

# CSGGA Newsletter

## November 2019



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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## Understanding Pruning Techniques

Brian Fisher

Brian managed to condense a ten week, two hour course of lectures down into one evening. Think you knew about pruning? Brian's talk soon made you realise there was an awful lot more to learn.

Pruning is simply the removal of plant material; dead, dying, diseased or decayed. Formative pruning is trimming to maintain a shape or height. We are guilty of buying and then pruning when the plant has grown too big. Pruning should start in the first year, as a very hard prune on a mature plant may result in its demise and is hard work as well. Nowadays there are many varieties of dwarf and compact species, so decide what final height and spread

of your plant is desirable, and buy accordingly. If you want to grow something vigorous, then consider restricting its roots in a container, or reducing it yearly. Figs can be grown well in pots in this way. Certain plants hate hard pruning, such as Ceanothus and Cistus, evergreens and conifers. **Jan Still has written notes from Brian's talk which are so detailed that they are attached as a separate document.**

Having given his talk, Brian moved on to a practical demonstration, where Margaret Dykes did her apple tree impersonation but fortunately escaped with limbs intact! Brian recommended Felco tools for pruning. Always prune as close to a bud as possible to avoid die-back.



After every use, wipe your blades and then rub with sandpaper to remove sap and maintain the edge. Don't try to use secateurs for large branches, use a good quality pruning saw instead. Loppers may be useful but it is difficult to make a clean cut. Shears with extending handles are good especially for trimming Erica, as you don't have to bend down so far. Every time you go down the garden have a pair of secateurs with you as you will always spot something that needs a tidy up. Brian cautioned against Coral Spot disease, which is found on discarded wood and pea sticks and can spread onto the bark of healthy trees. Anything infected should be burnt.

Brian's knowledgeable and amusing talk gave us all something new to learn and we all went home eyeing our shrubs and trees in an entirely new way.

**Jan Still**

## Monthly Cup



The Monthly Cup was won by **Alan Clark** for his superb **Amarine**. We were all including Brian Fisher was suitably impressed! Never heard of it? According to the RHS website "*it is a cross between a nerine and an amaryllis, this plant benefits from the best features of both its parents. Originally bred for the cut flower market, it can produce up to 10 slender-petalled, lily-like flowers on each upright stem, making it an impressive addition to autumn garden.*" Interested in growing it, there are some bulbs currently on offer from RHS Plants [Click here for details](#)



Christmas Party - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019



### NEW DATE

No sooner had we sent out the details of the Christmas Party than the General Election was announced and, finding no alternative venue on the 12<sup>th</sup>, we had to change the date of the party to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We are sorry, if the date change has scuppered your plans to join the fun.

**Book a place by sending a cheque payable as above (with details of attendees please) to:  
Jan Bradley, 23 The Lager, CSG, HP8 4DH tel: (01494) 874704  
e-mail [janbradley4@btinternet.com](mailto:janbradley4@btinternet.com) with details if paid by bank transfer.**



**The price is £21 per head.** Cheques made out to **CSG Gardens Association** please, or BACS transfer 20-02-06 account 80256587. Places are limited so first come first served. We need confirm numbers to the caterers, so book as soon as possible please. Crockery and cutlery will be provided but please bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses.

We will be featuring our competition for Best Table Arrangement to fit within a 9 inch cube, but **please don't include real candles**. Your arrangement can be as decorative and imaginative as you like, with fresh or artificial material, or even edible! Not limited to one per table, so we'd like to encourage everyone to have a go – it should certainly not be seen as a competition only for the women!

**Catering and Staff by "To Dine For" Chalfont St. Peter.**

#### QUIZ



#### Hot Buffet Menu Choice of:

#### RAFFLE



Chicken stuffed with sun-dried tomato, feta and spinach, wrapped in Black Forest ham, with a white wine sauce **OR**

Steak and Ale mushroom and onion pie with puff pastry topping

Chickpea, coriander and lime chilli (Vegan) **must be ordered when booking**

All served with: Roasted new potatoes with garlic, lemon and rosemary, Griddled mixed vegetables, Honey roasted carrots and parsnips

**Desserts:** Coffee tiramisu.

Apple and mincemeat crumble pie.

**And** Cheese and Biscuits. Tea/coffee and chocolates

## M's Action Diary | for October

- Leaves left under trees and shrubs can look attractive and are food for worms, but if left on lawns can cause unsightly patches of die-back and risk of lawn disease and also be a hiding place for slugs and snails, so continue to remove them.
- Penstemons can be trimmed to tidy up, but delay main trim until April/May.
- Newly planted trees should be staked securely to prevent root ball being dislodged by wind. As the tree grows the trunk gets wider, so you need to loosen the tie annually – now is the time to do this.
- Plant tulips now.
- If necessary, prune acer species now to avoid bleeding from the cut stems when the sap rises in Spring.
- Prune late flowering clematis back to base. All clematis will benefit from a good mulching of stable or cow manure, but if not available then lightly work in 2 or 3 handfuls of bonemeal around the stems.
- Apple trees – shorten this year's growth by 1/3 to a bud facing the required direction.

### Green Gardening Tip for October



#### Feed the bees!

All bees need nectar if they emerge during winter, otherwise they're in danger of dying from starvation. Grow winter flowers such as winter heathers and clematis (*Clematis cirrhosa*), crocus, hellebores, mahonia, sarcococca, snowdrops, winter aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*). Ivy grown on walls and fences can offer shelter from heavy rain and can also provide a late nectar source.

### Holiday 2020

#### The Gardens of Essex and Suffolk 5 days Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

28 members have already put their name down for next year's holiday. Are you going to join us? 5 days from £599 Departs 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> June 2020. 4\* Hotel, Half Board Accommodation. A full programme of excursions and guided tours including Ickworth House, Wyken Hall Gardens & Vineyard, Layer Marney Tower, Marks Hall Gardens & Arboretum, Gibberd Gardens, Gainsborough House, Helmingham Hall Gardens, Gainsborough House, Green Island Gardens, Southwold, Lavenham, Colchester, Ipswich, and many more places of interest. Full details of the holiday can be found on our website or at Tailored Travel [www.tailored-travel.co.uk](http://www.tailored-travel.co.uk) and quote csgg201. **No deposits are due until the end of the year but if you are interested in joining us, please contact Briony – contact details below.**

### Membership Renewal

The Membership cards for 2020 have been printed and will be delivered over the next few days either by hand or post if you were not at the meeting this month. If you have not received it by the end of November, please let Briony know as every year some go astray in the post.

We have included a summary of the talks we have arranged for 2020 with your membership card. We hope you will find this a useful reminder.

If you have decided not to renew, we will be very sorry to lose you but would be most grateful if you could let someone on the committee know so that we don't send reminder letters and emails unnecessarily. Thank you.

## 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 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

### Christmas wreath making at Rowan

Various dates from 2 – 14 December

You might be in time to book a place on this popular  
event at Rowan Garden Centre and learn to make a  
natural Christmas Wreath under the guidance of local  
florist Annette. – booking essential. 11am start and 2-3  
hours duration.  
Cost: £35 to include cuppa and mince pies. 01494  
872335.

### Christmas Fair at Waddesdon

16 November to 22 December 11 am – 6 pm

The fair is set against the backdrop of the floodlit  
north front of the Manor with its 20ft Christmas trees.

[www.waddesdon.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-fair/](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-fair/)

### Christmas Fair at Horatio's Garden

Stoke Mandeville Hospital 30<sup>th</sup> November 12-4pm

This is an ideal opportunity to see Horatio's Garden  
designed by Joe Swift and do some Christmas  
shopping, too!

<https://www.horatiogarden.org.uk/fevents/the-horatio->