

# CSGGA Newsletter

May 2019



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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## Growing Auriculas for Pleasure

James Smallwood happily admitted that Auriculas are his passion, and he shared some of that with us. Despite the Hall projector being uncooperative, we finally saw his plants in all their glory. Some people call them "meticulous Auriculas", so are they fussy or not? James thought not, provided that you plant them in the right soil and the right spot. Auriculas are native to the Alps; Pyrenees and Dolomites, and are members of the Primula family so are hardy and tough. Sometimes they are referred to as Mountain Cowslips or Auricula Ursi or bear's ear.

James' interest was sparked after being asked to help famed Auricula grower Bill Lockyer with his stall at Chelsea. This became a lifelong friendship and shared love of the plant. There are over 5600 different varieties, having become popular during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It is thought possible they were introduced by French Huguenots in the late 1590s, but were then rarities, only afforded by the rich. There was a fashion for "theatres" with plants potted singly and staged against a black background in frames to show off their colour and form. Many of the original varieties have been lost; stripes were lost in the 1950s but are now reintroduced.

Auriculas are noted for the presence of a fine waxy substance on the petals known as "Farina", carried on the tips of fine hairs. Its function is unknown but this gives the Auricula flower its unique appearance. It may be white or golden coloured, or dusted over the petals to give a cloudy appearance.

There are four classes: Borders, Alpines, Doubles and Shows; the latter being subdivided into Selfs, Edges, Fancies and Stripes.

James showed us some stripes, having ragged edges and striped petals. "Arundell" is a violet and white, while "Sword" is a double edged green, very different. It is best to buy them from an approved supplier. Cross pollination can produce a huge variety of colours and effects. Alpines are perhaps the easiest to grow. James recommended Drinton Nurseries in Ripon ([www.auricula-plants.co.uk](http://www.auricula-plants.co.uk)). If growing in pots, you must re-pot them every year, inspect the roots and replenish the compost. This should be equal parts of John Innes 2 or 3, multipurpose compost and grit or perlite, putting a half inch of grit in the bottom of the pot. Roots can become overlong and "carrot like" so shorten them and apply flowers of sulphur or rooting powder to the cut. Although auriculas like water they



can become waterlogged so plastic pots are best avoided. Remove algal growth from pots using Steradent!

Auriculas like fresh air and drainage. Don't overpot and give them very little water in winter. They don't like the sun so keep them cool and shaded. Remove discoloured leaves and watch out for vine weevils. Red spider mite can be sprayed using water and rosemary oil. Mist plants in the summer to keep cool. Aphids can be removed with meths on a cotton bud. The plants produce offsets, which you can tease apart and plant on, so increasing your stock.

James brought along some plants for sale, and they were quickly snapped up. His enthusiasm and humour made for a very informative and entertaining talk. Even if you think they are rather fussy, their unusual beauty surely makes them worth a try.

**Jan Still**

## Outing 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 Evenley Wood & Wheatley Gardens

In 1980 Timothy Whitley purchased [Evenley Wood Garden](#). Using his experience of growing various plants on a large scale and utilising this as his main source of knowledge, became a successful plantsman over many years.

Set in 60-acres of privately-owned woodland, Evenley Wood Garden has a large and notable collection of plants; ranging from unusual trees and shrubs to a wide selection of lilies and other bulbs.



The garden's unusual band of acid soil, in a predominantly alkaline area, has created the opportunity to cultivate plants such as rhododendrons, camellias, and magnolias, which would not ordinarily thrive in the location.

We were met by the Head Gardener, Tom, an incredibly knowledgeable young man, who was passionate about the trees and plants that he tended with the help of some volunteers. He explained that the effect of last year's drought had caused the lack of flowers on the lilacs, showed us lilies hidden amongst the trees, described how the garden was planted for year round interest and showed us some early flowering roses.

Our afternoon visit included 3 acres of inter-connecting gardens in the historic coaching village of Wheatley. The Breach House, The Manor House and The Studio make-up "Wheatley Gardens". The distinctive features of The Manor House included a formal box walk, herb garden and cottage garden with rose arches and a shrubbery with old roses.

The Breach House had a coppiced hazel wood walk, was more contemporary with a wild pond and a long grass paddock with a mowed path. The Studio Garden was a small garden full of colour with a well maintained vegetable plot – a delight to behold.

The afternoon tea and unexpected view inside the Manor House was a great end to the day following a late afternoon downpour.

**Jacqui Greenham and Briony Wickenden**

### M's Action Diary for May

- Prune Clematis Montana and Clematis Armandii, both abundant climbers, after flowering.
- Repot pot-bound camellias and rhododendrons after flowering
- Continue to dead head daffodils, narcissus and tulips and give them a feed.



- Clip winter-flowering heathers with shears to remove faded flowers and to retain shape.
- Give sedums, phlox and campanula lactiflora the "Chelsea chop" by cutting some or all of the growth by a third for shorter, stronger, later flowering growth.
- Remove hellebore flowers unless needed for seed.
- Hard prune pulmonarias to remove shoots prone to mildew, and to encourage new growth from base.
- Stake tall growing perennials, before they actually need it.
- Cut back aubrietia and arabis hard after flowering, then water and feed.
- Keep checking for lily beetle and wine weevils.
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.

## The Plant Sale

We would like to thank all those who so generously provided plants for their plant sale on Saturday and all those who bought them! We raised just over £1,000 – a staggering amount! We had more plants than ever before and sales were brisk, making it bumper year all round! Such was the quantity that there were some left over. John and Pat Greatwood have been looking after them and they will be sold at the CSG Open Gardens event on 16th June. A raffle was held at the sale.

1st prize: a £20 voucher donated by Rowan Nursery, was won by Riti, from Denham.

2nd prize: a year's membership for CSGGA, Sarah who we've been unable to contact

Third prize: a trowel and fork set, Vicky from Little Chalfont.

The committee will be meeting to decide what to do with the proceeds – a nice problem to have!



## Next Meeting

Evening visit to Lindengate

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 6.00 pm

**Bookings for this visit need to be made in advance so that we can advise Lindengate of the numbers.** Following our talk in 2018 given by Michael Harris from [The Lindengate Charity](#), and by popular demand at the time, our mid-summer social will be held at the Lindengate Garden, next to Wyevale Garden Centre, Aylesbury Road (B4009), Wendover, HP22 6BD. From Gt Missenden follow A413 Wendover By-Pass and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> roundabout take the 2<sup>nd</sup> turn off back towards Wendover – B4009. The garden centre is on your left – you can't miss it!

Our visit to this 5 acre site, will give us a chance meet the team and see first-hand the specialised gardening activities they offer to help those with mental health needs in their continuing recovery. We will also enjoy strawberry cake and tea on their lawns – not prosecco, as

previously advertised, so that we can maximize our donation to this worthwhile charity.

**The cost for this visit is £7.00. Please send a cheque before 6<sup>th</sup> June to Margaret Dykes, 4 Roughwood Fields, Roughwood Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4AA**



Chalfont St Giles Open Gardens  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 11 am to 5 pm

Ten gardens, including Milton's Cottage Garden, will be taking part in this year's event. Plants will be for sale in some gardens. Tea and home-made cake will be available in the Memorial Hall from 2 pm.

Tickets £6.00 admit to all gardens. Accompanied children under 16 free. Available from the Library in advance or on the Village Green on the day.

[www.csgga.org](http://www.csgga.org)

## Outing to Blenheim Palace Flower Show Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June

The Blenheim Palace Flower Show returns in June 2019 from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019. For more information go to:

[www.blenheimflowershow.co.uk](http://www.blenheimflowershow.co.uk)

We invite you to join us for an inspiring day out in the unique surroundings of Blenheim Palace on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019**.

The cost for this outing will be **£27.50** for members or **£32.50** for guests and non-members, which covers entrance to Blenheim Palace Gardens, the Flower Show, coach and driver's gratuity.



Please bring a picnic lunch or take advantage of the many food outlets at the show.

Departing Chalfont St Giles Village Green at 09.00.

Departing Blenheim Palace at approximately 16.30.

Please contact Jacqui Greenham for further information on 01494 870752 or email [jacqui.greenham@btinternet.com](mailto:jacqui.greenham@btinternet.com)

**Please use the booking form attached to this newsletter to reserve a place.**

### Chalfont St Peter Garden Hut

Chalfont St Peter Garden Club have generously granted CSGGA members the opportunity to buy "keenly priced" garden products and tools from their Garden Hut located in the grounds of CSP Community Centre.

#### Your Committee

**Chairman and Membership Secretary:**

Briony Wickenden Mulberry House, 54 Milton Fields,  
Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4EP 01494879482

[brionywickendke@hotmail.com](mailto:brionywickendke@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Jan Bradley, 23 The Lagger, Chalfont St Giles,  
HP8 4AA 01494 874704 [janbradley4@btinternet.com](mailto:janbradley4@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer:** Margaret Dykes, 4 Roughwood Fields,  
Roughwood Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4AA 01494  
874511 [margaretdykes@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretdykes@btinternet.com)

**Committee Members:**

Jacqui Greenham	01494 870752
Caroline Jackson	01494 876685
Ravi Kudhail	01494 874079
Eleanor O'Connor	01494 875646

#### OPEN GARDEN

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2pm - 7pm

One Day Farm, Blackwell Hall Lane,  
Ley Hill, Chesham, HP5 1UN

Tickets £12 - all proceeds go to Carers Bucks

to include cream tea or cake and coffee

Musical Entertainment - Andy's Ukulelians

#### Newsletter Refresh

We felt it was time for a refresh of the newsletter, as we were unable to include everything we wanted to without some serious editing and we thought you might enjoy seeing photographs of some of our events. We hope you like it, but if the format doesn't work for you please let us know.

Communication is only good if it works!

If you have anything you want to include please let us know.