

CSGGA Newsletter

June 2021



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

Inside this Issue

- This month's Summer Soiree
- Next Month's Talk
- M's Monthly Action Diary
- Green Gardening Tip of the Month
- Open Gardens
- The Queens Green Canopy

Our Summer Soiree at BLAA

After a long and, at times difficult, 16 months where we have been restricted to seeing each other via zoom or participating in the virtual shows, at last we were able to get together and enjoy each other's company. We were quite overwhelmed at the response for places and were oversubscribed well before the deadline. We'd thought we'd easily comply with the COVID rule of 30, so had a quick rethink and arranged for 2 groups of 25 arriving at separate times.

After several days of fine dry weather, the sky looked rather threatening as the afternoon wore on. Fortunately, as we all arrived at Back Lane Allotments so did the sun! Such was the delight in seeing each other the strawberry tarts and prosecco sat on the table while friends caught up with each other's news. Stratton Bakery again came up trumps with the most delicious strawberry tarts.

Gardens Association member, Alan Clark, as Treasurer of BLAA, shared with each group a brief history of allotments and BLAA in particular. The annual charge for an allotment is £25 and such has been the popularity of the allotments during the pandemic that they now have a waiting list of 20. Jacqui Greenham, who is the Secretary of BLAA, is delighted and explained that they are now planning to create more allotments in a previously uncultivated area of the site.



Some lovely comments taken from some of the emails we received after the event:

"A big Thank You for a fabulous Soirée. It was so good to meet up with old friends in person and to meet new Association members."

"Some of the allotments look so happy. They exude TLC in abundance, absolutely inspiring! We have to rethink our veg and flower efforts."

"just a quick thank you for a great evening last night at the allotments. We enjoyed it very much"

"It was lovely to have something in the diary and then to meet up with many people I hadn't seen for so long."

"It was a lovely "Garden Party" So nice to meet up with people after the long break and get the bits of gossip one has been missing!! Thanks to everyone who helped out "

It was lovely to see everybody, hear Alan's potted history (pun intended!) & admire all the planting - not to mention the sheds.



Summer Soiree at the Back Lane Allotments – 10th June 2021

Next Month's Talk - 8th July, 2021 Mark Lane - The Royal Tree Canopy

Sadly, we will not be meeting in the Memorial Hall as we'd hoped as the COVID restrictions have not been lifted and our speaker is not happy to travel by public transport to us. Mark Lane is Head Gardener at Buckingham Palace and is joining us for a second time. His talk about the Royal Gardens covers the history of trees in the garden, the way plants are accessioned, maintenance and enhancement and planning for the future.

"Buckingham Palace: A Royal Garden" is a new book written by garden writer Claire Masset. The book offers insights into the garden's rich history and its use today as part of a working royal palace. Atmospheric images by the award-winning photographer John Campbell reveal how the garden changes and develops over the course of a year. Throughout the book seasonal gardening tips are provided by Mark Lane, Head Gardener at Buckingham Palace.

The following facts and figures about the gardens at Buckingham Palace have been taken from a press release about the book's publication:

- In 1762 Queen Charlotte established a menagerie in the garden. It included an elephant, monkeys and one of the first zebras ever seen in England.
- Since 2000 the garden has held the National Collection of Mulberries. Mulberry trees were first planted in the garden by James I in 1608.
- Traditionally, The Queen hosts three Garden Parties a year at Buckingham Palace. Each is attended by 8,000 guests, who consume around 27,000 cups of tea, 20,000 sandwiches and 20,000 slices of cake.
- Since 2008 the island in the lake has been home to five beehives, which produce around 160 jars of honey a year for use in the royal kitchens.
- There are more than 1,000 trees in the garden, including 98 plane trees, 85 different species of oak and 40 different types of mulberry tree.



- The Rose Garden contains 25 beds of roses. Each bed is planted with 60 rose bushes of a different variety, and no two adjacent beds are of a similar colour.
- Royal Collection Trust's 'Buckingham Palace Gin' is infused with botanicals from the garden, including lemon verbena, hawthorn berries, bay leaves and mulberry leaves.

M's Action Diary for June

- Dead head rhododendrons and azaleas and give appropriate feed.
- Cut euphorbias and oriental poppies down to soil level after flowering. Fresh leaves will grow and some poppies will flower again.
- Cut down dead foliage of Spring bulbs when it has turned brown.
- Prune Spring and early Summer flowering shrubs such as deutzia, kolwitzia, forsythia, philadelphus and weigela.
- Divide bearded iris after flowering
- Lightly prune evergreen clematis including armandii
- Some early flowering perennials such as geraniums and aquilegias require cutting back, unless you wish them to seed.
- Dead head delphiniums and lupins to encourage a second flush of flowers.
- Remove faded blooms from roses and give them a boost by gently hoeing rose food into the ground around them.

Green Gardening Tip – Water Wisely

Water is a precious resource and supplies in the UK are under pressure from the effects of climate change, population increase and the need to protect the environment, such as river levels for wildlife. Rainwater should be the first choice for gardens. A water butt connected to a drainpipe can soon fill up and save using mains water.



Water as much as necessary, and as little as possible. Each plant has different needs - a container plant in hot sunny weather may need watering daily, whereas a mature shrub might only need a drink in extreme drought. Creating healthy soil with lots of organic matter is a key step to saving water.

However, you'll probably need to water the garden beds if the weather is dry and bright for a prolonged period. Don't just lightly sprinkle each day, it helps pests like slugs and encourages shallow rooting. Instead give a good soaking when the soil is dry a few inches below the surface - stick your finger in to see. For most gardens, this should last at least a week of hot, dry weather.

For more advice and suggestions see www.rhs.org.uk/advice/gardening-for-the-environment/water

Chalfont St Giles Open Gardens

Chalfont St Giles Open Gardens Day organised by the Memorial Hall Fundraisers was held on Sunday 6th June. Tony Hoare reports:

"We sold 558 tickets and made just over £4,360 for the Memorial Hall, this is the most we have ever made at this event.

The gardens looked great, the cream teas were most successful and lots of plants were sold.

Most importantly I believe that everyone had a really enjoyable sociable day after the last year plus of lockdowns.

So a big thank you to the gardeners who opened their gardens, all the helpers and of course all the visitors."

Open Garden in Chalfont St Peter – 3rd July

On Saturday, July 3rd, from 14:00 to 17:00 at Craleigh House, Austenwod Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9AD. A delightful one acre garden in a relaxed setting. OK for wheelchairs. Plants for sale and afternoon tea served. £5.00 entry. Parking close-by in St Joseph's Church car park. Proceeds from the opening will benefit an Abbeyfield Home in Old Beaconsfield.

National Garden Scheme – virtual garden visits

If you've been inspired by some of the gardens you've visited recently and want to learn how to turn your patch into something to rival Chelsea why not take a look at some of the gardens designed by professionals?

<https://ngs.org.uk/discover-more/lifestyle/virtual-garden-visits-designers-gardens/>

The Queen's Green Canopy



You will have read in last month's newsletter that we held back some of the proceeds from the plant sale to use for The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The [Queen's Green Canopy](#) will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built. This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

If you have any thoughts on how we should use the money or simply want to get involved. Please let a member of the committee know.

This month on our Facebook Group we've identified weeds and discussed the merits of leaving them be; been advised to watch a programme about the creation of the new RHS garden, Bridgewater; learnt about gardening in tune with the moons phases and have been offered spare plastic plant pots. The Group now has 77 members. If you are on Facebook, and have not yet join our page you can find it at

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

Your CSGGA Committee

Chairman and Membership Secretary:

Briony Wickenden Mulberry House, 54 Milton Fields, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4EP 01494 870482 brionywickendke@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jan Bradley, 23 The Lagger, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4DH 01494 874704 janbradley4@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Margaret Dykes, 4 Roughwood Fields, Roughwood Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4AA 01494 874511 margaretdykes@btinternet.com

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.

www.csgga.org