



Open Gardens Manuden 2020 Sunday 20th June

This is to update you with the latest news from the Open Gardens. First of all thank you to all of you who have said how useful the tips are! More follow dear reader so keep reading! I would be pleased to say that we will have some new gardens that will be open this year, as well as some much loved old favourites, but with the current unpleasantness the response has been, dare I say, slow! 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 criterion for opening a garden is for you to love it!

We are thrilled to announce that this year we will be having an addition to the afternoon of a **classic car show!** See more details below! We will need the gardens as well though! So if, dear reader, you're thinking "well my garden isn't that great" we need you! Please give me a call and I can hopefully persuade you with all the reasons why you should join in! We also hope to have the **Bee keepers** back again which proved very popular last time.

It seems almost life time of lockdowns and gloom since the last event three years ago! So we want to be back with more gardens than ever! For those of you who may not know what happens, we charge a small entrance fee to allow you to visit all the gardens. All the money raised goes to village organisations. Cricket Club, Guides and Brownies, WI, Friendship Club etc. etc. **we also have a plant sale and refreshments at the community centre.**

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

April is when the garden really starts to wake up and begin to run away from you! Start weeding if you haven't already! Start feeding plants! This is not complicated and after all the rain we have had over the winter, the easiest way to feed is buy some slow release food. Growmore or Top rose are good choices. You then walk round chucking (a gardening technical term) handfuls around the base of shrubs and roses! It is best to read the instructions as to the amounts to feed the plants but anything is better than nothing. You can buy boxes of these products in Wilkinson's, Sainsbury etc. as well as garden centres and believe me the own brand products seem just as good! Don't go too mad and get them on the leaves!

Feeding grass to revive your lawns can start now as well. Do be more careful when applying food to lawns as you can end up with stripy lawns with brown patches rather than the verdant green pictures on the box!

Start sowing a few seeds! Look for annuals in aforementioned shops. Buy easy sow packets. These are usually marketed as such, cost about a pound or under and do what they say! Sprinkle in gaps and see what happens. Mark where you have sown them with an old flower pot or some have labels attached to the seed packet. If the instructions are complicated put them back! (top tip) It really is an easy way to add colour to your garden.

April is a good time to soak all your pots that have overwintered. Although its been a wet cold winter the wind dries out the compost and a good soak sets them up for the new season! It will perk up the Pansies. Divide late flowering perennials such as Helenium Asters and Rubeckia if you haven't done it for a few years its the last chance and they'll soon settle down before they flower. If your Camelias have not flowered well give them a good feed with ericaceous food and mulch they may have dry roots! Cut back Cotinus, (Smoke bush) Penstemon and Salvias if you haven't done it yet. Easter is a popular time to rush out buying plants for the garden particularly if it's hot but don't forget we may still get hard frosts before the end of May!

If you wish to open your garden then please do get in contact with us. Its not long now to go before we can all hopefully be back to some fun times!

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Manuden Classic & Sports car show on the 20th June 2021

Please bring your Classic - Sports car along, to express interest and for more information please email Paul Swords :-

ManudenCarShow@gmail.com

