
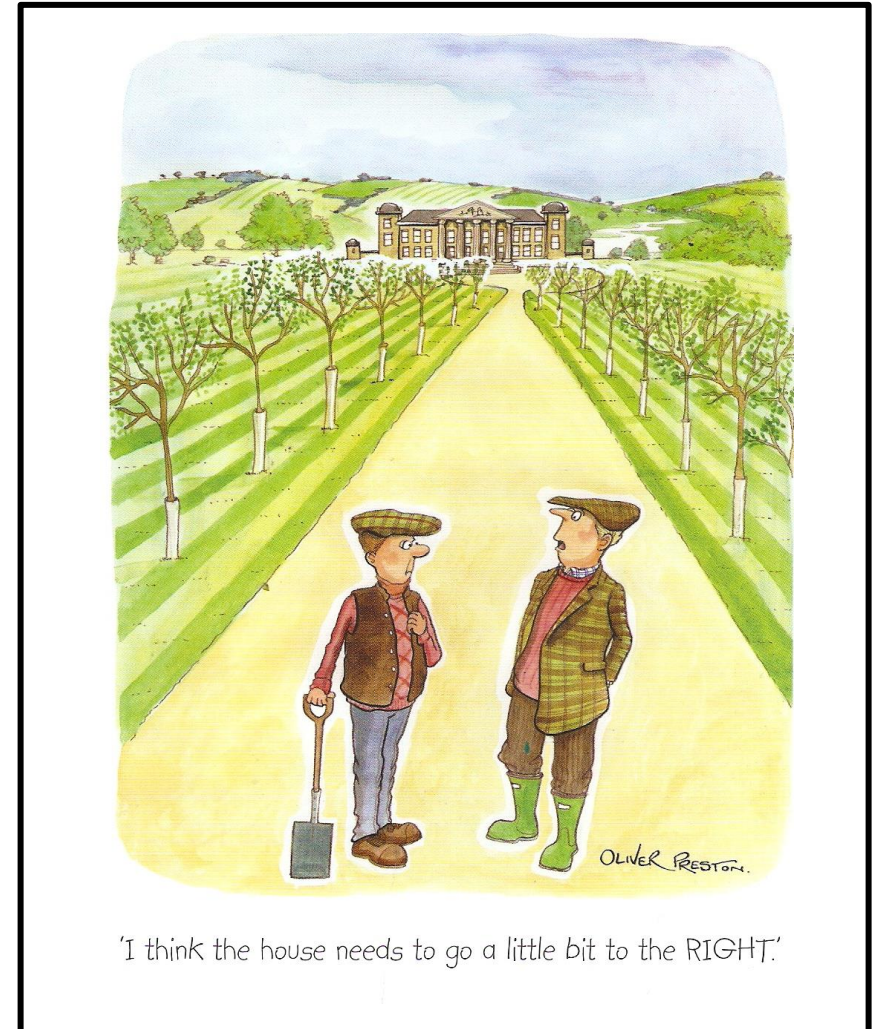


Ash Parish Garden Club

www.ashparishgardenclub.org.uk

 ash parish garden club



Monthly Newsletter Mar 2020

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>TEL NO</u>
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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.

THIS MONTHS RECIPE**STUFFED PEPPERS (use for starters or light meals)****You will need**

4 peppers (halved lengthways and seeded)

1 onion skinned and chopped

4oz bacon chopped

1.5oz butter

4 tomatoes, skinned and sliced

4oz boiled rice

salt and pepper

4 level tablespoons cheddar cheese grated

2oz fresh breadcrumbs

quarter pint stock

Oven temperature 375F. Gas mark 5

To do

Put the halved peppers in an oven-proof dish.

Lightly fry the onion and bacon in 1oz butter until golden brown.

Add the tomatoes, cooked rice, seasoning and half the cheese.

Mix the rest of the cheese with the breadcrumbs.

Put the bacon stuffing into the cases, top each with a knob of butter

Cook just above the centre of oven.

Pour the stock around the peppers before cooking.

Cook for 15-20 mins or until pepper cases are cooked.

Mrs. D. Hirst

ORCHIDS**Miltonia (Miltoniopsis)**

These orchids do not make enormous specimen plants & seldom grow at the same time as they flower. Each pseudobulb consists of 2 basal leaves & one or two terminal leaves from the top, the flower spike coming from the base or the side of the pseudobulb.

Due to their origins, living in almost perpetual spring-like weather these orchids know little or no seasonal change & therefore grow continuously without a definite flowering season.

In fact most plants flower on a nine month cycle so they seldom bloom at the same time 2years running. Best grown with minimum night temperature of 15C. They should be shaded from hot summer sun and given an even humidity. Feed regularly during the growing season.

Cymbidium

One of the most popular orchids for a house plant or as a cut flower is cymbidium, producing 4-5 large spikes of 60-70cm long lasting many weeks. Grown indoors they require bright light in winter, dappled shade in summer.

They like a cool night temperature so position in a kitchen or hallway. They require watering all year: do not allow to dry out. Feed regularly, but reduce feed in the darkest winter months.

In summer they can be put outside as long as they are protected from the hot sun & well watered. As the flowers develop tie them to a bamboo cane to look their best. Remember high night temperature & poor light will lead to poor growth and bud drop.

Ludisia

This house plant is easy to care for and very robust. Grow in a mixture of fine bark, peat or leaf mould with some coarse grit or sand to keep the compost open. Pot loosely in a shallow pot to accommodate the creeping rhizome. Shade well from direct sun, but keep in good light. This is a forest floor plant and therefore should not become completely dry.

Never spray the leaves with hard water or insecticides as it will spoil the foliage. Ludisia grows well on a Sideboard or windowsill and flowers for more than two months just make sure after flowering you prune the branch 3cm above the uppermost leaf to ensure it flowers again.

Water regularly but do not allow the house plant to stand in water. Feed often with either Fito's concentrated feed for orchids or Chempack orchid fertilizer.

Vanda

These are the nearest orchids to air plants. They get all their nourishment from the air. They should be grown in small wooden baskets or glass vases & can be hung up. They should have their roots sprayed daily with some orchid food mixed into the water. They do not thrive in the dry, warm atmosphere of a centrally heated room and are better in a conservatory or cool greenhouse.

Phalaenopsis

Excellent in centrally heated homes (not below 18c). Will grow in poor light, where most houseplants normally suffer, provided you water and feed regularly. Position in a well lit room without direct sunlight, possibly with a net curtain to give dappled shade.

Keep the orchid moist at all times but do not stand permanently in water or this will rot the roots. A little fertiliser added to the water weekly will keep the plant fit & healthy. Mist the leaves not the flowers.

When the orchid has finished flowering, cut back to the strongest eye on the stem. If the stem has started to wither cut the flower spike right at the base and a new spike should appear from the opposite side of the plant in a few months.

POETS CORNER**COME SPRING**

The ground flame of the crocus breaks the mould,
Fair Spring slides hither o'er the Southern sea,
Wavers on her thin stem the snowdrop cold
That trembles not to kisses of the bee:
Come, Spring, for now from all the dripping eaves
The spear of ice has swept itself away,
And hour by hour unfolding woodbine leaves
O'er his uncertain shadow droops the day.
She comes! The loosen'd rivulets run;
The frost-bead melts upon her golden hair;
Her mantle, slowly greening in the Sun,
Now wraps her close, now arching leaves bare
To breathe of balmier air;

Up leaps the lark, gone wild to welcome her,
About her glance the tits, and shriek the jays,
Before her skims the jubilant woodpecker,
The linnet's bosom blushes at her gaze
While round her brows a woodland culver flits,
Watching her large light eyes and gracious looks,
And in her open palm a halcyon sits
Patient - the secret splendour of the brooks.
Come, Spring! She comes on waste and wood,
On farm and field; but enter also here,
Diffuse thyself at will thro' all my blood,
And, tho' thy violet sicken into sere,
Lodge with me all the year.

Lord Tennyson

BUCKET ORCHIDS, BEES & SEX

Whilst spending an expected visit to Frimley Park Hospital I got talking to another patient who's hobby was growing orchids. He told me that he had had a 10X8 greenhouse full of about 200 of some of the rarest, unfortunately he has had to give up caring for them now and has donated his collection to Kew Gardens. He told me that his all time favourite was the bucket orchid which he explained has an involved and complicated sex life as follows.

Bucket orchids are found in the high canopy of forests in Central America. The twenty or so species produce perfume liquids that all smell more or less the same to humans but smell quite different to little iridescent bees that come in different species, each responding to the perfume of a different species of bucket orchid.

Bucket orchids contain two petals that act as gates, a bucket with perfume nectar and a pollen-filled tunnel. Male bees are attracted by the nectar which they spread on their bodies for later use in an elaborate courtship ritual to attract females. Sometimes males pass through the gate-like petals, dunk themselves with nectar, escape through the pollen-filled tunnel and fly off to other orchids and pollinate them.

Some varieties of bucket orchid produce nectar that intoxicates bees and causes them to fall into the bucket. The only way out for the bee is through a spout covered with pollen. Without this system the bee would just feed on the nectar and not pick up the pollen.

Describing euglossine bees at work on a bucket orchid Michael Pollan wrote in National Geographic, "Visiting bees busy themselves scraping fragrances from the waxy source of the flowers, using their front legs they then transfer the scents to tibia sacs carried in their rear legs like little wallets...Most animals that rely on scents to attract a mate produce it themselves; not the euglossine bee, which forages for a specific set of ingredients, getting them only from orchids but also from certain leaves and fungi, and then mixes up the perfume by 'hand.'"

"As the bees jostle each other for scents, one or more is apt to lose his footing on the slick petal and plunge into the bucket. This would not be a problem, except the viscous liquid in the bucket renders the bees' wings temporarily useless. So the bee struggles mightily to clamber up the slippery walls of the bucket until he stumbles upon a series of steps, which conduct him up and out of the pool through a narrow passageway leading out the back of the flower. As the dazed and sopping bee squeezes himself through the tunnel, he passes beneath a spring-loaded device that (you guessed it!) claps a pair of yellow pollinia on his back." If all goes according to plan the bee will go through the same ritual at another bucket orchid "and on his way through the tunnel unwittingly snags his yellow backpack on tiny hooks adapted for precisely that purpose. Pollination accomplished the bucket orchid closes up shop, collapsing its extravagant petals into a wad of crumpled yellow tissues."

Brian FPH 2020

GARDENING CALENDAR MARCH

March is the time when your gardening routine will begin to speed up – this is the time for mulching, sowing, and repotting.

Deadhead and prune

Don't forget to deadhead early spring bulbs – but don't chop back the leaves for at least six weeks after flowering. Hard-prune bush roses back to 30cm, cutting back to an outward-facing bud.

Weed and mulch

Remove weeds, then mulch beds and borders with shredded bark or compost to help stop them returning. Protect young perennials, such as hostas, with organic slug pellets.

Mow

Pay more attention to the lawn, too. Start mowing your lawn each week if the grass isn't wet. If you can, set your mower's blade height as high as possible for the first four to five weeks.

Plant

This is also your last chance to plant bare-root trees, shrubs and roses until November.

The most important task in March is probably sowing. Seed heads of perennials and place 'grow-through' supports in position. Plant summer-flowering lily bulbs in a hole three to four times their height. Sow hardy annuals to fill gaps in immature beds and borders. Replace the compost in container plants and top-dress with slow-release fertiliser. Plant herbs in windowsill trays. Plant early potatoes, onion sets and asparagus, and when the weather is warmer sow onions, parsnips and the first carrots, turnips, beetroots and salad leaves of the season under cloches. Sow celery, courgettes, tomatoes and cucumbers on the windowsill or greenhouse for planting out once all danger of frost has passed.

Sow celery, courgettes, tomatoes and cucumbers on the windowsill or greenhouse for planting out once all danger of frost has passed

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SPRING SHOW	11 April
PLANT SALE	9 May
RHS Malvern (spring)	7 - 10 May
RHS Chelsea	19 - 23 May
SUMMER SHOW	6 July
Gardeners World Live	18 - 21 June
RHS Hampton Court	6 - 12 July
RHS Tatton Park	22 - 26 July
AUTUMN SHOW	12 Sep
RHS Malvern (autumn)	26 - 27 Sep

STAVING OFF LOSS, A PLANT AT A TIME

On the edge of a rusty-red cliff at Waimea Canyon, on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, grows a seemingly unremarkable shrub, *Melanthera waimeaensis*. But these narrow-leafed plants, numbering seven in all, are anything but ordinary: They're the last of their kind growing in the wild.

M. waimeaensis is just one of hundreds of plants disappearing as invasive flora crowd out Hawaii's native species and introduced animals (such as wild boar) disrupt local vegetation. Today 134 plant varieties (or taxa) unique to the islands are thought to be extinct, and the rate of loss is accelerating: In the past six years, 12 species have vanished. "That's big time," says botanist Kenneth Wood of the Hawaii-based non profit National Tropical Botanical Garden.

Working alongside Hawaii's Plant Extinction Prevention Program staff, Wood has spent decades venturing to the archipelago's remotest corners seeking spots where rare plant species linger. From tromping through dense forest to rappelling off cliffs, the team does what's necessary to collect seeds and cuttings and to identify areas that need protection. The goal: to preserve biodiversity for future generations.

"To me," Wood says, "it's self-evident that all life-forms should be treated equally and be granted "a habitat to increase and to not be disturbed."

Maya Wei Haas

**A FEW LUCKY GIRLS IN A SPANISH VILLAGE
ARE POSED IN FLOWERED FRAMES TO GREET IN SPRING**

WHAT MAKES A TRADITION—and why do people keep traditions alive? You might ask any of the children chosen to be Las Mayas in Colmenar Viejo, a village in Spain. Each spring, a few girls typically between the ages of seven and eleven sit in elaborate altars decorated with fresh flowers to mark the new season.

As crowds pass by for two hours, the girls are to sit perfectly still, their facial expressions a sign of how seriously they take their roles. Families are honoured if their daughter are selected from the dozens of young girls who apply to participate in this local tradition with ancient roots. But taking part means weeks of feverish activity preparing the elaborate altars and dresses.

Photographer Daniel Ochoa de Olza has spent his career documenting Spanish traditions, from the serious to the sublime. At each, he wonders why they continue. He recalls a festival in Piornal, Spain, where villagers pelt an armoured, devil-like character with turnips. And there's the famous festival of San Fermin in Pamplona, Ochoa de Olza's hometown—the running of the bulls. "It's stupid and it's dangerous, but it's our tradition," he says, admitting that he's run nine times.

The Maya girls create the compositions in which they star, so the portraits aren't photographically daring, says Ochoa de Olza. But they're revelatory in the sense that, even in one's own country, there are always new customs to discover—practices with vibrancy and beauty, even if they may be fleeting.

The magic of being a Maya tends to fade as the girls grow beyond childhood, says Ochoa de Olza. As teenagers, onetime Mayas tend to laugh off their past participation, projecting cool by disavowing their youthful enthusiasm. And yet, as former Mayas have daughters of their own, the tradition continues,

-Daniel Stone

CLUB EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES – March

Please contact the person listed for further details, including costs for visitors.
March 2020

2nd	Esher/Molesey	Clematis through the seasons, with Everett Leeds Julia Presland 01372-464203
3rd	Jacobs Well	Origins of Guildford street names, with Jean Wickens Pam Lomax 01483-767225
3rd	Lightwater	Shady Garden, with Alan Edmondson Jackie Hayler 01276-475622

- 3rd Tilford Growing Sweet Peas and Starting off your Veg.
Janet Arm 01252-783133
- 4th Witley Spring Perennials, by Rosy Hardy
Gina Ellerton 01483-488460
- 5th Fernhurst Living with Trees, with Robin Walker
John Hargrove 01428-641896
- 6th Woodham/New Haw Heavenly Hostas, with John Baker
Louise Clubley 01932-347297
- 9th Elstead Herbs, growing and care, with Belinda Allen
Alison Gravett 01252-703318
- 10th Ashford (Middx) Showing can be fun, with Geoff Peach
B. Baghapour 01784-247907
- 10th Brooklands Fuchsias my way, with Derek Dexter
Ann Cochrane 01932-889722
- 10th Dorking Allotments Dig for Victory with Matthew Biggs, Tickets £3 ea
SHF clubs members - info@daha.org.uk
- 10th Ewell AGM then Pesticides, are they safe? By Andrew Halstead
Lynne Mason 0208-393-9257
- 10th Merrow Shrubs of Distinction, by John Negus. St. John's Centre
Veronica Plested 01483-569498
- 10th Wokingham AGM then talk: Colour through the seasons, with D. Miller
P. MacBrayne 01189-789040
- 10th Worplesdon Amazing Grace Hedghogs, with Yvonne
Sheila Dyke 01483-481841
- 11th Ascot Tastier almonds, sweeter apricots, by Greg Cullen
Peter Cleare 01344-622086
- 11th Ashtead Fuchsias My Way, with Derek Dexter
Jennie Pilfold 01372-373348
- 11th Nat. Veg. Surrey Growing for the Millennium Class, Mark Hall. E.Horsley
Sally Coleman 0208-399-8809
- 11th Virginia Water Hardy Plants, with Rosy Hardy
Linda Gillham 01932-564834
- 12th Egham Colour through the seasons, with David Miller
Wendy Flight 01932-455910
- 14th Hardy Plant Soc. AGM then A tapestry of foliage, with Geoff Hodge
Sandra Hartley 01372-727715
- 16th Brockham Green Growing cut flowers, by Claire Brown
Mary Golding 01737-842326
- 16th Epsom Spring Designs, with Simon Horrill
Sue Anderson 07988-343959
- 17th Banstead Making the most of what you have got, with Ben Pope 7.30
Diana Beck 01737-271243
- 18th Chiddingfold Magnificent Magnolias, by Peter Herring
Els Trovo 01428-684548

- 18th Ewhurst Painting with Plants, by Chris Beardshaw Visitors £12 Tickets from
Wendy 01483-277591
- 18th Onslow Village SPRING SHOW, then Surrey Gardens Trust, with S. Dickinson
Helen Halton 01483-538996
- 18th Sandhurst DAFFODIL SHOW, and talk on Fuchsias with Carol Gubler
Chris. Dresler 01420-768965
- 19th Bramshott/Liphook Herbs, their growth and uses, with Belinda Allen
Ann Haussauer 01428-723045
- 19th Headley (Hants) A Camera in the Garden, with K. Bird and J. Gamble
Jill Howard-Duff 01428-714073
- 19th New Soc. Camberley Designing a Winter Border, with Tracey Bull
Chris.Thompson 01252-837640
- 21st Egham Egham Daffodil Day (United Church of Egham)
Wendy Flight 01932-455910
- 21st Ellens Green/Rudgwick SPRING SHOW, 2.30 Memorial Hall, E. Green
Richard Haigh 01403-822766
- 22nd Jacobs Well SPRING SHOW
Pam Lomax 01483-767225
- 25th Haslemere Clematis through the seasons, by Everett Leeds
Roger Smith 01428-658606
- 25th Leigh Vegetables from start to harvest, with Geoff Peach
Helen Tanebourne 01306-611515
- 26th Blechingley Daffodils and Narcissus growing/showing, by John Goddard
Anne Fowler 01883-744710
- 26th Frensham/Dockenfield Winkworth Arboretum, with Peter Herring
Ruth Murphy 01252-793267
- 26th Wokingham SPRING SHOW 2pm St. Pauls, Reading Road RG41 1EH
P. MacBrayne 01189-789040
- 28th Elstead SPRING SHOW, Village Hall
Kathy Deaville 01252-702630
- 28th Epsom SPRING SHOW, 2-4 pm St. Martins Junior School, Epsom
Sue Anderson 07988-343959
- 28th Fernhurst SPRING SHOW 2pm
John Hargrove 01428-641896
- 29th Mid Southern DAFFODIL SHOW, Gardeners Hall, Windsor SL4 3DR
Alex Burke 01189-667900
- 31st Brooklands AGM and SPRING SHOW
Ann Cochrane 01932-889722