Pick a few green peppers rather than waiting until they have ripened, as plants won't produce any more fruit until the first ones have been harvested. Use a knife or secateurs to cut peppers off the plants, as pulling them can damage the brittle stems.

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## PLANT SALE UPDATE

Many thanks to all who helped/bought at our Plant Sale in May. Currently we have made over £350 profit and still have plants in stock.

The profit goes towards running the club and helps to keep the subscriptions down.

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## APGC TRIPS FOR 2019

For all following garden visits a deposit of £10 is required at time of booking.

**Sat 8th June Houghton Lodge Gardens, Stockbridge Cost £15.50 each**

<https://houghtonlodge.co.uk/>

Stopping off at Andover Garden Centre for Lunch

<https://www.wyevalegardencentres.co.uk/product/andover/2214>

Leaving Victoria Hall at 11am, returning approx 5:30pm

**Sun 14TH JUL Lavender Farm Selborne Rd, Alton UK Cost £10 each**

<https://www.thelavenderfields.co.uk/>

Stopping off at Avenue Nursery Lasham for Lunch <http://avenuenurseries.com/>

Leaving Victoria Hall at 11am, returning approx 5:30pm

**Sun 8TH SEP Great Comp Garden, Sevenoaks**

<https://greatcomparden.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

**DAVID WHEELER TALKING**

Do you remember those few days of glorious Mediterranean weather during this year's Chelsea Flower Show week and how, reliably, it withered as we slid into the bank holiday weekend? Gladly, I was there on the Monday, the day before it opened to the public, when, until the royals arrive mid-afternoon, Fleet Street hacks, RHS medal-holders (myself included, he says modestly) and a scattering of (to me) unidentifiable celebs have the show to ourselves. The sun shone, the mercury went north, prosecco flowed freely and there was a roaring trade done in straw hats. Display plants - many carefully nurtured out of season under glass for their few days in the spotlight - seemingly relished their escape from the artificiality of the nurseryman's lamps and, according to their needs, the heaters or chillers that advance or retard growth in order to have flowers au point during the third week of May. Among those coaxed into early bloom are roses, notably big displays by the likes of David Austin and Peter Beales; those held in check include hellebores and daffodils, the latter recalling March and April's golden glow.

I don't 'do' Chelsea every year, finding instead more space and a better range of local specialist nurseries in the several large regional shows (Hampton Court, Tatton, Chatsworth, Malvern and many more) that ripple through the summer months and into early autumn, heavy with a gilded profusion of agapanthus, Michaelmas daisies, hydrangeas, heleniums, crocosmias, dahlias, chrysanthemums...

People visit Chelsea for different reasons - to ogle plants, to discover the latest trends in garden design, to assess a likely bit of sculpture for their own garden or to shop for anything from a huge range of gardeners' paraphernalia to botanical art, books, smellies, clothes and jewellery. My first stop is always the pavilion, where growers provide close encounters with a dazzling selection of garden-worthy trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs. The artistry lies in what the cognoscenti refer to as 'plant association', the placing of individual specimens with contrasting or complementary colours and textures - a group, say, of upright orange and deep purple tulips among the lax greenery of feathery ferns and Asiatic primulas; fragile-looking Himalayan poppies among exquisite Japanese maples; or willowy delphiniums in shades of indigo and cobalt blue, rising from a surf of fragrant dianthus. The possibilities are endless. And it is from these imaginative combinations that we can be inspired -or, if you don't like what you're looking at, turned off altogether. Thankfully, that has never happened to me -I see opportunities everywhere, although I'm unable to generate much affection for cacti or carnivorous plants and I no longer indulge myself with anything that finds our climate on the England/Wales border too taxing.

One of my longstanding favourites at Chelsea is the exhibit put on by Hilliers, a remarkable nursery that began life in Hampshire 150 years ago and with a world-class arboretum near Romsey. The firm made its Chelsea debut in 1922 and has an unbroken award-winning record of attendance, with family members still at the helm. Its leading light through the major part of the 20th century was Harold Hillier, born in 1905, and who, reputedly, was still planting trees up to the time of his death, aged

eighty. We planters of trees try to remain agile into old age, but when Harold was knighted in 1983, the Queen Mother - officiating that day at the investiture ceremony and despite her own advanced years - helped bring him to his feet with a kindly hand, proving if nothing else that people need support just as much as plants.

