

CSGGA Newsletter

December 2022



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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Christmas Party 2022



The Christmas spirit was very much in evidence at the White Hart for our Christmas Party, as the photos below will show. Our hosts, Yin and James, had laid out four large tables in an exclusive area away from the bar and, following complimentary drinks provided by the Gardens

Association, we were treated to a delicious festive meal. The traditional quiz was held, and in true teacher style, Sam "played a blinder" by repeating last year's quiz to see if we retained knowledge – we don't! However, it was all for fun and chocolate coins! The raffle prizes were won by Janice Fielden and Eileen Williams.





As part of the evening's celebrations, the Edwards Cup usually presented at the Spring Show was, very belatedly, presented to Mary Bentall who was awarded the most points at the 2022 Spring Show.

The new format for the Christmas Party met with resounding approval of all those who attended and the committee, in particular, were very grateful that they were able to enjoy the event to the full. Many thanks to Sam Patel for organising the event.

Next Month's Meeting – Thursday 12th January, 2023

Timothy Walker - Creating a year round border

Always a popular speaker, Timothy Walker will be joining us to deliver his talk "Bordering on Insanity". His talk looks exclusively at the herbaceous border covering the principles & practicalities to create a border that is interesting all year round. It concludes with a look at a collection of must-have plants for such a border, and associations in which they may be grown.

M's Action Diary for December

Merida wishes all members the compliments of the season and happy gardening in 2023

- Prune acers, birches and grapevines now. Later pruning results in sap bleeding
- If your roses suffered from blackspot this year, clear fallen leaves away from the base of the plant to reduce reinfection
- Prune large or overgrown fruit trees, other than plum, to control size, shape and increase productivity
- Remove old leaves of hellebores to prevent leaf-spot disease infecting new foliage, and to reveal the flowers
- Plant bare-rooted trees.
- Continue to remove spent flowers from pansies, violas and cyclamen
- Do not walk on frozen lawns because you will leave footprints.
- Keep feeding wild birds with seeds, nuts, fat balls (no netting) fresh and dried fruit that is past their best, also fresh water
- Pinch out tips of wallflowers to promote bushy growth
- Get mower serviced.



Green Gardening Tip

Why we should look after the birds in the garden

People in the UK love their gardens whether they are vegetable gardens or flora and fauna. However, plants will also attract lots of other wildlife, including many different species of bird. That raises the question: are birds beneficial for your garden and should they be encouraged? Wayne from Birds in my back garden – A site dedicated to birds found in your back garden cites the following reasons:

1. Birds can help your garden grow.
2. Birds provide natural pest control.
3. They can assist with your garden's weed control.
4. Birds produce natural fertilizer and pesticides.
5. They help with flower pollination.
6. Birds assist with rodent control.
7. Birds enhance the biodiversity of your garden.
8. They can increase your garden's beauty.
9. Birds help with disease prevention.
10. You'll assist with wildlife and environmental conservation.



For more detail go to [10 Reasons Why Birds Are Good for Your Garden – Birds in my back garden](#)



CSGGA Christmas Tree

The Parish Council has, once again, arranged a Christmas tree trail in the village. The route of the trail is approx 3km or 30-40 minutes walk, a great way to walk off the excesses of Christmas. As one of the village organisations, the Gardens Association was asked to decorate one of the trees. The Committee, and Caroline, in particular, pulled out all the stops. Once again our tree was decorated with natural materials mainly collected by Caroline who wrote on the [Gardens Association Facebook page](#):

"Many thanks to cousin Ann Strik who took me to some wonderful sites near Dunster, to forage for our Garden Association's community Christmas tree.

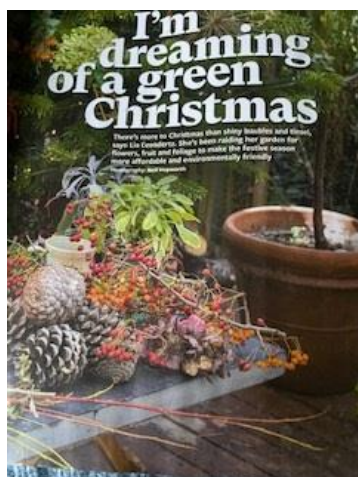
Thanks to the gardener at my aunt's nursing home for the agapanthus seed heads, they made the wonderful star.

Thanks to Briony's family who made all the Xmas gnomes.

Thanks to the local country side that provided

the clematis and teasel flower heads.

Thanks to the Parish Council for providing the tree."



The flowerpot gnomes were an afternoon's activity for my grandchildren and the wool and red beads used to make them came from a local charity shop.

Those of you who are members of the RHS will have seen the article in the December issue of the Garden magazine, all about making the festive season more affordable and environmentally friendly. We were ahead of the curve!

Our tree is located on the junction of The Deanway and Hillside Close. There are ten trees, which have all been decorated by charities and community groups in the village. To vote for your favourite, either use the form on the link below, pick up a leaflet in the local shops or in the Chalfont St Giles Community Library. Return your form with your favourite tree and contact details to the library. [Christmas Tree Trail 2022 | Chalfont St Giles Parish Council \(chalfontstgiles-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.chalfontstgiles-pc.gov.uk/Christmas-Tree-Trail-2022)

Wishing you all a merry Christmas
and a happy new year.



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