



# Open Gardens Manuden 2018 Sunday 8th July

As you know dear reader we have a date for next summer for the Open Gardens and so I can happily announce the return of the top tips!!

However, before that this to remind all of you, who faithfully promised, that next time "I will open my garden" that we are the elephants of Manuden! Not that we are big grey and wrinkled (writer is b.t.w!), but we have long memories and we know who you are! We want all sorts of gardens to open not just huge ones but small as well! One of the many comments we had last time was how lucky we are with such wonderful surroundings and kind it was of the participants to share their gardens.

So now back to top tips! Have you made your lists for winter bulbs? So in September it is time to plant daffodils, crocus etc. But the main top tip is for forcing hyacinths, for indoors for Christmas or early January. You need prepared hyacinths not garden ones. Go to Wilkinson's for the bulbs and plant in a bowl with ordinary potting compost don't buy bulb fibre it's expensive and not necessary. Plant the bulb with the tip showing and water then place the pot in a garage in total darkness cover with a cardboard box to exclude all light if your garage or shed has windows. Leave until you want them to flower then bring in doors give a really good soak and expose to light. The bulbs will be have shoots that are white or yellow and will turn green almost immediately they are in the light. Much cheaper than buying in Marks and Spencer and just as lovely after the Christmas decorations have gone and a reminder that spring will not be far away. Why not do a couple for Christmas gifts a lovely present for gardeners.

So dear readers to finish enjoy your gardens during the next couple of months and eagerly await Octobers top tip!

Richard Dale-Cooke

More details to follow – if you would like to open your garden next summer then please

**contact us on:-**

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