

CSGGA Newsletter

May 2023



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

Inside this Issue

- This Month's Meeting Report
- Next Month's Meeting – Visit to Beech House, Jordans
- Big Help Out – Nurturing Nature in Chalfont St Giles
- Plant Sale
- M's Monthly Action Diary
- Green Gardening Tip of the Month

Hanging Basket Demonstration Alison Pau, Rowan Garden Centre

Alison has long been a friend of the Gardens Association, having hosted a visit to Rowan Garden Centre and joined us for our version of Gardeners' Question Time in the past. This month she returned to demonstrate how Rowan make up their hanging baskets and pots. Alison brought along some of the basket plants she liked from Rowan's - bacopa, diascia, petunias, surfinias, pelargoniums (geraniums), calibrachoa (million bells) and verbena; fuchsia and trailing begonias for shade as well as lysimachia, nepeta,

dichondra and helichrysum for their leaves. Her advice was:

- For a 14 inch basket use 7 trailing plants and 8 plants for a 16 inch basket plus an upright plant for the middle.
- If you have a pastel colour scheme in your garden, go for complementary bright plants for your basket
- Choose a variety of flower shapes and alternate the flower colours within the basket.
- Place the basket on a large pot so that it is more manageable and doesn't roll around. Three quarter fill the basket with multipurpose compost and add 1 tsp of water gell and another teaspoon of slow release fertiliser.
- Start with an upright plant in the centre (or at the back if the basket is on a wall) and check that the stem is in the middle which might not be the same as the soil ball. Ensure that the plants are below the level of the rim of the basket. Place the trailing plants at a slight angle, leaning towards the rim to help them trail.
- When all the plants have been added, fill in around them with compost, firm down but leave "dimples" to allow the water to penetrate.
- Water the basket thoroughly, only when the planting has been completed.
- Keep in a warm place until the last frost.
- Deadhead to keep flowering by snipping back as far as possible, for cosmetic purposes.
- Liquid feed once a week from mid-season.
- If you want a matching pair for either side of a door, for example, then mirror the planting.
- If planting in shade, trailing begonias are best planted on their own as they would outcompete other plants.
- Moss lined baskets do not require a plastic liner, coir liners are also good for metal baskets rather than a plastic liner.



Alison kindly raffled the basket she had created, and Alan Armstrong went home with a professionally planted basket to adorn his home.

So, now you know how to do it, I hope to see many beautiful hanging baskets entered in the Village Show this year! Or at the very least, a photo of those you have planted!



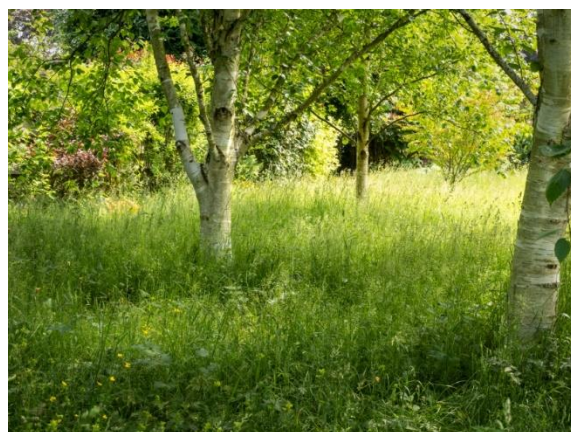
Monthly Cup

There were 3 entries for the monthly cup this month. Alison considered Alan Clark's very impressive rhubarb to be the winner.

Thursday 8th June 2023 6.30 - 8.30 pm Summer outing to Beech House, Jordans, HP9 2SS

It is often said that we miss what is on our own doorstep! To ensure that is not the case, we have arranged to visit Beech House in Jordans, so, for the avoidance of doubt, **there is no meeting at the Memorial Hall in June!**

Over the past 35 years a two-acre plantsman's garden has been created with a wide range of flowering and foliage plants in a variety of habitats. The garden with bulbs, perennials, shrubs, roses and grasses provides continuous interest. Numerous trees have been planted for their flowers, foliage, ornamental bark. A popular feature are the two attractive wild flower meadows. The garden has been opened exclusively for us and Sue and Ray Edwards will be on hand to ensure we make the most of this visit. You will be free to wander through the gardens before we re-group to enjoy a glass of Prosecco or a soft drink and a customary strawberry tart. Please note seating is somewhat limited, so it would be a good idea to bring along a garden chair so you can relax, enjoy the view and refreshments in comfort.



Please make your own way there. For anyone without their own transport, we will do our best to facilitate car shares. Please let Briony or Sam know if you can offer a lift or would like one. There is plenty of parking in Longwood Drive and Jordans Way.

The cost is £10.00 per person which covers entry to the garden, drink and the best strawberry tarts in Buckinghamshire! If you wish to join us, please transfer funds to Chalfont St Giles Garden Association, Sort Code 20-02-06 Account Number 80256587. Alternatively, to pay by cheque, please make cheques payable to Chalfont St Giles Garden Association and post your cheque to **Margaret Dykes, 4 Roughwood Fields, Roughwood Lane, Chalfont St Giles Bucks HP8 4AA**. Once your payment is received we will send a confirmation email. If in doubt, please call me on the number below. Bookings must be received by

Monday 5th June so that we can confirm the number to our hosts and have the right amount of tarts. **Sam Patel**

A Busy Month – Nurturing Nature and the Plant Sale

For two weekends in a row, the committee and some of our members, have been involved in volunteering for the benefit of the village. Fun was had by all at our first **Nurturing Nature** event in the village when, on Bank Holiday Monday, we were joined by 1st Chalfont St Giles Scouts and Cubs and spent a couple of happy hours clearing the ground and planting some colour and wildflowers at the Memorial Hall, weeding the churchyard War Memorial as well as improving some of our green spaces to make them more wildlife friendly by planting wildflower seeds and plug plants, notably in the churchyard and Pheasant Hill. Our thanks to all the volunteers for their time and effort, especially 1st Chalfont St Giles Scout Group and their brilliant leaders. It was a true multigenerational activity and the CSGGA members praised the youngsters enthusiasm and teamworking. We'd like to make this a regularly monthly event, if you're interested in giving an hour or so of your time once a month, please get in touch.

Within 5 days we were on the Village Green selling plants for our traditional Plant Sale. Sadly, the disappointingly cold Spring has resulted in problems with seed germination and we didn't have the quantity or quality of the plants we've had in previous years and the village was very quiet so trading was slow - it was absolutely perishing on The Green.



We did however, make a respectable £540 and some of us will be holding pop up sales outside our houses, so this should increase. Additionally, some of the left over plants will be planted in the Memorial Hall and in the sloping garden next to the guide hall. We also managed to recruit 27 people to the Nurturing Nature volunteer list, so that, in itself was a success!

My heartfelt thanks to all the committee members and others whos contribution made both events a success.

M's Action Diary for May

- Remove the old flowers of tulips as soon as they fade to help conserve energy.
- Trim back long stems of Clematis Alpina and Clematis Montana after flowering.
- Cut back the faded flowerheads to new shoots below, of lilacs and choisya
- Clip winter flowering heather to remove faded flowers and to return shape.
- Give some perennials, such as rudbeckia, asters, phlox and sedums, the "Chelsea Chop" but cutting back some or all of the growth by a third for shorter, stronger and later flowering growth.
- Hard prune pulmonarias to remove shoots prone to mildew and to encourage growth from the base.
- Stake tall growing perennials before they actually need it.
- Cut back aubretia and arabis hard after flowering, then water and feed.
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.

Green Gardening Tip – How to Help the Bees



According to the United Nations, three out of four crops across the globe producing fruits, or seeds for use as human food depend, at least in part, on bees and other pollinators. To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as [World Bee Day](#).

So what can you do to help? This is what the UN suggests:

- plant a diverse set of native plants, which flower at different times of the year;
- buy raw honey from local bee keepers;
- buy products from sustainable agricultural practices;
- avoid pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in our gardens;
- protect wild bee colonies when possible;
- sponsor a hive;
- make a bee water fountain by leaving a water bowl outside;
- help sustaining ecosystems;
- raise awareness around us by sharing this information within our communities and networks; The decline of bees affects us all!

Want to learn more about bees? For an excellent guide to some of the bees we can find in our gardens go to [Richard Jackson's Garden](#) and, for another brilliant article about how to identify different types of bees in the UK, go to the [Woodland Trust](#).

Your CSGGA 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 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:

Mary Holloway 01494 875793

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.