

BLUEBELL GARDEN CLUB

www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk

OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Next Month's Speaker : 6th November : 7.30pm



Alison Hayes

"Decorative Winter Wreaths"

Flowers from the Garden is a small local business based from Alison's home in West Slaithwaite.



Alison grows and arranges seasonal cut flowers for weddings, funerals and other flower orders from her home.

Each arrangement is unique and individually chosen from a selection of freshly handpicked flowers and foliage from the garden.

She also holds regular workshops at her home to share her skills and love of nature inspired floral design.

Alison will demonstrate how to moss and wire a wreath and decorate using foliage picked from the garden.

She will add a variety of ribbon and other decorations to create the wreath.



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GARDEN CLUB

Must Do In October : by Edward Kilner

OCTOBER is an ideal time to divide herbaceous plants and sort out the borders but leave grasses until regrowth starts in spring. Dig up the clump and cut back the stems almost to ground level. Cut the clump into reasonable sized portions using a sharp spade; a half-moon lawn edger, secateurs, back-to-back forks or any combinations. Discard the woody central parts.



Either replant straight away by forking over the site, adding some good compost and a handful of fish, blood and bone. Firm in and water well, or you could pot up the sections in good fertile soil and plant up next spring.

OCTOBER is a good time to plant bulbs. Select nice, clean, firm examples and store in paper bags in a cool, dry place until you are ready to plant them. Bulbs should be planted 2 or 3 times height underground. Prepare the site well and add a handful of grit into the planting hole. Tulips can be left to the end of the month.

Whilst at the Garden Centre, buy a few Iris Reticulata bulbs to provide a breath of spring inside in January. Plant 5 in a 9cm pot of gritty compost and place in a cool site. They should be brought in when the flower buds show colour. They always remind me of the sharpened points of coloured pencils. Their beautiful flowers come in shades of blue and have a subtle scent.



Iris Danfordi have bright yellow flowers.

OCTOBER is a good time to sort out your house plants and on a decent day take them outside and give them a good shower with tepid water from a watering can. This will wash off accumulated dust.





Trim off dead or damaged leaves and wipe waxy leaves with a soft cloth soaked in milk. If the weather is good, leave outside for a few days. Then apply a feed and bring back inside.

OCTOBER is the latest time to trim hedges and topiary. Privet, yew and box will regenerate but conifers should not be trimmed into brown wood.



When trimming hedges, make sure you make the base slightly wider than the top. This helps avoid damage from heavy snow. Use a string-line and plumb-bob to create level tops and neat sides.

Keep your eyes open for end-of-season bargains at the Garden Centre. Some plants may look awful but bargains can be snapped up.



September's Auction

Thanks to everyone who donated plants and gardening bits and bobs for the auction, and to everyone who purchased them. It was an enjoyable evening hosted by Edward ably assisted by Betty and Peter. We raised a splendid £165.80.

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
Telephone - 07912 513236



The Geranium Competition 2018

How did it grow so big? By Sue Wilson

A question I have asked myself. We all start with the same mini plug plant and we all experience the same climate, more or less, but then what. This is the story of one of my plug plants.

It started life with me by being carefully potted on into a 3in pot with average garden centre compost, nurtured, watered infrequently, kept indoors to keep it warm through that bitter cold and scrutinised often. After a fair bit of growing and re-potting it was beginning to look nice and healthy but with not many buds or flowers. So I fed it with Tomorite which didn't excite it much and I treated it like a true Mediterranean Geranium, full sun in a south facing garden and watered it infrequently. Any flowers that came were pathetic, small and they didn't appear to get any bigger. More water or feed seemed to slow things down even more.

So drastic action. In July I re-potted it into a bigger pot, cut off all the buds and flowers and gave it a bit more water during the scorching summer heat. After a couple of weeks I panicked, nothing was happening very fast, what had I done. The only consolation was that everyone I spoke to was having the same problem but at least they had little flowers.

Then, albeit slowly, it got bigger and hoorah, bigger flowers and plenty of buds. So, 2 weeks to judging, more panic. If the weather was windy, rainy (unlikely) or cold overnight the Geranium went into the greenhouse to ensure that no flowers would be damaged for the night of judging.

What made the difference, I have no idea.



1st PRIZE
SUE
WILSON



2nd PRIZE
ELAINE
STOCKS



3rd PRIZE
RONWYN
HOLDEN