

CSGGA Newsletter

April 2021



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

Inside this Issue

- This month's Meeting Report
- Next Month's Talk – Gardens of Tudor England
- Spring Show Results
- M's Monthly Action Diary
- Green Gardening Tip of the Month
- Local Open Gardens
- Plant Sale

Vertical Gardening – Tom Cole

Tom Cole is a Horticultural Lecturer at Capel Manor College in Essex. He is becoming a regular presenter at the Gardens Association's talks and, after sharing the results of the Spring Show which he had judged (see results, elsewhere in the Newsletter), he talked to us about Climbers and Wall Shrubs, to show how we might use plants to give us height and add another dimension to the garden.

Tom started with examples of areas that provide a home for vertical planting.

He suggested that cottage gardens are a natural home for climbers, as they are "crying out" for something to creep over an archway, a seating area, a porch or up the house. Vertical gardening can include using a wall to grow plants within the brickwork, to soften its appearance and succulents or other alpine plants would work in this environment. Another option is to use fencing to support climbers.

Tom included a photo of the Athenaeum Hotel in London, where one corner of the whole building is coated in plants. This increases diversity and uses plants in a non-traditional way. If you fancy a trip up to town, there are lots of examples of urban planting to see.

Pergolas offer a way of linking one area of a garden to another and the supports can be used to grow a whole range of climbers, including roses, clematis and honeysuckle.

Tom then took us through a range of plants that work well to lift your eye up in the garden.:

Wall shrubs – *Garrya Elliptica* 'James Roof', as long as it's not in an area that is too windy or too wet.

Climbers – *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, but be careful what you wish for regarding this plant, as it will happily cover your house! Best to keep it well cut back around windows, gutters and roofs. It has beautiful bright red leaves in Autumn and yields fruit but it can look unattractive in winter. An alternative would be 'tricuspidata'.

Climbing Hydrangeas such as *anomala* subsp. *petiolaris* – this is a lovely plant which is budding now and works really well on East or North facing borders.



Honeysuckle - *Lonicera periclymenum* 'Belgica' which is very fragrant. It needs moist but well-drained soil but can be prone to mildew. If you want to intermingle it with another plant, clematis is advisable rather than a rose.

Clematis, Group 1, has a lovely scent but once it finishes flowering it starts to take over so you need to keep on cutting it, to the shape of whatever it is climbing. *Armandii*, *Ipina*, *montana*, *macropetala* are all good choices.

Group 2 Clematis options include *The President*, *Nelly Moser*, *Niobe*, and *Vyvyan Pennell*. Prune back about a quarter.

In Group 3, take a look at *Jackmanii*, *Hagley Hybrid*, *tangutica*, or *viticella*. It needs harsh pruning because it flowers on new growth. When it's finished flowering, reduce the plant by about a third to a half and you might get a second flush of flowers.

All these plants can be grown in containers, as long as they are a minimum size of 2ft x 2ft, with the right soil. Roses and clematis are brilliant together.



Roses – maybe use an obelisk and twist the plant round it, or plant them over arches and mingle sweet pea or clematis with them. You can also train them along wires on a wall.

Wisteria - Tom advises buying them in bloom. Make sure your support system is strong so use wire rather than trellis. You can espalier Wisteria. It flowers on two year old wood or more, so as long as you're removing new growth, you will get flowers.

Chaenomeles (Quince) can be trained on a wall and *Pyracantha* and *Cotoneaster* are both great for the birds who love their berries.

Finally, Josterberries are great growing against a wall and an ideal plant to train as a fan, espalier, or cordon in a small area. They need moist but well drained soil. And, of course, you can enjoy the fruits.

Tom judges green areas in the City in his capacity as a Liveryman for the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. He suggests Googling "Living Walls RHS". This explains how you can put one together for yourself and includes a whole section on climbers and wall shrubs.

Questions included:

Pruning a Chocolate Vine? Prune after flowering, be ruthless and cut into it rather than down.

What plants will work in a South facing situation? Clematis, *Chaenomeles*, soft fruit. The base of Clematis needs to be kept cool so plant around its base to shade this area.

North-facing site? Get organic matter into the soil and consider plants such as *Hydrangeas*, *Osthmanthus* or *Viburnams*. Type in "shrubs north facing RHS" and this will bring up the profile page. **Eleanor O'Connor**

Next Month's Talk 13th May 2021 via Zoom 7.45 for 8.00

Andrew Mikolajsky – Gardens of Tudor England

Our talk for May is being held in partnership with the CSG Literary Festival. **Free for CSGGA members** but tickets available via the Literary Festival website for others at £5.00 per ticket. Gardens were hugely important in Tudor times, as spaces for growing rare plants, to display of wealth and as a backdrop to intrigues of all kinds. Using Robert Dudley's garden at



Kenilworth as an example, we'll find out what plants meant to garden makers of the day. Details for the zoom log in will be sent about a week before hand and again on the day.

Spring Show 2021

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Virtual Spring Show, especially those who entered for the first time. The winners were announced at Thursday's virtual meeting and Chin Fenton was the overall winner for the second year running. Congratulations Chin. Tom Cole, our speaker, judged the anonymised photo entries and praised the quality of all the submissions. All the photo entries are on our website [here](#).

Classes	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Daffodils / Narcissi 1 stem	Ravi Kudhail	Chin Fenton	Ravi Kudhail
Class 3 Miniature Daffodils / Narcissi	Chin Fenton		
Class 4 Multi headed Daffodil / Narcissi	Chin Fenton	Briony Wickenden	Briony Wickenden
Class 5 Single Tulip	Chin Fenton	Briony Wickenden	Caroline Jackson
Class 6 Flowering shrubs and trees	Chin Fenton		
Class 7 Pot of Primulas / Primroses	Karen Hall		
Class 9 Any other flower	Briony Wickenden		
Class 11 Any other vegetable	Caroline Jackson		
Class 12 Flowering Pot Plant	Ravi Kudhail	Ravi Kudhail	Amy Gibbs
Class 13 Foliage Pot Plant	Briony Wickenden	Margaret Dykes	Ravi Kudhail
Class 14 Flowers from My Garden	Briony Wickenden		
Class 15 Mixed Foliage in a jug or vase	Chin Fenton		
Class 16 Cactus or Succulent	Margaret Dykes	Briony Wickenden	Chin Fenton

M's Action Diary for March

- Remove any suckers from around the base of trees.
- Keep deadheading daffodils, tulips etc. but do not remove leaves until they have turned brown. Give them a good handful of Growmore to build up strength for flowering next year.
- Prune flowering currants, forsythia, kerria and winter flowering jasmin.
- Penstemons can be cut back to new growth at the end of April/beginning of May
- Cut last year's shoots to buds of lavaterias.
- Agapanthas and other flowering bulbs love being pot-bound and flower better as a result. If necessary, divide into smaller groups and repot.
- Pull away, or cut back, dead outer leaves from phormias.
- Check for lily beetle on new shoots of lilies and crown imperials.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs such as gladioli
- Now is the time to start a new lawn or repair an existing one, by laying new turf. Existing lawns should be given a feed with a general fertilizer.

Green Gardening Tip – Welcome hedgehogs into your garden

Hedgehogs eat slugs and snails and other pests which cause damage to plants but, sadly, the hedgehog population in the UK is in decline as a result of urbanisation and pesticide use. Hedgehogs hibernate over

winter, from about November to April, in a nest of leaves or logs called a 'hibernaculum', so they will be starting to emerge for the summer now. Do your bit to support them and welcome them into your garden.

- Avoid using slug pellets, they can harm a hedgehog that eats a slug which has been poisoned
- Provide nesting sites – they will nest under sheds, amongst piles of wood and leaves
- Approach your compost heap with caution as hedgehogs love to sleep underneath to keep warm.
- If you're building bonfires make sure you burn on the same day, this will make sure that hedgehogs don't get a chance to climb under before you've started your fire.
- Before you start cutting your lawn make sure if you have any high grass to check for hedgehogs that may be hiding.
- Dispose of any food waste in your garden carefully so hedgehogs don't eat the wrong things.
- Watch the RHS video on hedgehogs <https://www.rhs.org.uk/videos/wildlife/How-to-help-our-hedgehogs>



Local Open Gardens

Chalfont St Giles Open Gardens Day organised by the Memorial Hall Fundraisers will be held on **Sunday 6th June** from 11.00 to 17.00. More information will be provided nearer the time.

Chiltern Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association has arranged visits to Bledlow Manor Gardens, Bledlow Ridge on **25th June** and Chenies Manor on **14th September**. More details can be found on our [website](#).

Plant Sale – Saturday, 8th May 9.30 – 11.30



We are delighted that our annual plant sale will be held on the Village Green this year though, of course, we will have to follow the COVID guidelines in place at the time.

If you are able to help in any way, we welcome volunteers, especially with the transportation of the tables but also with setting up, selling and clearing up at the end.

If you have any plants you've been nurturing please bring them to the Village Green between 9.00 and 9.30, if possible, and remember to include a **plant label** to identify them. If you have plants but are unable to deliver to the Village Green please get in touch with a member of the Committee and we'll arrange to collect them.

New Gardens Association Facebook Group

Our new Facebook Group got off to a flying start and we have 5 new Gardens Association members as a result! The Group now has 72 members, we've had 3 or 4 questions and requests for advice and a water butt changed hands. If you are on Facebook, and have not yet join our page you can find it at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/437169020907963>

Holiday 2021
The Gardens of Essex and Suffolk
5 days Sunday 27th June to Thursday 1st July 2021

Our holiday to Essex and Suffolk, postponed last year, has been re-arranged by Tailored Travel and, provided the easing of lockdown goes to plan, it will be able to go ahead. Those previously booked will be receiving a letter from Tailored Travel in due course but we have secured a few additional rooms, so if you would like to join us, please let Briony know.

Travelling by executive coach, we will stay four nights on half board basis at the 4* Stoke by Nayland Hotel www.stokebynayland.com on the outskirts of Leavenheath.

The hotel is located in a countryside setting in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 10 miles from the centre of Colchester. Facilities at the hotel include a restaurant, bar, spa with swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna, steam room and a Jacuzzi and two golf courses! All rooms are en-suite and feature television, telephone, hairdryer. A double room will cost £599.00 per person, for single occupants there is an additional £99.00 supplement. Lunches, holiday insurance and gratuities are also not included.



We have agreed a full programme of excursions that will appeal to both garden lovers and art enthusiasts. The cost of the holiday includes the services of a blue badge guide for 3 days and entry to all the gardens, except Ickworth (which will be free to National Trust members). We will be visiting:

[Wyken Hall Gardens & Vineyard](#)

Southwold

[Layer Marney Tower – guided tour](#)

[Gainsbrough's House and Gardens](#)

[Marks Hall Gardens & Arboretum](#)

[Ickworth House \(National Trust\)](#)

[Adnams Brewery](#) (not inc)

Colchester

Lavenham

[Gibberd Gardens](#)

Ipswich – guided tour

[Green Island Gardens](#)

[Helmington Hall Gardens](#)

For more details go to our [website](#) or click on the “View Your Tour” tab at www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote **csgg211**.

Your CSGGA Committee

Chairman and Membership Secretary:

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Committee Members:

Caroline Jackson	01494 876685
Eleanor O'Connor	01494 875646
Sam Patel	01494 875319

New Committee members are always welcome. We are a friendly bunch! Please contact a committee member to find out more if you're interested in joining us.