

# BLUEBELL GARDEN CLUB

www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk

## NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

### Next Month's Meeting

### Christmas Party

4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

The December meeting will be the annual Christmas Party. The format will be the same as last year with various light-hearted quizzes/games and a buffet meal with mulled wine (non-alcoholic drinks will be available for the drivers). Alison will circulate a form at tonight's meeting for listing food contributions. For those of you who attended last year, we are sure you will agree it was a very enjoyable evening.

### Wit and Wisdom :

Submitted by Sue Wilson

He who would have beautiful Roses in his garden must have beautiful roses in his heart. (Reverend S.

Reynolds Hole, A book About Roses)

I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice. (Roland A. Browne)



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## Pottering about in November : by Edward Kilner

I still think it wise to dig up dahlias and store the tubers in a cool but frost-free place over winter. First, cut off the top to about 10cm and carefully wash the soil from the tubers. Hang them up to dry with the stalks hanging down to allow water to drain from the hollow stems.



Pack the tubers loosely in a box using moist used compost and place in a dark, cool, frost-free spot.

Inspect from time to time until new shoots appear in spring. Then pot up and/or take cuttings and look forward to a riot of colour next summer.

November is a good time to work on the lawn particularly if you want bowling green standards. Make your last cut and tighten up the edges. Then clean your mower and book it in for a service before the spring rush.



Now for the hard work. If you have an electric scarifier give the lawn a good going over to remove moss and thatch or use a "springbok" rake - a gut-wrenching job which will develop your six-pack. It is amazing how much debris you will produce. Don't put it on the compost heap - all the moss spores will germinate when you use the compost.

Then aerate the lawn by spiking. Easy with a machine, harder using a fork. Spike up to 5cm liberally over the lawn. This helps drainage and lets in air. A liberal dressing with grits and brushed into the holes helps. A dressing of autumn lawn fertiliser will tackle weeds and moss and encourage the grass.

There are some good deals in the garden centres on tulip bulbs and





now is the right time to take advantage. Make sure the bulbs are firm and in good condition. Plant deeply – 4 times the bulb height.



Now is also the time to plant trees and shrubs. Make an effort. Dig a decent hole. Add some compost and/or fertiliser. A dusting of mycorrhizal fungus powder is certainly beneficial. Sprinkle directly onto the roots

where it works with the plant to transplant nutrients via the roots. Firm the shrub/tree firmly, water thoroughly and mulch. Stake if necessary.

A worthwhile job on a cold afternoon is washing plastic pots in warm water. It's quite relaxing – honestly. Use warm water with a few drops of washing-up liquid and Jeyes Fluid with or without "Marigolds". Use a small scouring sponge and do inside and out. Make sure you remove the many tiny weed seeds which seem to have a magnetic attraction to the plastic. Rinse with clean water and allow to dry before putting them on one side ready for next year.



Start thinking about Christmas. Decide what horticultural treats you would like to receive and give.



## Future Contributions

Please submit any comments or contributions for future newsletters to Mary Harrison at 73 Pavilion Way, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5QN. Or by

E-mail - [me@thepigsty.me](mailto:me@thepigsty.me)

Telephone - 07912 513236



## Events :

### GLOW' Illuminations at RHS Garden Harlow Carr'

22 November – 29 December 2018

(Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays)

4:30pm – 8pm (last entry at 7pm)



See Harlow Carr in a different light this winter when special lighting effects bring a touch of magic with an illuminated trail around the magnificent trees, shrubs and lake as dusk falls. Enjoy the atmosphere of the festive

season, in a beautiful garden setting. See captivating light installations of botanically inspired blooms and magnificent trees lit up across the garden.

**Refreshments available from Bettys Café Tea Rooms**

Full café menu with drinks, hot and cold food open until 6:30pm.

Bettys Café Takeaway with hot drinks and light refreshments open until 7pm.

Shop and Plant Centre open until 8pm.

**Member tickets (discounted)**

If you are a member of the RHS you will need to purchase a ticket for this event. Your normal guest allocation applies and guest tickets can also be purchased at the member's rate.

**Member guest allowance**

Individual Membership = 1 named member + 1 adult guest OR 2 children (5-16).

Joint Membership = 2 named members + 1 adult guest + 4 children (5-16).

**Non-Member tickets**

Book online and take your e-ticket or booking reference on the day. These tickets are discounted due to being an out-of-hours event.

**Tickets are non-refundable**

Glow tickets will only be valid from 4:30pm onwards.

Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the event at the garden entrance, but we advise booking in advance.

<https://gardentickets.rhs.org.uk/rhshc>