



Open Gardens Manuden 2018 Sunday 8th July

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I am pleased to remind you dear reader that we are opening our gardens in July! This is the latest top tips for December and January. Don't forget that last year's are on the village web site so do look up to find out about pruning wisteria in January and caring for your Poinsettia! As Christmas will be well and truly underway by the time this is published I thought it might be useful to mention those lovely indoor decorations made from holly ivy etc. To keep fresh through the whole season water with ice cubes! The heat from the house will slowly melt in to the oasis and you won't spill water everywhere and end up mopping up and having to re polish the sideboard! This tip is good for door wreaths as well Just unhook lie down and dot with ice cubes. If it's a pain balance a few on the top to melt! Try not to bang the door whilst waiting to melt! Enjoy looking at the myriad of catalogues that promise hope for the New Year and order seeds etc! If we have snow in January please knock it off the branches of Conifers and hedges if they are bending under the weight of it. Conifers are notorious for not going back into shape after being bent! Winter digging of vegetable plots is a good idea providing it's not waterlogged or too frozen! A friend of mine cuts his grass on Boxing Day and at the time of writing it's still growing it can be useful to run over the grass to pick up any leaves but don't do it if frosty and cut at a high setting! I wish you, dear reader, the very best for Christmas and the new year ahead, Happy Gardening

Richard Dale-Cooke

Interesting fact....

Have you noticed the lovely rose pictured on the Open Gardens village webpage ? It has been there some years now. See <http://www.manuden.org.uk/Manuden-Open-Gardens.asp> .

In my family (Archers) we call it "The Manuden Rose" because it's on our webpage – however it's really a rose growing in my sister's garden against a barn in a small village in Burgundy, France! As it happens, in this same village lives a British gentleman called Christopher J Hobbs. He is an artist and designer and was given the task of designing the crown for the 90th Birthday of our Queen. He used a photo of "The Manuden Rose" for his design pictured here – his initials CJH are on the coin.



John Archer

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

open-gardens@manuden.org.uk