

ASH PARISH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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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 Beverley Ames if you wish to view). Our membership number is 10564709.

EDITORS NOTES

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

GARDENING CALENDAR JULY

July is a time of vigorous growth and flowering – and for the gardener, this is the time for properly managing all that growth.

Weed, feed and dead-head

Continue vigilant weed control. Up the feeding: seasonal patio displays and baskets will do well with a weekly dose of liquid tomato fertiliser.

Dead-head bedding plants to encourage more flowers; cut back delphiniums and geraniums after the first flowers to encourage a second flowering, then feed with Blood, Fish and Bone. Tie in vigorous climbers firmly to their supports.

Water

July often brings the hottest summer weather, so up the water for the plants that need it. Bedding plants, leafy vegetables, seedlings and new plantings are most prone to drying out. Ideally, water your plants early in the morning or in the evening; avoid watering during the hottest part of the day.

Protect

Some pests thrive in hot summer conditions, so check susceptible plants – such as roses – for blackspot, mildew and rust, which can be rife right now.

Maintain water features

Water features will need care, too: use a rake to thin out any overgrown oxygenating plants and algae from ponds. Top up ponds in hot weather, ideally with water-butt water.

Don't mow

If it's dry, stop mowing the lawn, or, if possible, raise the height of cut. Brown patches in hot spells are inevitable but the lawn will quickly recover, so there's no need to water.

Paint

Dry summer weather is good for your garden outbuildings and fencing: paint wooden sheds, fences, arches and arbours now.

THIS MONTHS RECIPE**Matrimonial cake****You will need**

75 g (3 oz) plain flour
2.5 ml (half level tsp) bicarbonate of soda
50 g (2 oz) rolled oats
5 ml (1 tsp) lemon essence
100 g (4 oz) soft brown sugar
100 g (4 oz) butter, melted
For the filling
100 g (4 oz) dates, stoned
15 ml (1 level tbsp) soft brown sugar
2.5 ml (half tsp) lemon essence
about 150 ml (Qu pt) water

To do

In Canada and the United States these fruit-filled slices are traditionally served at the surprise 'shower' parties given for brides-to-be by their girl friends.

Grease an 18-cm (7-in) sandwich tin.

Begin by making the filling.

Chop the dates roughly and put into a pan with the sugar, essence and enough water to cover.

Bring to the boil and simmer gently until thick and smooth.

Cool before use.

Sift the flour and bicarbonate of soda.

Add the oats, lemon essence, sugar and melted butter and stir with a fork until well mixed.

Press half this mixture on to the bottom of the tin, spread with the date filling

Cover with the remainder of the crumb mixture, patting it down lightly

Bake in the oven at 190C (375f) mark 5 for 30 mins until lightly browned

Cool in tin & leave until next day before cutting

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- RHS Sandringham Flower Show – 21–26 July
- **AUTUMN SHOW 12th SEPTEMBER**

Please note Hampton Court is now a bi-annual event & Tatton Park is now every 3yrs

HEATH, MOOR AND MOUNTAIN

COWBERRY *Vaccinium myrtillus* In much of northern Europe this is a plant of old pine woods, but in this country it is more likely to be encountered on open peaty moorland where it grows among heather and bilberry. It is a low evergreen shrub, the main flower-bearing stems rising from creeping rhizomes to a height of 10–20cm. The leaves are similar in shape to those of the bilberry but are more leathery, turned down at the edges and dotted with glands underneath. The flowers are spherical or bell shaped, white tinged with pink, with a corolla about 6mm long.

Because it has comparatively large flowers which are out from June to August between the seasons of bilberry and heather, cowberry is easy to spot and is known by sight, if not by name, on acid hills and moors throughout Wales, the Pennines, and especially in Scotland. The berries are bright red and a little larger than those of bilberry. Although they are sometimes used by enthusiasts to make an ethnic Scottish form of cranberry jelly, they are virtually inedible.

CROWBERRY *Empetrum nigrum* A creeping perennial shrub usually growing among heather on moors and mountains, crowberry has a superficial resemblance to a species of *Erica* or heath. The stems are red and covered with down or hair. The leaves are parallel sided, roll edged and about 5mm long. The flowers are unlike any of the heaths, however, being spiky and composed of six narrow pink sepals. They are only 1 or 2mm across and are wind pollinated, the male and female flowers being carried on different plants. Crowberry is out in May and June. In late summer the female plants carry small purple/black berries which are about 5mm across, tasteless, but still eaten by Laplanders.

Crowberry is a plant of the uplands but it has a few outposts in the east and southwest, on dry peaty heaths.

MOVING MAPLES

By DAVID WHEELER

We put When it comes to moving house, it's all about plants. Well, that's my take on the whole disruptive business.

our Carmarthenshire pile up for sale at Easter last year, thinking (wrongly as it turned out) we'd be horti- I'd been collecting plants since childhood, many of them showing that oh-no-not-again smirk as I approached them with spade and barrow.

As one of those gardeners blighted by MCS (manic collecting syndrome, as it's known under our roof) I was driven by the need to take with us to our new home as many of my bulbs, perennials, trees and shrubs as I had the downsizing from ten acres to six.

time and energy to dig. Or, rather, pay someone else to.

While my partner worried about such practicalities as furniture, carpets and the family silver, I concentrated outdoors on living treasure.

It took five months from first viewing to completion of sale. Meanwhile, the weather maintained vigorous garden growth. As spring hurtled into summer there was no alternative but to dig the chosen plants as early as possible and transfer them individually into pots filled with moisture-retaining compost.

Thinking of those reduced but still plentiful acres which we assumed lay ahead, I began first with woody plants – young trees especially, including 40 or so three-to-five-year-old Japanese maples. These are expensive plants and have doubled in size since I bought them.

I was reluctant to leave them in situ and our prospective buyer displayed no convincing love of our bountiful garden.

So, safely uprooted and tenderly transferred to plastic pots (the better to maintain moisture), it was just a question of diligent watering until the arrival of removal lorries

We discovered that pukka removal companies don't want to transport living plants. Dirt and water would trash their trucks.

Fortunately, chums with vans were persuaded to drive them to their new destination.

Attention turned to my hydrangeas. Knowing I couldn't possibly dig, pot and nurture for several months some 300 different varieties, I selected those of scarce availability, outright rarity and precious personal provenance, such as those acquired over a 20-year span from the French national collection at Jardin Shamrock near Dieppe. From the remainder, I took cuttings.

As the year (and sale of the property) oh so slowly progressed, we changed our minds about the house we intended to buy. We settled for a town house with a generous garden but no 'land'.

Still the MCS uplifting and potting continued. By the time spring-flowering bulbs had died back, they were easily dug and packed into paper (not plastic) bags.

Perennials – notably crocosmias, epimediums, Siberian irises, Michaelmas daisies, hostas and a long tally of other delights – had to be pulled from the ground in large clumps to save as much soil around their roots as possible.

We had the space to store them, although the subsequent, months-long, daily watering proved tiresome.

We finally moved in late August. Drought was widespread, even in western counties. Famed Welsh borders terrain appeared scorched. The garden we eventually acquired is well-stocked –how could we possibly accommodate the accumulated haul? Somehow we have, remembering that old maxim 'The older you are, the closer together you can assemble your plants.' Overcrowding becomes someone else's problem. Best of all, we have loads to give away to friends – gardening's greatest joy.

DESIGN YOUR GARDEN WITH COLOUR AND JOY

*Manoj Malde is an award-winning designer, author of **Your Outdoor Room** and appeared on BBC's **Your Garden Made Perfect***

One of the greatest gifts a garden can offer is joy. The way nature's beauty, bathed in glorious colour, lifts our spirits is almost magical. For me, perhaps it's my Indian heritage -colour is part of my soul. And as a former creative director in the fashion world, I have always worked from a story or a theme and in garden design, that philosophy remains unchanged.

Choose a theme or idea that excites you, something you feel passionate about. It might be an artist's work, a culture you admire, a memorable holiday, or a

beloved era. The possibilities are limitless. A theme gives your garden a strong, cohesive identity, letting one space flow naturally into the next. It broadens your design horizons - opening doors to colour, prints, styles, and details - and most importantly, it ensures your personality shines through in every corner.

For my first RHS Chelsea Flower Show Garden in 2017, I drew inspiration from Mexican architect Luis Barragan, famed for his bold, saturated walls. I adore colour in all its moods, whether it be bright and energetic, or soft and soothing. Clients often ask me for colour, and they usually mean flowers.

But colour can come from anywhere: paint on walls, fences, benches, or sheds; in furniture, cushions, or even 3D tiles. Create a feature wall. Add coloured pots that double as focal points. In one show garden, I commissioned artists to paint oil drums for use as plant containers and even featured an antique Rajasthani door as a sculptural element.

The key is to be colour confident. Treat your garden like an outdoor room. Test your colours on a board and move it around the space. Live with the different colours around you. Observe how the changing light affects them. In my Chelsea garden, I spent four months deciding on my final palette. The orange I had originally chosen dulled under strong light so I replaced it. Even shadows, whether cast by sun or created with lighting, can bring drama and atmosphere to coloured walls.

Your theme will guide your palette. Explore tonal variations, weaving them through flowering plants, furniture, and accessories. Designers create impact by repeating colours across different garden areas, and linking them back to furnishings, so the whole space feels connected.

When it comes to hard landscaping - paths, walls etc - choose options that complement your theme. Keep the hard materials to no more than three (ideally in neutral tones), so your chosen colours and curated features remain the stars. After all, the aim is simple: create a garden that is joyful, personal, and unforgettable.

APGC TRIPS FOR 2026

Belvedere, Garden close lane, Newbury, on 11th July **(CANCELLED)**

Titsey place and gardens, Pitchfront Lodge, Water Lane, Titsey, Oxted, RH8 0SA, 30th August www.titsey.org

Leave Victoria Hall at 11:00am return by 6 pm. Cost £24 each,, includes Transport and Entrance fees. Teas available on site. Stopping on the way at Knights Garden Centre Oxted Rd, Godstone RH9 8DB