BLUEBELL GARDEN CLUB

www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Christmas Competition :

Create a Christmas Table Decoration using material from your garden and bring it along to the December Christmas Party. No restrictions on size. Christmas decorations and candles will be allowed but must be a minor portion of the decoration. Prizes for the best three.

Christmas Party :

The December meeting (5th at 7.30pm) will be the Christmas Party. The format will be the same as last year with various quizzes and a buffet meal. Alison will circulate a form at the November meeting for 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

"Like a great poet, nature knows how to produce the greatest effects with the most limited means" – *Heinrich Heine*

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A Few Autumn Jobs in the Garden :

Tidy up fallen leaves :

This is often the time when autumn leaf colour is at its best, but it won't be long before a windy spell will bring the leaves to the ground. Fallen leaves are not so bad when they are dry and crisp, but once rain turns them to a slimy brown sludge they become a problem for both plants and people. Remove them from lawns and small vulnerable plants like alpines before the leaves smother them. Also, clear them from paths and steps before they become mush and create a slip hazard.

Keep excess rain off :

it is often excessive wet rather than cold conditions that kill plants during the autumn and winter. Plants with furry leaves such as Verbascum are particularly prone to rotting in wet weather because the furry foliage holds on to moisture.

Silver-leaved plants are also at risk, they prefer dry growing conditions and are often badly affected by a damp atmosphere. If possible, cover them with an open

ended cloche, which keeps water off the foliage but still allows air circulation which helps prevent fungus disease from developing.

Divide perennials :

Now is a good time to give perennials a new lease of life by dividing and re-planting them. Division is an easy way to increase your stock of plants. Not only does it give you a new supply of plants, but it actually improves the performance of plants that are more than a couple of years old. Border plants can also be divided in spring, but mid-autumn is generally the best time of year to do the job.

Plant tulips and hyacinths :

It is best to wait until late Autumn to plant tulips and hyacinths. If planted too early they make premature growth which may be damaged by cold weather.

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Next Year's Day Trip :

Saturday, 7 July 2018

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Next year's trip is being organised for Saturday, 7 July 2018 and will be a trip to Stillingfleet Lodge Garden & Nursery and Burnby Hall Gardens.

The coach will leave at 9.30am (from Lepton), arriving back at approximately 5.30 – 6.00 pm.

Refreshments will be available to buy at both venues but you are welcome to bring your own food and drinks.

Car Trip 2018 :

We are planning a mid-week car trip visit to Lea Gardens, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 5GH. This is a three and half acre Rhododendron Garden (plus other spring flowers) mainly in a wooded valley (please note this has uneven paths). There is a Teashop and Plant Sales.

The date has not been decided yet but will probably be towards the end of April/beginning of May 2018. Please let Peter Hoyle know if you are interested in going. www.leagarden.co.uk

Contributions :

Please submit any comments or contributions to Mary Harrison

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Or by post to 73 Pavilion Way, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5QN