



# Open Gardens Manuden 2016 Sunday 10th July

OPEN GARDENS 10TH JULY 2016

This is to update you with the latest news from the Open Gardens. I am pleased to say that we will have some new gardens that will be open this year, as well as some much loved old favourites! Dear reader there is still time for you to agree to open your garden. It does not have to be grand or large, it can be like mine, very modest and the only criteria for opening a garden is for you to love it! As Gertrude Jekyll the garden designer said way back "The main purpose of a garden is to give its owner the best and highest kind of pleasure!" in which case, it is, dear reader your duty to share it with others!

I also promised you some tips to help you in your garden! It is time to prune clematis. The general rule is, if it flowers before June do not prune! The spectacular 'Montana' (pink flowers) which gives a stunning display in May, is a good example of not cutting back now as you would lose all the flowers, whereas 'Bill Mackenzie' (yellow flowers), equally stunning in September, can be chopped back hard to about 12 inches! This one has pretty seed heads throughout the winter. (If on the other hand you have lost the label but remember the name have a look at the garden centre when you're next there, clematis have the pruning instructions on them). It is also not too late to prune roses, indeed I prefer to prune climbers now as all the leaves have fallen off and you can see the structure easily. The birds have usually eaten all the hips by now. Tie down the long leaders to an arch shape or almost horizontally as they will then flower along the whole length rather than producing single flowers at the end! If you would like to enter your garden then do please get in touch either via the web site or ring me.

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

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