



Open Gardens Manuden 2020 Sunday 20th June

Launch of Open Gardens June 20th 2021

I am pleased to say that we are definitely going ahead with the plans for open gardens this year! We had lots planned for last year and providing everyone can join in we will have a bumper clutch of gardens open for viewing! For those of you who may have forgotten the plans are for villagers to open their gardens for people to visit! Your garden doesn't have to be the biggest, designed by a famous designer, several acres or even tidy! It just has to be yours! I suppose it could be your neighbours as long as they agree! The gardens are on a plan of the village and one plan gets you in to all the gardens. We charge a small fee for these and the monies raised goes to various good causes around the village. In the past we have helped the guides and Brownies M.V.C.C. Playground Cricket Club etc. We want all sizes open even the smallest Courtyard garden! (You know who you are!!) It's great for people who don't have access to their own garden for them to share, even for just an afternoon! We hope to have some classic cars on show as well as a bee keeping display! It should be the perfect antidote to last year or even, shall I say, a shot in the arm!

January/February is the beginning of the gardening year – a time for fresh starts, renewed energy, and grand plans for the twelve months ahead.

Jobs in the garden this month are mostly about keeping things trim and tidy, and getting ready for the year to come. If you're itching to get growing, there are a few things you can do besides the obvious planting bare root roses, chitting first early spuds.

Put your new-year enthusiasm to good use by cleaning pots, tools, water butts and greenhouses in preparation for spring. It's not the most glamorous of tasks, but it will set you up for a great growing season.

Prune your wisteria – cut back summer side shoots to 2 or 3 buds.

Prune rose bushes – January is the perfect time to do this as roses are still dormant. Cut back to just above a bud and remove any crossing or dead branches.

Cut back ornamental grasses. Clip the old foliage from ornamental grasses before new growth begins – cut back to within a few centimetres of the ground.

Tidy up perennials. Cut down the old stems of perennial plants like sedum – be careful of any new growth.

Begin pruning apple and pear trees – if you haven't done so already; it's best done while the plants are still dormant.

Prune blackcurrants, gooseberries and redcurrants

Leave plums, cherries and apricots alone until the summer – pruning them now will only make them susceptible to silver-leaf infections.

Force rhubarb plants by placing an upturned bucket or bin over the crown. The tender pink stems will be ready in about 8 weeks' time.

Order fruit bushes, such as currants, now and plant in a well-prepared bed in a sheltered position; they will be a lot tastier than supermarket produce!

Avoid walking on your lawn whenever it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage the grass beneath.

Get a head start on weeds. Remove any lurking weeds – roots and all

Hydrate indoor plants. Central heating can dry the air in your home and cause damage to indoor plants. Mist house plants regularly and stand them on a tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity.

Order seeds. Draw up a garden plan to help decide the quantities of each seed you need.

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Sing a long new date! 16th October 2021!