



Open Gardens Manuden 2016 Sunday 10th July

Happy new year!

Just to remind you all that this summer it's open gardens day and I promised you a couple of tips that would help you in your gardens. I hope you all are enjoying flicking through the numerous seed catalogues like the ones that seem to drop through my door almost every day! In fact this is a perfect time to order snowdrops! They are one of the bulbs that are best ordered in the green! This means you order them from nurseries who will send you them as the flowers are dying off. This may seem a bit daft I know to order dying flowers but they are best grown this way. Unlike daffodils and tulips etc. which you may recall can be bought in bags hanging in Homebase, etc. snowdrops don't do very well stored and grown this way. When they arrive plant them where you want them this time next year or pot them up and keep them to plant in the Autumn. Don't forget to label the pot and plant them in the Autumn. If you are not sure where to go give me a ring and I will pass on the telephone number of where I buy mine.

Whilst on the subject of buying plants it is time to prune your wisteria! The long growth, called whips, needs to be cut back to encourage the flowers that bloom in May. You need to cut them right back to between three and five buds. Just count along the whip from the base and snip. I always recommend that every garden should have one as it keeps us gardeners employed in the winter! There is always something to do in the garden. However Wisteria can take years to flower when grown from cuttings so it's one of the few plants to buy in flower in the garden centres. So many other plants on display are forced in to flower so as you walk past you think ooh that looks good I'll treat myself!!

If you would like to open your garden in the summer, or want to help out in a small way, just let me know and I can pass on the details to you. Look out for more tips next issue!

Richard Dale-Cooke

More details to follow – if you would like to open your garden next summer then please
contact us on:-

open-gardens@manuden.org.uk