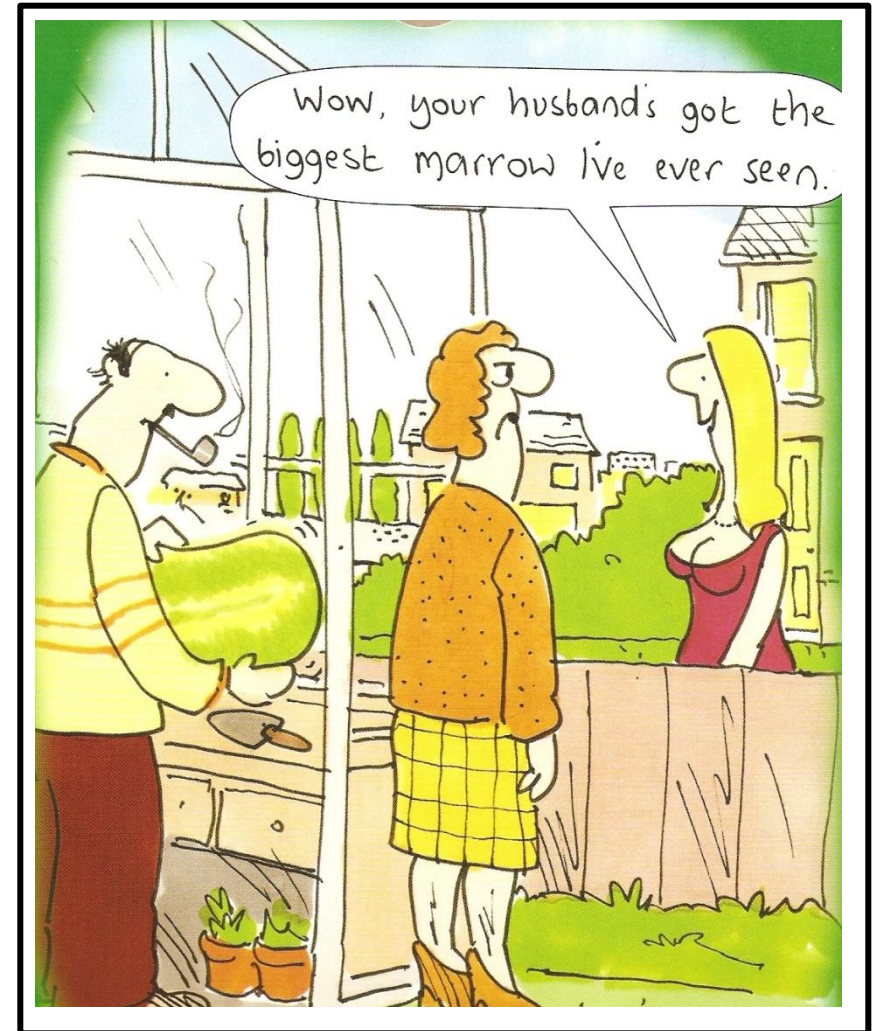


Ash Parish Garden Club

www.ashparishgardenclub.org.uk



Monthly Newsletter Sept 2019

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB September 2019

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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EDITORS NOTES

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

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB *September 2019*

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

THIS MONTHS RECIPE

Coconut rice with aubergine & tomato curry

Serves 2 Prepare 10 minutes **Cook**30 minutes

You will need

150g brown basmati rice
10g cashew nuts, roughly chopped
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 large aubergine, cut into 2cm chunks
1 large onion, sliced
1 tbsp dried curry leaves
15g fresh root ginger, chopped
350g tub tomato and chilli sauce
10g creamed coconut, chopped
Half of a 28g pack fresh coriander, chopped

To do

1 Cook the rice in boiling water for 20 minutes or until tender. Heat a dry frying pan and toast the cashew nuts, shaking the pan until they are lightly browned. Slide onto a plate. Heat the oil in the pan and fry the aubergine and onion for 10-12 minutes, stirring frequently until golden. Add the curry leaves and ginger, and fry for a further 2 minutes.

2 Stir in the tomato and chilli sauce, and cook gently for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Add a little water if the sauce starts to dry out.

3 Drain the rice and return . to the pan. Stir in the chopped coconut and coriander, and heat through for a couple of minutes until piping hot. Spoon the rice onto serving plates, top with the sauce and serve scattered with the cashew nuts.

POETS CORNER

The gardeners daughter

Lightly he laughed, as one that read my thou
And on he went; but ere an hour had passed,
We reached a meadow slanting to the north;
Down which a well-worn pathway courted us
To one green wicket in a privet hedge;
This, yielding, gave into a grassy walk
Thro' crowded lilac-ambush trimly pruned;
And one warm gust, full-fed with perfume, blew
Beyond us, as we entered in the cool.
The garden stretches southward.
In the midst
A cedar spread his dark-green layers of shade.
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON (1809-1892)

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 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.

Gardeners beware of the *Cotton Stringy Scale* invasion

An invasive pest that lays vast strings of eggs on garden plants has landed in Britain. The cotton stringy scale, or *takahashia japonica*, comes from Asia but has spread around the world with the plant trade.

It was found on what was thought to be an imported magnolia in Berkshire and has now been confirmed as an invasive pest by the RHS. The bug causes no damage but its eggs can ruin the look of a manicured garden, with dozens left on branches.

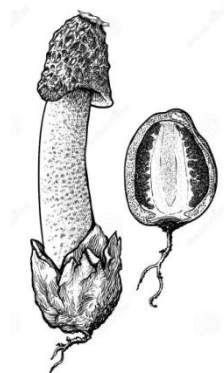
Juvenile scale insects that hatch from the eggs can spread to other plants on the wind. They be combated by pesticides that are most effective when the eggs hatch in the summer.

PHEW

Over the last five or six years Chris and I have been occasionally aware of an unpleasant smell in our back garden, when it first happened we thought that maybe some animal that had been using us as a public convenience, but no, it turned out to be a *Phallus indusiatus*.

Having discovered that our problem was a fungi we investigated further and are able to fill you all in with some details which may help you should you come across the same beast.

A expert fungi man on the internet quotes "Just look at it. To be perfectly frank, what I see is a male sexual organ, dipped in excrement, with a mesh skirt. Some people (possibly focusing on the skirt) describe it as "amazing" and "beautiful," while others will only see it as "gross" or "scary," which probably explains why its common names range from the sweet-sounding "veiled lady" to the pragmatic "basket stinkhorn." In professional circles, it's known as *Phallus indusiatus*, where indusium (Latin for "outer tunic") is the technical term for a kind of membrane and in this case refers to the skirt-like structure, and phallus"



The foul odour and phallic shape of the Stinkhorn is unmistakable. It has a white stem-like structure that erupts from an 'egg', topped with a bell-shaped, olive-brown and slimy head.

I'm told that stinkhorns are edible, but only in the egg stage: "the odourless stinkhorn 'eggs' are considered a delicacy in parts of China and Europe, where they are pickled raw and even sold in the markets. Our gardens are a vital resource for wildlife, providing corridors of green space between open countryside. We as you might all know decided some time ago

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to build a stumpery and have left log piles and dead wood to help fungi which play an important role within our ecosystems, helping to recycle nutrients from dead or decaying organic matter, and providing food and shelter for different animals.

Our problem with this particular fungi as you have no doubt gathered is the smell, you need disposable plastic gloves to remove it, it takes at least three plastic bags to subdue its smell and it still needs to be as far as possible away from the house. Brian

SHARING THE GLORY

Praise for the unsung heroes of the show circuit

Designers always get the praise for show gardens - but have you ever wondered who actually builds them? Behind every award-winning space is a team of hard-working landscape contractors whose job it is to bring a vision to life. The end result is arguably the most prestigious of all the summer shows, RHS Chelsea.

The current attraction is the lovely RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, which runs until Sunday, and in one of the gardens there this year I'm pleased to hear the landscapers are sharing the limelight with designer Cherry Carmen. She is working with members of the Association of Professional Landscapers, and six lucky apprentices - in other words, the next generation of landscapers - are being mentored as part of the build process. 'It's such a good idea,' says Cherry. It will give the apprentices invaluable practical experience of to a strict deadline. The garden, called A Place To Meet, shows how contemporary construction's hard lines can be softened with waves of natural planting, much of which has been designed to thrive in shady conditions including Aruncus, Astartia, and Rosa carina.

