

CSGGA Newsletter

December 2023



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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**Wishing you a very merry
Christmas and a happy
and healthy 2024**

Christmas Party at the White Hart

A great time was had by all at our Christmas party this year, the White Hart certainly did us proud. The food was delicious and almost too plentiful, the waiting staff were very attentive and the sounds of enjoyment filled the room. Sam Patel had created a taxing quiz which stimulated much discussion on the tables and more than a little rivalry. The ever-popular raffle raised £158 which helped fund the welcome drink and prizes for the raffle, quiz and table centre competition. Thank you to those who donated additional raffle prizes.

The main thanks, however, must go to Sam Patel who masterminded the evening with support from Raj and the rest of the committee. We received some excellent feedback after the evening, so will no doubt be repeating the event again next year, but you might need to book early!





Christmas Table Decoration Winner – Janice Fielden



M's Action Diary for December

- Prune spiraea hard to ensure a good shape, colour and compact size.
- Pinch out tips of wallflowers to promote bushy growth.
- Remove oriental hellebore leaves to enable flowers to be seen more easily in a few weeks time.
- Prune acers and birches now, if really necessary – later pruning can result in sap bleeding.
- Plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs.
- Do not walk on frozen grass because you will leave footprints.
- If your roses suffered from blackspot this year, clear away fallen leaves from the base of the plants to reduce risk of infection.
- Cut off spent flowers of violas, pansies, primroses and cyclamen to keep them tidy, prevent disease and to encourage more blooms.
- Cut out all the stems of rambling roses that have flowered. Tie in new growth.
- Mulch between perennials when soil is damp but not waterlogged.
- Check for vine weevil grubs when planting out perennials, especially hellebores.
- Keep feeding the birds with food that are high in fat.
- Prune large or overgrown fruit trees, except plums and cherries, to control shape, size and to increase productivity.

Merida wishes all members the compliments of the season and happy gardening in 2024.

Green Gardening Tip – Using Cardboard in the Garden

Instead of sending all the cardboard packaging accumulated over the Christmas period, why not make use of it in the garden? Cardboard is one of the most cost-effective, labour-efficient, nature-friendly, biodegradable solutions to weed-control available to us. Use uncoated, undecorated, plain brown cardboard boxes - as large as possible for ease of use - and with the packaging tape or traces of plastic packaging removed. Avoid using shiny, plastic-coated or waxy coated card or cardboard as these are likely to contain environmentally unfriendly chemicals.

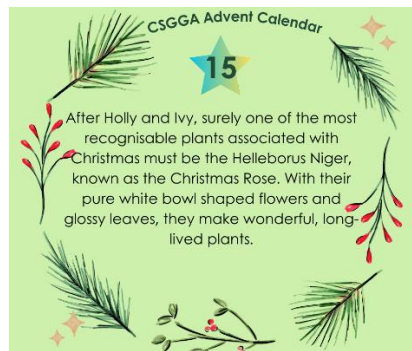
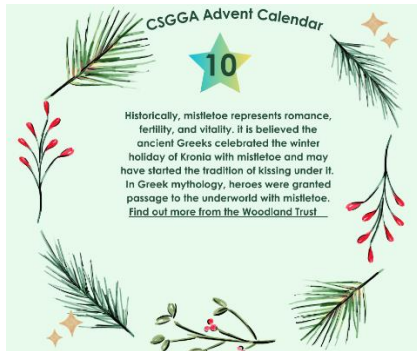


Flatten Cardboard boxes to use as a mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs or in no-dig systems – simply lay them on the ground, weigh them down with bricks or stones and cover with compost.

Alternatively, tear cardboard into small pieces and gradually add it to your compost bin, mixed with green waste such as vegetable peelings and grass clippings. Apparently earthworms seem to love cardboard and will quickly eat it and turn it into lovely rich organic matter.

Our Advent Calendar on Facebook

Have you seen our advent calendar on Facebook. Every day we have posted a gardening tip related to Christmas. If you've not seen it, click here and take a look. [Chalfont St Giles Gardens Association FB Group | Facebook](#)



Holiday to North Wales and RHS Bridgewater Sunday 23rd June to Thursday 27th June, 2024

We will be visiting gardens in Wales and NW England staying at a 4* hotel in Wrexham and this year we will have a Blue Badge Guide for days 2-4. Travelling by executive coach, we will stay four nights on half board basis at the [Ramada Plaza Hotel](#)

A double or twin room will cost £574.00 per person, for single occupants there is an additional £99.00 supplement. Lunches, holiday insurance and gratuities are also not included. For more details of the holiday, please click [here](#)

We have agreed a full programme of excursions that will appeal to garden lovers and entry to the gardens is included, except National Trust Gardens, so free to NT members. We will be visiting:



Winterbourne House and Garden
Wollerton Hall
Plas Newydd Country House and Garden
Bodnant Gardens
Liverpool – city tour
Chirk Castle
Chester – guided city tour
RHS Bridgewater
Powis Castle

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