

# CSGGA Newsletter

## September 2021



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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### Heavenly Hostas – John Baker

This was John's first face to face meeting since March 2020 and sadly there were only a few of us there to hear about his passion for hostas. I know a number of the committee were on holiday and I suspect many more of you had followed suit.

John, and his wife June, believe that hostas are the perfect perennial which everyone can grow and that there is a perfect hosta for every garden. June, full name Junonia Colley, was presented with the RHS Veitch Memorial Medal earlier this year. This is awarded annually to persons of any

nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture.

June bought her first hosta from a car boot sale and then the couple started to collect them. They now have 3 National Collections of hostas. Their hosta garden featured in Gardeners World in 2011 when Rachel de Thame visited them. There are around 5,800 officially registered varieties of hosta, with around 150-200 new hostas being registered each year. Additionally, there are many named but unregistered hostas. The exact number is difficult to quantify, but is probably around 2,000. Of this rather large total, over 2,000 varieties of hosta are readily available to be purchased by UK retail customer.

John explained that in order to thrive hostas need dappled shade and about 4 hours of sun. Hostas come in a huge range of sizes with leaves in all shades of green, as well as greyish blues and acid yellows, sometimes variegated or flashed with cream or gold, ruffled, smooth or distinctively ribbed. The blue leaved varieties prefer a shadier spot but the yellow leaved ones can tolerate more sun. John and June grow most of their hostas in pots so that they can move them around. They use hummus rich potting compost with added grit to allow the roots to grow – miniature hostas need extra grit added. Do not allow the pots to dry out. When John and June water their hostas it takes them 3 hours! Hostas prefer to be in pots which restrict their roots rather than those which are too big for them, with a lot of soil between them and the sides of the pot. A general guide is to only move them up one pot size every re-pot. They feed them throughout the spring and summer, adding Epsom Salts to promote strong leaf growth.



Thicker leaved hostas are more resistant to slug damage but the key to avoiding slug damage is to ensure the garden is cleared of the leaf debris where slugs can lay their eggs - this should be done thoroughly in the Autumn. In Spring, they use ferric phosphate slug pellets and when the leaves are established, garlic

spray and/or ammonia – ammonia is also a good source of nitrogen for leaf growth. For details see <https://www.hostahem.org.uk/Slugs---Snails/>

John and June's garden in Hampshire and their visit from Rachel de Thame shown on Gardeners World is available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMiVUWUktRk>

## AGM and Autumn Show – 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 8.00pm

Fortunately, we don't have to hold our AGM online this year but we do still need sufficient members to attend to form a quorum so I do hope you will join us. Reports from the Chairman and Treasurer will be emailed to you shortly together with the Audited Accounts, Minutes of the last meeting and Agenda 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](mailto:janbradley4@btinternet.com)

**As ever, new Committee members are always welcome to bring new ideas and fresh perspectives and help the Gardens Association to thrive.**

Following official business, I have invited **Alison Rubens** to give us a brief talk about how Chorleywood residents established their **Community Orchard**.

As we didn't have the Village Show again this year, and to celebrate being able to meet in the Memorial Hall again, we have decided to hold an Autumn Show at our AGM. We will provide the bikini vases for any blooms you wish to show. Please join in, it just for fun not monetary gain! If nothing else, I'm sure you might be able to enter the mixed foliage class or a pot plant.

- Class 1 Vase of Asters**, 3 blooms
- Class 2 Vase of Pot, African or French Marigolds** , 3 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**, 3 stems 1 variety
- Class 6 Dahlia**, 3 blooms, 1 variety
- Class 7 3 Apples, eating**
- Class 8 3 Apples, cooking**
- Class 9 3 Pears**
- Class 10 3 Carrots**, foliage tied and trimmed to 10cm
- Class 11 Pumpkin / Winter squash.**
- Class 12 Any other vegetable**
- Class 13 Flowering Pot Plant** (in flower) including bulbs & orchids (max pot size 8")
- Class 14 Foliage Pot Plant** – (No flowers) max pot size 8 inches
- Class 15 Flowers From My Garden** (Not shrubs)
- Class 16 Mixed Foliage Display** (No Flowering Material) in a vase or jug.
- Class 17 Cactus or succulent.**



## M's Action Diary for September

- Water aster plants to prevent mildew infection.
- Prune lavender plants to retain shape but do not cut into woody growth. Take cuttings.
- Prune summer flowering jasmine by cutting back to strong side shoots below the flowered stems.
- Cut down border perennials when foliage starts to die back. Lift and divide every three years.
- Rake out, or scarify, dead grass and moss in the lawn, and aerate. Reseed bare patches in lawn turf. Apply lawn sand or autumn fertilizer.
- Tidy penstemons but do not trim back until March/April next year.
- Trim hedges and conifers.
- Plant spring bulbs, except tulip which should be planted in November.
- Remove leaves from ponds.



## Green Gardening Tip

As nights become colder, birds and other wildlife can be seen preparing for the winter to come. Most of our summer visitors, such as the warblers and swallows, have left to begin their migration south. Resident birds become quieter and no longer fight over territories, returning to warm roosts each evening.

If you want to encourage wildlife, rather than tidying up the garden ready for winter you could adopt a more natural approach. Leave the seed heads, especially on plants such as teasels, thistles and sunflowers. They provide free food for the birds and other wildlife at a time of year when pickings are thin. Birds will eke out the seeds, while hiding in the stems and seed heads are likely to be a myriad of insects and their eggs and larvae.

## Membership Renewal

This month sees the end of the membership year and pre-printed renewal forms should be dropping through your letterboxes shortly. Your support via membership is our only income and supports all the great things we like to do. We appreciate that everybody has found this time hard, but we hope you will renew and support us for the next year and that you will continue to enjoy the full range of benefits that we are now able to offer.

Please remember that although the renewal date is October, the membership card continues until December. We do not have the membership cards printed until after the AGM and they are generally sent out in November.

## Outings

Wisley – Taste of Autumn - Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Having enjoyed a trip to Capel Manor Gardens and Beth Chatto's Garden in the summer, we have now organised two outings for the remainder of the year.

One of the benefits the Gardens Association enjoys from being affiliated to the RHS is a free group visit to Wisley. As well as enjoying the most beautiful gardens, which have been substantially remodelled since our last visit, our outing this year is timed to coincide with the RHS Taste of Autumn, when you will be able to see live cookery demonstrations at the kitchen theatre inside the new RHS Hilltop, browse seasonal produce and



taste tempting treats from over 30 food stands. Additionally, you will be able to receive expert advice from the RHS Edibles team, so you can grow your own.

[www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/viewevent?EFID=421&ESRC=CMS](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/viewevent?EFID=421&ESRC=CMS)

As entry is free, I've provisionally booked a guided tour of the gardens and a cream tea which will incur an additional cost but these will be optional and dependent on a minimum number.

The cost for entrance to RHS Wisley, coach travel and driver's gratuity is £13.00 for CSGGA Members and £18.00 for their guests. Then, there is the option of the tour at £3.00 per person and a cream tea at £6.50 per person.

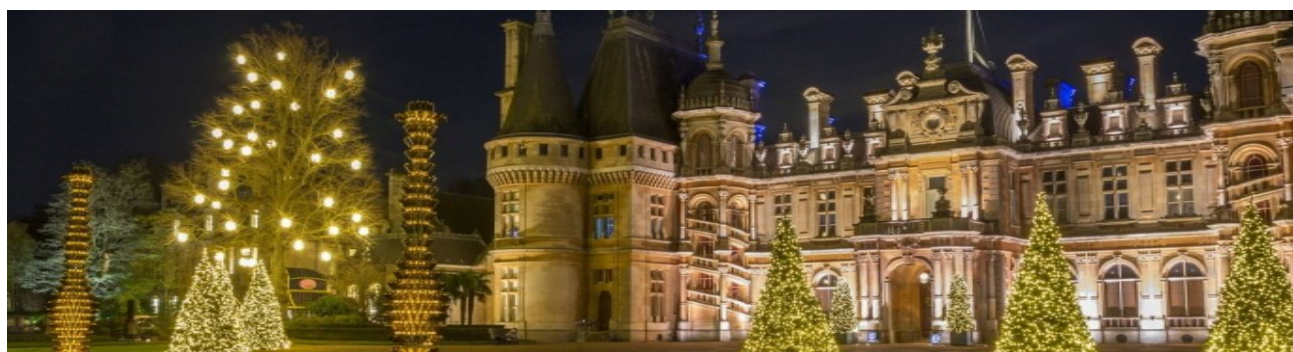


### Christmas Market and Winter Lights at Waddesdon - Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021

Following the popularity of our previous Christmas outings, we have planned one to Waddesdon this December. The Christmas market stalls are housed in wooden chalets, offering a variety of high-quality gifts, decorations, crafts and festive food. Then, at dusk, we can follow the Winter Light Trail and see the gardens awash with colour and dazzling light displays. Note: the house will not be open, only the grounds.

The costs for this outing are complicated! The entrance to Waddesdon ground, coach travel and driver's gratuity is £15.00 for CSGGA Members and £18.00 for their guests. For those who are not members of the National Trust there is an additional charge of £10.00. Then, there is the option of a shuttle bus for an additional £2.00 – free for blue badge holders – I have booked a limited number of places so cannot and these will be prioritised according to need.

If you wish to join us and you receive this newsletter by post, please contact Briony for the full booking details.



## Your CSGGA Committee

### Chairman and Membership Secretary:

Briony Wickenden Mulberry House, 54 Milton Fields, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4EP 01494 870482 [brionywickendke@hotmail.com](mailto:brionywickendke@hotmail.com)

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

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

### Committee Members:

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