

CSGGA Newsletter

December 2020



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

We should like to wish you all a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and a new year filled with love, laughter, happiness and hope.

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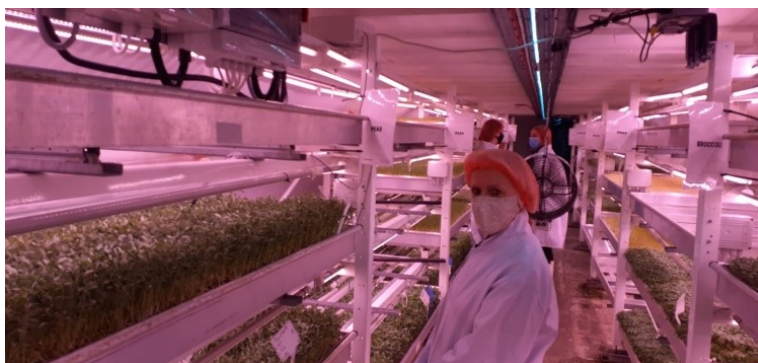
Christmas Party at CSGGA

Just less than 50 members enjoyed our Christmas party organised by Jan Bradley. The food was delicious, table decoration competition well supported, hall suitably festive, quiz wonderfully fiendish! - loved it, Sam! Raffle prizes, fair and sustainable, company excellent - what more could we want?



Farming for the Future

Our family has stopped giving Christmas presents having decided that we all have sufficient 'stuff' so treat ourselves to days out instead taking it in turns each year to organise a thrilling event. In 2020 it was my turn and having spotted Growing Underground tours in The Garden magazine in November 2020 I booked it up. Covid intervened but we eventually had the day out on November 25th 2021 and what a good experience it was. The tours start at 6.00pm on Thursdays so having had a very enjoyable late lunch/early dinner at a nearby Portuguese restaurant we were ready for the health and safety questionnaire and 190 steps down and an hour later 190 steps back up. Growing Underground are in a WW2 air raid shelter deep beneath Clapham. At first we heard the Northern Line underground below us and as we went down and down the Northern Line was above us. It was a long way down.



Down there in the highly controlled environment they grow a large variety of shoots

in a hydroponic 'ebb and flow' system, roots are flooded taking the nutrients and water they need while the excess ebbs away to be reused. Roots fix themselves into carpet underlay which after use is burned for energy. November is a lull in their growing cycle but we did see shoots growing of: peas, sunflowers, garlic chives, red cabbage, cress, coriander and spicy micro red radish. We learnt the growing cycle and saw shoots that had been planted 7 days previously and were to be harvested the next day. Their customers are local restaurants and the supermarkets who distribute the packs all over the country. We tasted some of the shoots and were each given a pack to take away to enjoy at home.

As more folk around the world move from the countryside this is a great way to produce nutritious fresh food in cities, without taking up too much land but this method of farming is not going to feed the world any time soon. It was, however a very interesting experience which I recommend if you are OK with the 190 steps!

Margaret Dykes

Waddesdon Outing



On the coldest day of the year, just over 20 of us visited Waddesdon for their Christmas Lights. Perhaps it was the cold but there were mixed reviews, some preferring Kew and Wisley. I really enjoyed it. The sky was clear when we arrived and we watched the sun set before the lights turned the landscape into a magical wonderland – the elephants were particularly spectacular as was Waddesdon Manor.



Community Orchard Update

As you know, we are hoping to create a community orchard for Chalfont St Giles. I have been in touch with the Trustees of Milton's Cottage with a view to siting it in the field on Deanway. The Trustees met at the beginning of December and I was advised that they are *"in favour in principle with pursuing your initiative and subject to ongoing detailed discussions with you, the aim is to put a detailed proposal to the Trustees' Meeting on 29th March 2022"*. If you would like to know more, please give me a call.

www.csgga.org

Christmas Tree Trail



If you live in CSG, you may have seen the Christmas trees on big red boxes that have sprung up around the village. This is a Parish Council initiative and is intended as a fun way to take a walk through the village and do a little Christmas shopping. The council have provided a number of Christmas trees and village organisations and charities have been asked to decorate them. Members of the public are asked to vote for their favourite one.

We have been allotted a tree that is located on Deanway between The Lager and Tripps Hill Close on the left going up the The Committee decorated the tree last Friday before the storm and have since added a few decorations. Our tree is decorated on a gardening theme using only natural materials from our gardens and hedgerows. We've used hydrangea heads, figs, berries, pine cones, and seed heads and made garlands of dried rose buds and helichrysum flowers.

The tree with the most votes at the end of the Christmas Season will win a cash prize for their charity/club. To cast a vote either pick up details in the library or vote on line and get more information via this link. Christmas Tree Trail 2021 | Chalfont St Giles Parish Council (chalfontstgiles-pc.gov.uk)

M's Action Diary for December

- Remove old leaves from hellebores to prevent leaf spot disease infecting new foliage, and to reveal the flowers.
- Prune spireas hard to ensure compact size, shape and a good colour.
- Place poinsettias in a bright location, out of drafts and away from radiators. They are sensitive to fluctuating temperatures which can cause leaf shedding. Water carefully. Do not overwater.
- Pinch out tips of wallflowers to promote bushy growth.
- Do not walk on frozen grass, otherwise you will leave brown footprints.
- Insulate garden taps.
- Have mower and shears serviced.

Merida wishes all members best wishes for Christmas, and happy gardening in 2022

Green Gardening Tip

Plenty of wildlife makes its home in dead wood, and other animals use it as a source of food. In woodlands, fallen wood occurs naturally and many species have adapted to use this habitat. But in our increasingly tidy countryside, fallen and dead wood is not so common.

A pile of logs simulates fallen trees and is considered essential in a wildlife garden. You can usually find somewhere to put a pile of logs, even in the smallest backyard. It is best placed in a shady spot, so that it remains cool and damp.

Make the most of your garden

- Use a mixture of wood and different sized logs with the bark on, such as beech, oak, ash and elm.
- Adding a pile of leaf litter can attract even more creatures, such hibernating toads or hedgehogs.



- You will need to add new logs as the old ones decay over the years.
- Decaying wood also supports a range of fungi, including orange spot and the oddly-named candle snuff.

Taken from www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/dead-wood-for-wildlife/

Next Month's Talk

Plants of Madeira – Brian Fisher - 13th January 2022

An introduction to the native flora of Madeira. A brief look at introduced species that have become naturalised in Madeira. The ways that plants are used in public spaces, botanical gardens and private gardens. Quinta houses built by wealthy landowners who established extensive exotic gardens, public gardens with beautiful displays, streets lined with flowering trees and even a 'Magic Garden' that can only be entered through a cafe from the basis of this talk.

Membership Cards for 2022 are in the post!

Thank you for those of you who have paid your subscriptions and returned your membership forms. If you have not renewed your subscription then this is the last newsletter you will be receiving.

Please let Briony know if your membership card does not arrive by the end of December. Please remember that your current card runs until the end of the year for discounts at the relevant garden centres.

Your CSGGA Committee

Chairman and Membership Secretary:

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Committee Members:

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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.