

CSGGA Newsletter

April 2022



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

Inside this Issue

- Do Plants Get Stressed? Alan Clark
- Spring Show Results
- Next Meeting – 12th May – Making Space for Wildlife John Tyler
- M's Action Diary for April
- Visit to Pashley Manor and Heathside
- Green Gardening Tip of the Month
- Plant Sale – 14th May 2022
- Community Orchard
- Next Outing – Saturday, 30th July
- Other Dates for the Diary

Do Plants Get Stressed? Alan Clark

Tom Cole sadly succumbed to Covid just before he was due to give us his talk at our April meeting but our own Alan Clark very kindly stood in at short notice.

We know Alan has a thirst for knowledge, and particularly that based on science, so his talk reflected his breadth of understanding and technical expertise when it comes to plants. The title of his powerpoint presentation was "Pull Yourself Together", which was his take on the stresses experienced by plants.

Plants are subject to a number of sensitivities, including light, heat, moisture, and touch. They respond to their environment and produce chemicals which trigger reactions. Nature is basically physics and there is a reason (with corresponding formulae and chemical

compounds) for everything. And of course scientists are discovering more and more about plants as time goes by – a quick look at the Nobel Prizes in this field shows that it spans the last century with the most recent in 1997 – as the means of analysing keeps getting more sophisticated.

Plants, as a part of nature, are the product of evolution. Alan quoted Charles Darwin whose famous quote is an observation that "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change."

Plants can be very clever. For example, when attacked some make themselves more toxic by activating a chemical. Scientists sprayed tomato plants with said chemical and then unleashed caterpillars on them. This made the caterpillars start eating each other instead of the plant. I have a new found respect for the tomato plants I grow!

Certainly, plants are a lot more complicated than the average lay person probably appreciates!

Eleanor O'Connor

The Gardens Association Spring Show

We were delighted to see so many entries into the Spring Show this year. After two years of virtual shows, I think we had a bumper crop – pun intended. I was concerned that the warm weather we'd enjoyed might have resulted in a smaller entry in the daffodils class, but I needn't have worried only the 3 miniature daffodil class was sparse. Otherwise, members had entered some magnificent daffodils of all shapes and sizes and the tulips too were plentiful and varied. The rhubarb too had some great entries but Jan Bradley triumphed again, sadly I didn't take a photo. It was great to



see some members entering for the first time and I hope we'll see them enter again when we hold the Autumn Show, at the AGM in October. The raffle prize of a Garden Voucher was won by Mary Holloway.



	1st	2nd	3rd
Class 1 Daffodils/Narcissi – 1 Stem, Own Foliage	Briony Wickenden	Briony Wickenden	Amanda Dye
Class 2 Daffodils/Narcissi – 3 Stems, Own Foliage	Mary Bentall	Moiya Stroomer	Margaret Dykes
Class 3 Miniature Daffodils/Narcissi – 3 Stems, Own Foliage	Eileen Baldwin	na	na
Class 4 Multi-headed Daffodils/Narcissi – 1 Stem, Own Foliage	Moiya Stroomer	Liliane Ah-Sun	Briony Wickenden
Class 5 Tulips – 3 Stems, Own Foliage	Moiya Stroomer	Margaret Dykes	Peter Bentall
Class 5a Tulip - Single Stem, Own Foliage	Briony Wickenden	Amanda Dye	Liliane Ah-Sun
Class 6 Flowering Shrubs or Trees – 1 or more varieties	Amanda Dye	Peter Bentall	Mary Holloway
Class 7 Pot of Primulas, Primroses or Auriculas	Gill Aikens	Sam Patel	Mary Holloway
Class 8 Petite flower arrangement –6" cube	Mary Bentall	Caroline Newton	Janice Feilden
Class 9 Any other flower - 1 Kind, 3 Stems	Mary Bentall	Eileen Baldwin	Peter Bentall
Class 10 Rhubarb – 3 Sticks, forced with leaves OR 3	Jan Bradley	Margaret Dykes	Margaret Dykes
Class 11 Any other Vegetable.	Margaret Dykes	Margaret Dykes	na
Class 12 Flowering Pot Plant (in flower)	Peter Bentall	Mary Bentall	Sam Patel
Class 13 Foliage Pot Plant – Max pot size 8"	Eileen Baldwin	Eleanor O'Connor	Briony Wickenden
Class 14 Flowers From My Garden (Not shrubs)	Mary Bentall	Margaret Dykes	Peter Bentall
Class 15 Mixed foliage in a jug or vase	Eileen Baldwin	Janice Feilden	Jan Bradley
Class 16 Cactus or succulent	Gill Aikens	Sam Patel	Briony Wickenden

Position and Points - each were awarded a garden voucher.

First	Mary Bentall	14
Second	Margaret Dykes	13
Third	Eileen Baldwin	11
Third	Briony Wickenden	11



Next Meeting 12th May - Making Space for Wildlife – John Tyler

With so many ancient habitats disappearing from our countryside each year, even the smallest garden can provide a vital sanctuary for wild plants and animals. We look at a range of simple ways to make a garden more attractive to wildlife (and more interesting for us), including garden design, choosing the right plants, building a pond, establishing a wildflower meadow and managing your garden in a wildlife-friendly way.

M's Action Diary for April

- Continue to deadhead faded daffodils, narcissus, pansies and violas. Bulbs planted in grass require a general fertilizer to encourage flowering next spring.
- 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.
- Tidy phormiums by pulling away dead leaves.
- Agapanthus and other flowering bulbs love being pot bound, and flower better as a result, but if necessary divide into smaller groups or repot into larger containers.
- Prune flower currants, forsythia, kerria and winter flowering jasmine after flowering.
- Hard prune cotinus if large colourful leaves are required, foregoing the "smoke flowers"
- Keep an eye open for lily beetles on fritillary and lily leaves, and vine weevils – the latter particularly love pot grown heucheras.
- Remove suckers from around the base of trees.

Outing to Pashley Manor, East Sussex and Heathside

We enjoyed a fabulous day out visiting [Pashley Manor](#), Wadhurst and [Heathside](#), Cobham. Very different, particularly in scale, but both so inspirational. So lucky to have the perfect weather, too. If you didn't join us, I'd highly recommend a visit to both though for Heathside it would have to be for one of their NGS open days. More photos can be found on our [Facebook page](#) and, when I get round to it, on our [Website](#)!



Green Gardening Tip from RSPB – Flower Borders

Although flower borders are not natural habitats, they can be extremely valuable for wildlife. They provide food and cover for many animals and act as a refuge for some wild flowers that are becoming rare in the countryside. Choose carefully and you can have something in flower right through the year.

It is best to grow native species in your flower border, as these attract the most wildlife. However many non-native species are rich in nectar so are a magnet for insects, which in turn draw in more insects, birds and other animals.

Make the most of your garden

- Many native wildflowers that are getting rare in the countryside are finding a refuge in gardens. If you'd like to grow them, make sure you get plants from specialist nurseries. Never take plants from the wild.
- Include plants that flower late or early in the season to encourage bees and butterflies throughout spring, summer and autumn.
- Regularly dead-heading your plants will keep the flowers coming - and the wildlife.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/flowering-plants/>

Plant Sale – Saturday 14th May

We will be holding the Gardens Association Plant Sale on the Village Green 9.30 – 12. Noon unless we sold out! We welcome any contributions of plants as well as offers of help with the sale on the day – setting up the stall, selling plants and clearing away afterwards. We hope you are all busy dividing plants and growing seeds!

We will be giving away purple and silver plants to the children who visit the stall for them to grow on to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Community Orchard

Plans are being made for an orchard awareness day on **Thursday 2nd June** in partnership with Milton's Cottage 11.00 – 13.00. Fun activities for all ages and an orchard themed cafe on the Village Green 14.00 – 16.30. If you can make a cake or other orchard themed or help on the day, we'd be delighted. Please let Briony or Sam know. Watch this space!

Our Next Outing

We have arranged a visit to the National Arboretum, near, Burton on Trent, and Hill Close Gardens in Warwick, for **Saturday, 30th July**. Cost £30 member, £35 for guests. If you receive the newsletter by post and wish to join us, please contact Eleanor for a copy of the details and booking form.



Your Committee

Chairman and Membership Secretary:

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Secretary: Jan Bradley, 23 The Lagger, Chalfont St Giles,
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Committee Members:

Mary Holloway	01494 875793
Caroline Jackson	01494 876685
Eleanor O'Connor	01494 875646
Sumitra 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.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday, 14th May 2022

Plant Sale – 9.30 – 12.00 unless sold out CSG Village Green

Thursday, 2nd June

Orchard Awareness Day 11.00 – 13.00 at Milton's Cottage for fun activities for all the family and afterwards on the Village Green for an Orchard Café.

Thursday, 14th June – not the usual 2nd Thursday

Evening Outing to Stoke Poges Memorial Garden, Church Lane, Stoke Poges SL2 4NZ 18.00 Members to make their own way there but we might be able to help facilitate car shares.