

CSGGA Newsletter

April 2020



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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Virtual Spring Show, 2020

For those of you who missed the original announcement, we thought it would be fun to try to hold a Virtual Spring Show while we all are in lockdown. So we set up an online photo contest site where members can upload photographs of their entries into the relevant class.

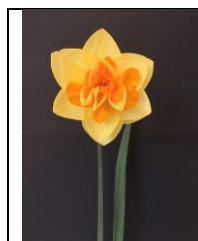
Each "contest" will finish every Sunday at 6.00 pm, when all members will be invited to vote regardless of whether they have entered.

We will "launch" new classes every week, initially following the classes from the Spring Show Schedule published below, but given the movement restrictions we are all under, we are open to any suggestions once these have all been exhausted.

We would like to encourage all members to enter at least one class and we hope everyone will find something they can enter, perhaps a beautiful tulip or a stick of rhubarb, a foliage pot plant or a flower arrangement. It's about entering for fun, as well. **You only need a camera and a computer, iPad/tablet or iPhone/smartphone.**

There's big money to be won! We will be keeping the scores and the cup and cash prizes will be awarded at our next meeting! Cash prizes are given for the top three entries in each class and the Edwards Cup is awarded to the member with the most points overall. For more information, the links to the different classes and guidance see <https://www.csgga.org/virtual-spring-show.html> For a list of the classes already held and those remaining see the end of this Newsletter and **get the camera out!**

And the winners for Round 1 are



Class 1 1st Chin Fenton



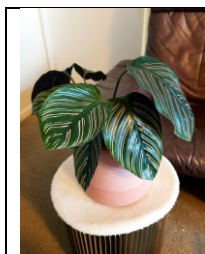
Class 2 1st Ravi Kudhail



Class 3 1st Jan Bradley



Class 4 1st Chin Fenton



Class 13 Joint 1st
Holly Musson



Class 13 Joint 1st
Roy/Moiya Stroomer



Class 17 Joint 1st
Ravi Kudhail



Class 17 Joint 1st
Briony Wickenden

2nd and 3rd places can be found on our website <https://www.csgga.org/virtual-spring-show-winning-entries.html>

M's Action Diary for April

- Tidy up phormiums by pulling away dead leaves.
- Keep an eye open for lily beetle on fritillaries or lily leaves. Also dispose of vine weevil, they particularly love pot grown heucheras.
- Agapanthus love being pot-bound and flower better as a result but, if necessary, divide into small groups or repot into larger pots.
- Remove any sucker from around the base of trees.
- Hard prune Cotinus if large colourful leaves are required, forgoing the "smoke" flowers.
- Once hellebores have finished flowering, tidy up the plants by removing the old stems, taking care not to damage the emerging roots.

Green Gardening Tip

All lawns are feeding areas for birds such as starlings, which probe for the myriad invertebrates that live in the roots. So their importance goes beyond a place to sit and relax they create a thriving home for nature.

- Welcome some weeds. For instance, clover feeds the lawn with nitrogen.
- Don't cut the lawn too short in summer; it will lose more water.
- Allow a patch of grass to grow and flower. It will attract birds, insects and invertebrates, and grass flowers are very pretty. www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/lawns-for-wildlife/

Seed Matching Service

You may be aware that due to the coronavirus lockdown there is suddenly a great interest in growing fruit and vegetables and consequently seeds are sold out in many of the usual outlets.



As most packets of seeds contain more seeds than an average gardener would need, we are setting up a "seed matching service" to share out what people have and match them to those who want them. If you have surplus vegetable seeds, plant plugs, strawberry runners, etc or are looking for some seeds, we should like you to email us via membership@csgga.org before 21st April.

We will then catalogue the available seeds, collect and divide them into smaller, more manageable, quantities and contact those who want them to arrange collection. If you are self-isolated or not living in Chalfont St Giles, but would like some seeds, please let us know and we will post them to you after 21st April.

IF DEMAND OUTSTRIPS SUPPLY WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING.

Pop-up Plant Sales

It is very unlikely that our plant sale will be able to go ahead as planned in May. However, we would like to encourage everyone to continue to grow the plants they were intending to donate. We are planning to have some pop up stalls with honesty boxes where people can collect plants while on their "one a day" walk or bike ride. So please keep growing and let us know of any surplus plants you have as and when the plants are ready telephone one of the Committee or email membership@csgga.org. We will not be restricting the pop up sale to a particular day and they will be opening in a number of locations around the village.

Donations for the plants will be collected in "honesty boxes" and will support the CSG Coronavirus Support Network. We hope to match or better the success of last year's sale but that is a tall order!



Eco Tip



Crochet or knit a small bag like the picture on the left. When soap bars get too small to use put the remainder in the bag and use as soap. It works brilliantly. **Margaret Dykes**

Plant a Butterfly Garden

Now most of us have more time to think about our gardens why not dedicate an area in a border or maybe a large planting trough to encouraging butterflies.

Choose a warm, sunny spot at least 3m x 1m, fill it with good peat free compost and find your seeds or plants and get started. Choose plants for seasonal interest –

- Spring – primroses, sweet william, bugle or forget-me-not
- Summer – cornflower, french marigold, greater knapweed, scabious, purple loosestrife, hemp agrimony, bramble, marjoram, thyme, lavender, sage and chives. If you have space for shrubs then the well-known buddleia must have a place but add hebe, honeysuckle or privet
- Autumn- flowering ivies, asters and michaelmas daisies.



2019 was a good year for butterflies and with our mild winter and promise of a hot summer we can hope for many more visiting our gardens in 2020. There is more information about Butterfly Gardens at

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk **Jan Bradley**

Coronavirus – how to get help in Chalfont St Giles

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting our residents and many do not have a local support network to assist during self-isolation and are in need of help. This network has been established to provide support for Chalfont St Giles residents by Chalfont St Giles residents. See website for details www.csghelpline.co.uk or telephone Louise Chamberlain 07956 190291 or Eleanor O'Connor 07946 629076

- If you can offer some help to your neighbours, they would love to hear from you.
- If you would like to request some assistance, they are here to help you if they can.

The following essential stores in the village and a couple beyond are able to deliver to the self-isolated and vulnerable. Please contact them directly.

Fruits & Roots Tel. 01494 871042

Stratton Bakery Tel. 01494 874983

Warners Butchers Tel. 01494 872016

Yaldens Tel. 01494 872219

The Deli Tel. 01494 871099

Wells Farm Dairy Tel. 01785 780072

The Ivy House 01494 872184 (fruit, veg & meat boxes) The Hatchery Farm Shop 01494 670109

If you live outside Chalfont St Giles, please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee, and we will do our best to find you some support, if you need it.

Virtual Spring Show - continued

Week beginning 30 March 2020 – voting starts 5th April

Class 5 Tulips – 3 Stems, Own Foliage

Class 5a Tulip – Single stem, Own Foliage

Class 6 Flowering Shrubs or Trees – 1 or more varieties

Class 7 Pot of Primulas, Primroses or Auriculas. (max pot size 8 inches)

Class 14 Flowers From My Garden (Not shrubs)

Class 17b A plant that has brought you joy (new)

Week beginning 5 April 2020 – voting will start on 12th April:

Class 8 Petite flower arrangement – to fit within a 6" cube

Class 9 Any other flower NOT Daffodils or tulips - 1 Kind, 3 Stems in a vase

Class 11 Any Vegetable. (Any quantity)

Class 18 Container of bulbs or corms in flower - only 1 variety

Class 19 Container of bulbs or corms in flower – more than one variety

<https://pollunit.com/en/polls/class-17c> (new)

Class 10 Rhubarb – 3 Sticks, forced with leaves OR 3 sticks natural, leaves trimmed

Class 12 Flowering Pot Plant (in flower) including bulbs & orchids (max pot size 8")

Class 16 Cactus or succulent.

Class 15 Mixed Foliage Display (No Flowering Material) in a vase or jug.

Note: We will repeat some classes and add extra ones as the season continues

Further guidance, photographs from previous shows and hints and tips can be found on our website <https://www.csaga.org/spring-show.html>

Your Committee

Chairman and Membership Secretary:

Briony Wickenden Mulberry House, 54 Milton Fields,
Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4EP 01494879482
brionywickendke@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jan Bradley, 23 The Lagger, Chalfont St Giles,
HP8 4AA 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:

Jacqui Greenham	01494 870752
Caroline Jackson	01494 876685
Ravi Kudhail	01494 874709
Eleanor O'Connor	01494 875646

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

We do hope that we will be able to organise these visits, but they are currently on hold.

**National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs, and Hill Close
Gardens, Warwick**

Saturday 25th July 2020

Our summer visit to the National Memorial Arboretum includes entry to the Plant Hunters Fair, followed by a visit to the restored Victorian Hill Close Gardens in Warwick: two unique and unusual venues.

The Beth Chatto Gardens, Colchester

Thursday 20th August

An opportunity to visit Beth Chatto's inspirational garden at the height of summer, showing what becomes possible when you work with nature rather than against it.

Full details in the Garden Visits and Outing brochure – please contact Eleanor O'Connor, if you don't have a copy.