



# 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. Once again thank you to all of you who have said how useful the tips are! More follow dear reader so keep reading! 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! In fact it would be great to have a very small courtyard garden open to show visitors what you can do in a very small space. If you know someone in the village with such a garden please encourage them to contact me!

So here are the promised tips to help you in your garden!

May is when the garden really starts to come into its own! How are the seeds doing that you sowed last month? If you haven't there is still time, see last month's magazine for seed tips. You can have a quick read as you rummage in the recycling for your copy (or look on the village website as we will put all the tips there)!!

Hanging baskets can be planted up now. I am sure you have your own favourite plants to use. I am a great fan of trailing pelargonium's (or geraniums as they used to be called) they are drought tolerant so work well in a hanging basket. The problem with most baskets is that they dry out so quickly. Mix in some water retaining gel crystals as you mix up the compost. Use a bucket and water before you plant as they swell and can push out the plants you've just planted. Mix in some slow release fertilizer as well to help you cut down on feeding.

One handy tip is to water them when you put the milk bottles out! If you don't have a milk man then a hand full of ice cubes on the basket melt slowly in the sun watering the basket, try not to freeze the plants just tuck them under the foliage.

A new plant that is gaining popularity is called Lofus, they are sold in the basket plant section at the nursery. They come with red or white flowers and one plant will reach the ground from a basket by the end of the season! They have pretty trumpet-shaped flowers and flower and flower. Other popular plants are petunias, fuchsias, nepeta and Scaevola. The choice these days is a bit boggling so if you're not sure then have sneaky look at the plants for sale in the handy planted up basket, provided at great expense and copy that! Dear reader it really is cheaper to do your own.

Some canny readers may have noticed that I haven't mentioned Lobelia. Much to my mother's horror I don't use this much loved plant! I find it dries out quickly and by August can spoil your baskets look and at that point you give up on your baskets and lose heart. If you water and feed your baskets they should last until October when it will be time to plant up for winter colour. All good gardens can have a basket with flowers all year round. If you want any advice then do give me a call I am more than happy to help.

If you would like to enter your garden then do please get in touch either via the Garden open day web site or ring me.

Richard Dale-Cooke 812955

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

**[open-gardens@manuden.org.uk](mailto:open-gardens@manuden.org.uk)**