

CSGGA Newsletter

September 2023



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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Winter Wonderland

Amber Hine

Amber Hine joined us again for another talk, this time on Winter Wonder. Her slides are always impactful and she reminded us of how lovely gardens can be in winter, enjoying simple pleasures such as fog, frosts and the colours that can still be found in nature at this time.

She suggested a number of gardens to visit, including Anglesey Abbe, RHS Wisley, Trentham Gardens in Staffordshire, the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and Cambridge, and NGS open gardens in general.

Leaf colour, fruits and berries and scent can all be used during winter time to liven up a garden. Seed heads can provide a contrast in shapes as well as feed for wildlife. Amber suggested we focus on our front gardens, if we have them, in winter, planting berberis, euphorbia, cornus and salix for stem colour as well as Betula and heucheras.



Winter flower suggestions included Galanthus, Helleborus (remember to deadhead them!), crocus, cyclamen and Iris reticulata. daphnes, snowdrops, pulmonaria and heucherella can all provide early feed for pollinators. If you have a pond, put something that will float in it as it stops the water icing over. Amber likes to plant something scented near her compost bin which is a tip I will think about following! She also advised us to be a bit more lazy in winter to allow the growth to stay for a bit.

Amber is always a lively speaker and her talk on Winter Wonder gave us a most enjoyable trip through some gardens as well as useful tips and ideas.

Eleanor O'Connor

The photos illustrating this write up are nowhere near the standard of those Amber shared, but were taken by our chairman on one of our garden outings, both the silver birch and colourful cornus stems are part of the winter garden at Anglesey Abbey. If you didn't join us then, Anglesey Abbey is well worth a visit in February.



Next Month's Annual General Meeting and Social Evening – 12th October, 2023 8.00pm

Our AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall, starting at 8.00pm. We will be serving wine or a soft drink and nibbles before the proceedings begin. I do hope you will be able to join us, this is your Gardens Association and we do need sufficient members attending to form a quorum. Reports from the Chairman and Treasurer will be emailed to you shortly together with the Audited Accounts and Minutes of the last meeting or may be obtained from the Hon Secretary Jan Bradley. If you have any points that you wish to raise please contact Jan as soon as possible. 01494 874704 or janbradley4@btinternet.com

AGM AGENDA

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of 2021 AGM
- Matters Arising
- Honorary Treasurer's Report
- Auditor's Report and Adoption of the Accounts
- Chairman's Report and Discussion
- Election of Officers
- Election of Committee Members
- Appointment of Auditor
- Any other business

Appeal for more Committee Members

We would welcome new members to join the committee. If you are interested in joining a friendly group and help us keep the Gardens Association going, please let us know.

Having been Secretary of the Gardens Association for a number of years, Jan Bradley is stepping down from the role, but will continue as a Committee Member. If you feel you could fulfil this post, please let Jan or Briony know. It is really not too arduous, we have approximately 6 meetings a year and the admin load is very light.

Autumn Show at the AGM

We are again holding the Autumn Show as part of the AGM. It is just for fun, though prizes will be awarded for those with the most points. Please bring your exhibits to the Memorial Hall between 7.15 and 7.30. We might have a number of very talented gardeners within our membership, but it is such fun to see what others have grown regardless of their level of experience. So, please, try to bring at least one exhibit.

Class 1 Vase of Asters, 3 blooms

Class 2 A spray of Fuschia blooms,

Class 3 Vase of Roses, 3 blooms, 1 variety

Class 4 Chrysanthemums, 3 blooms of any kind, may be mixed

Class 5 Any other flower from your garden, at least 3 stems, can be a mix of varieties

Class 6 Dahlia, 3 blooms, 1 variety

Class 7 3 Apples, dessert or cooking, 1 cultivar

Class 8 Any other fruit – quantity to depend on size ie berries, should be at least 15, melon only 1, pears 3, etc. (if in doubt ask!)

Class 9 Tomatoes, 3 of the same variety or 1 truss, any type, with calyx in a dish





Class 1 Trug or basket of salad plants, at least 3 varieties, not more than 60cm x 30 cm, judged for variety appearance and freshness

Class 11 1 Pumpkin / Winter squash or Gourd

Class 12 Cook's Delight, trug or basket of mixed vegetables, at least 3 varieties not more than 60cm x 30 cm, judged for variety appearance and freshness

Class 13 Flowering Pot Plant (in flower) can be indoor or outdoor, including bulbs & orchids (max pot size 8")

Class 14 Foliage Pot Plant – (No flowers) can be indoor or outdoor, max pot size 8 inches

Class 15 Culinary herbs, 3 bunches of different kinds, not varieties, named and displayed in individual containers.

Class 16 Mixed Foliage Display (No Flowering Material) in a vase or jug.

Class 17 Cactus or succulent, pot no to exceed 20 cm

Class 18 Bonsai tree, pot not to exceed, 25 cm

Class 19 Carnivorous plant, any variety, pot not to exceed 15cm

M's Action Diary for September

- Look out for leather jackets which can create patchy lawns – get rid of them by applying nematodes.
- Plant new perennials to benefit from warm soil. Move those in need of more space or better position.
- Cut back untidy looking perennials such as nepeta.
- Dig up, pot on or bring indoor tender perennials such as pelargoniums.
- Plant Spring flowering biennials such as foxgloves and wall flowers.
- Plant Spring bulbs except tulips which should be left until November.
- Prune evergreens like privet, box laurel and yew now to give the plants time to recover before the winter arrives.
- Feed permanent container plants with a high potash feed such as tomato food even though they may have been given slow release fertiliser earlier on.

Green Gardening Tip – Help for garden wildlife

- Ponds – If a pond freezes over in the winter, gases caused by decaying plant material can get trapped and poison frogs overwintering in the muddy depths. So, Remove debris now and float a tennis ball on the surface to prevent ice from sealing it.
- Twigs – Put bundles of twigs at the back of borders, or in a plant pot on its side, where invertebrates and small mammals can shelter.
- Plant Pots – Leave stacks of plant pots in a sheltered spot to offer shelter for bees and other insects needing a cool, dry place.
- Sheds – If you find a butterfly in your home, transfer it to a shed or garage so that it can overwinter there.



Extract from Gardeners' World to see more click [here](http://www.gardenersworld.com)

Outing to Adwell Estate and Waterperry

When our regular coach company, Heyfordian ceased trading in the summer, our outing to Adwell and Waterperry was put in doubt. But, we found an alternative, a 16 seater minibus and a car, so fortunately were able to proceed, as both gardens were certainly worth a visit and the weather was absolutely perfect!

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Adwell, only hosts group visits, but does have open days, notably, in the spring at daffodil time. They had a wonderful display of salvias and some unusual trees and shrubs. Waterperry was full of Autumn colour with a large herbaceous bed of Michaelmas daisies and some wonderful dahlias in the walled garden. Thank you, Eleanor for organising and Margaret for providing additional transport.



Adwell



Waterperry

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 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.

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.

For more details of the holiday, please click [here](#)

Your CSGGA Committee

Chairman and Membership Secretary:

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