



Best Wishes for the season from
the Trustees, Ambassadors &
Judges of London & South & South
East in Bloom

The Gardeners Hymn

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,

is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,

All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.

*The greenfly in the roses, the maggots in the peas, Manure that fills our noses,
he also gave us these.*

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club roots on the greens,

The slugs that eat the lettuces', and chew the aubergines.

*The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds, The rain that
drowns the seedlings, the blight that kills the spuds.*

*The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds, The pigeons in the
green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.*

*The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums, How black the
gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs.*

But still, we gardeners' labour, midst vegetables and flowers,

And pray what hits our neighbour will somehow bypass ours.

All things are bright and beautiful...

Thanks all.....

Put the tools away, sit down by the fire,

Contemplate the ideal garden and all that you desire,

Gardening is never easy, especially when cold and wet,

Frost upon the Parsnips, making them sweeter yet,

So have a wonderful Christmas, and let the garden rest.

And come back next year and be your better best.

Thanks for reading.

*Best wishes and thanks to our sponsors, donors and judges and our amazing
entries. We hope you will join us again next year.*

Have a great seasonal break,

See you next year.

Ed:



Jean's Christmas Quiz 2022

1. What effect does frost have when parsnips are left in the ground?
2. Which Christmas plant grows high or low on a host plant?
3. Where do Poinsettia plants come from?
4. English Holly is DIOECIOUS: what does this mean?
5. What is the birth flower for December?
6. Who made the Christmas Tree popular in the UK?
7. Which vitamin can be obtained from pine needles?
8. Why are Christmas trees no good at knitting?
9. How old is the carol The Holly and the Ivy?
10. What is the best-selling Christmas song?
11. Where does Santa go when he is feeling ill?
12. Which red-leafed vegetable is perfect for a winter salad?
13. Who does MI6 have to search for at Christmas?
14. Who was driving home for Christmas?
15. What is the ocean which surrounds Christmas Island called?
16. How would you say Merry Christmas in Welsh?
17. When was the first Christmas card sent? 1743/ 1843/1943
18. Why does Santa have three gardens?



Feltham Green joins The Queen's Green Canopy



Friends of Feltham Green organized a special tree planting ceremony in partnership with Hounslow Council Parks in November as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. This unique tree-planting initiative was created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The scheme aims to create a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation. It will be a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and people.

The tree also has another special reason to celebrate DGC (Defence Geographical Centre), Feltham Garrison's 60th Anniversary. The DGC wanted to give the people of Feltham a lasting thank you in recognition of their support to the many militaries and civilian Crown servants who have worked in Feltham since 1917. DGC staff raised money for two elm trees (*Ulmus Minor*, Jacqueline Hillier- Dwarf Field Elm). The type of tree chosen is due to the present location of the site, Elmwood Ave. The second elm will eventually be moved and planted at RAF Wyton when the site closes at Feltham.

The Mayor of Hounslow, Director of DGC, Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London (representing King Charles III), community groups, pre-schools and residents attended the ceremony well.

Feltham would also like to highlight the elm tree part of the **Metropolitan Public Gardens Association project Elms4London**, to bring back the species to our parks and green spaces after losing so many from Dutch Elm disease. Our tree is part of the 'New Horizon' group and hope by the name, and it will be a brighter new horizon for the elm.

Angela Parton

Chair



FRIENDS OF
FELTHAM GREEN

GARDENING TIPS & TASKS

Reg Leach Ambassador, SSEiB Judge and former Parks Manager – retired.

Usually, this month, I would be talking about 'Tasks and Tips' for January...

As I have been writing these columns for seven years (Longer if I include those I did for the Richmond Borough in Bloom), I have decided to hang up my 'pen' and perhaps allow someone else to do the gardening column in 2023.

I hope this column has been helpful over the years, enabling you to plan and organize your community work and projects. I also hope it has guided those who recently embarked on the 'Bloom' journey.

Writing these columns has been a great pleasure, and I have enjoyed doing them. Just one final thought...

Bringing the outdoors in for Christmas:



As I write in early December, I have several plants still flowering in the garden:

Carnations; Cyclamen; Chrysanthemums; Schizostylus; Gaillardia and Agryanthemum. I suspect the first frost when it comes into the garden will not be kind to them, but for December, it is surprising. In the greenhouse flowering at the moment is Narcissi 'Paperwhite', filling the house with its wonderful scent and the spectacular Gloriosa Rothschildiana.

So as Christmas approaches, look around the garden to see what gems there are for table decorations and for berry plants such as holly and cotoneaster to make a wreath for the front door.

Around Christmas Eve, check the garden for winter flowering shrubs such as Chimonanthus praecox, Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn' and Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena'. They make a great scented centrepiece for the table. They don't last too long once cut, but their scent is amazing.

I would like to wish all our readers a very enjoyable and Happy Christmas and a very successful 'Bloom' year in 2023.

Take care and keep safe. - Au revoir, Reg.

Thanks, Reg, for all your support over the years and have a great end of the season.



The UK's Rarest Native Tree Comes to Wandsworth



The Black Poplar is Britain's rarest native tree, with around 7,000 individual trees alive across the nation today. On behalf of Wandsworth Borough Council, Enable is carrying out an exciting conservation project in King George's Park, with roughly 20 young trees planted. This is a fascinating conservation project that aims to safeguard the future of a scarce species.

The location of these trees is crucial, as they need to follow the 'Right Place, Right Tree' approach adopted in Wandsworth Council's Tree Policy. Whilst we want to ensure the longevity of all trees planted in The Borough – Black Poplars are particularly sensitive, and additional careful consideration was given to the location of the trees in this planting scheme. The Poplars will be planted along the banks of the Wandle in King George's Park, as they need wetland environments to thrive – the loss of wetland environments across the UK is strongly linked to a decline in Black Poplar numbers. Additionally, this location is already fenced off, granting more excellent protection and ensuring survival in the long term.

Selecting the right location also maximizes the more comprehensive biodiversity benefits, with a focus on borough-level connectivity. The central location of King George's Park holds great significance. Right in the heart of Wandsworth, King George's Park was declared a site of Borough Importance in 2000 for its value as the central wildlife corridor within the area. This strip of natural habitat connects populations of wildlife otherwise separated by the surrounding built environment and is a prime location to benefit from this enhancement.

Enable's Biodiversity Officer, Mick, is leading the project. When asked about the significance of this project, he emphasized that "The trees being planted are clones of native specimens found on the bank of the Thames in Barnes, which adds value as it ensures the genetic strain is conserved within the local area, preserving the genetic diversity of the species and encouraging long-term survival. This is very important for the success of this conservation project and Black Poplar conservation more generally."

In early November, work started to prepare space for the Poplars. Some ground vegetation was cleared, and tree pits were created; additionally, the canopy in some areas was opened to let in more light (whilst also using the wood produced to create some dead wood habitat on site!).

This project is one of many that aims to enhance biodiversity through this central strip of Wandsworth. Connectivity is key – biodiversity improvements must be strategic to be maximally beneficial and sustainable, focusing on how different habitats and species work in symbiosis. Careful consideration of habitat location is crucial in enhancing connectivity, so that we can maximize biodiversity value, allowing sites like King George's Park to become wildlife corridors and act as sites of Borough Importance. Whilst they are a fast-growing species, we hope they will survive for around 100-300 years and create a stronghold of Black Poplars in Wandsworth.



GATWICK FOUNDATION FUND REOPENS!

Gatwick Foundation Fund relaunched after being suspended during the pandemic

Grants available for local projects that support young people, improve health and wellbeing, tackle social isolation and disadvantage, or raise aspirations

£100,000 distributed per year in Sussex for the Gatwick area (Horsham, Crawley, Mid Sussex, Wealden districts).

People working on local community projects can now apply for funding from Gatwick Airport's Foundation Fund, which was relaunched last week.

Grants are now available for projects that support local children and young people, improve health and wellbeing, tackle social isolation and disadvantage, or raise aspirations and employment opportunities.

The grant criteria purposely align with priority areas that many local authorities currently focus on and are designed to:

- Build better communities by fighting social isolation and tackling disadvantage
- Enable social mobility by raising aspirations and improving skills
- Improve health (physical and mental) and wellbeing
- Make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children and young people

A total of £300,000 in grants is distributed each year, with projects in Sussex, Surrey and Kent receiving £100,000 each in three funding rounds. The Fund was, however, suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fund is designed to distribute the economic benefits that the airport generates among local people and communities that may not benefit directly from other economic contributions the airport brings to the region.

Gatwick's Foundation Fund was originally launched in late 2016, and – to date – a total of £1.2 million has been distributed through Sussex, Surrey and Kent Community Foundations in 236 grants, benefiting over 100,000 people.

Sussex Community Foundations manages the programme and assess all applications in our county. To apply to the Gatwick Foundation Fund, please visit the [Fund page](#).

Other sources of funding

Two further sources of airport-related funding are also available for local community projects (not through Sussex Community Foundation). The next round of [Gatwick Airport Community Trust's](#) grant programme opens in December 2022 for projects in Sussex, Surrey and Kent. Charities dedicated to improving access to employment, training, housing, mobility, or leisure for societies' most disadvantaged will also be invited to apply to the [VINCI UK Foundation](#) for grants in January 2023.

Ruth's Christmas Conundrums!

Variety is the Spice of Life. Each question lists three types of a flower, fruit or vegetable. All you have to do is name what they are varieties of.

1. January King, Winter White, Christmas Drumhead
2. Optica, Red Epicure, Crimson Flowered
3. Worcester Pearmain, Blenheim Orange, Discovery
4. Dorothy, Edith, Dopey
5. Harmony, Mozart, Vivaldi
6. Snowball, Ailsa Craig, Red Arrow
7. Cavendish, Dwarf Red, Ice Cream
8. Flamingo, Guyot, Conference
9. Mrs Cholmondeley, Rasputin, Big Brother
10. Darcy Bussell, Gertrude Jekyll, Lady Emma Hamilton

Word Ladder –

Change the word from HOLLY to BERRY. Change one letter each time so that each step forms a new word. Good luck!

H	O	L	L	Y
B	E	R	R	Y



Jean Griffin - Dip.Hort. (Kew), Trustee, Judge, Broadcaster

Thoughts from the past!

Recently I have been researching soil types and came across this interesting information from 'A Chronicle of an old Kewite. '

These are the words of William Dallimore, who became a student gardener at Kew in 1891. He was promoted to propagator and later to assistant curator in 1896.

Quote:

'After many trials with different soil mixtures, it was found that the best results with Ericaceae were obtained by using the top spit of the naturally sandy soil of the Gardens with four to six inches of broken Peat forked through it. Many years before my time, certain beds had been excavated to a depth of eighteen inches and filled with Peat for Rhododendrons, but the Peat became sour and quite unfit for plant life before it became filled with plant roots. For a long time, those beds were a source of trouble, and in the end, all the old Peat was taken out and replaced with Kew top spit soil into which a small amount of Peat was mixed. Then, new plants grew well. '

Perhaps we should be reading older gardening tomes. We may learn something!



It's interesting to hear that Peat was used extensively horticulturally much earlier than the 1960s-70s.

Peat became the go-to material for composts that succeeded the beloved John Innes compost, first formulated in 1926.

The Levington Institute developed modern Peat-based composts in the 1960-70s. The Glasshouse Crops Research Institute developed a version for bedding plant production, which I used as a Nursery Manager in the City of Bath in the 1980s.

Peat was used for all manner of purposes, with even RHS Wisley replacing its alpine garden with Peat blocks at one point.

It is good to hear that Peat was being reduced even back then, and wherever possible, we should too. But if used for seed sowing or potting, perhaps avoid those that contain Green waste. Those are much better for general use. Ed:

Jean's Christmas Quiz 2022 Answers

1. They are supposed to have a sweeter taste!
2. Mistletoe
3. Mexico
4. Male and female flowers are on separate plants
5. Narcissus
6. Prince Albert
7. Vitamin C
8. Because they drop their needles
9. The oldest written copy dates to the early 1700s and is in the British Museum
10. White Christmas (extra point if you name the original singer)
11. The Elf Centre '
12. Radicchio
13. 'Mince Spy '
14. Chris Rea
15. Indian Ocean
16. . Nadolig Llawen
17. 1843.
18. Because he likes to 'Hoe, Hoe Hoe. '



Ruth's Know Your Onions!

How good is your general knowledge?

1. Which garden pest is known to be particularly fond of hostas?
2. Why is *Araujia sericifera* commonly known as the "Cruel Plant"?
3. Which essential element can lupins "fix" into the soil?
4. What plant takes its name from the Italian phrase meaning "beautiful woman"?



Ruth's Variety is the Spice of Life – Answers:

1. Cabbage
2. Broad Bean
3. Apple
4. Fuschia
5. Potato
6. Onion
7. Banana
8. Pear
9. Clematis
10. Rose

5. Who said, "Let the sky rain potatoes" a) Prospero, b) Henry V, c) Falstaff, d) Oberon
6. True or False – 28g (1 oz) of death cap mushrooms can be fatal.
7. What shape are campanulate flowers?
8. Lithops avoid being eaten by animals by disguising themselves as what?
9. The rhizome of the polypody fern can be used as a culinary flavouring, but in which type of confectionary is it most commonly found?
10. What is the name of the most produced single variety of eating apple in England?

Word Ladder – Answers

Dear Reader – It took me **HOURS** to work this out, so don't feel too bad if you are now looking at the answers before finishing the ladder!

H	O	L	L	Y
H	I	L	L	Y
H	I	L	L	S
H	A	L	L	S
H	A	I	L	S
H	A	I	R	S
H	A	I	R	Y
H	A	R	R	Y
M	A	R	R	Y
M	E	R	R	Y
B	E	R	R	Y

Ruth's Know your onions answers

1. The dreaded slug - try watering your hostas with a strong garlic solution – slugs hate it
2. Because it produces a sticky secretion that temporarily traps insects to aid pollination!
3. Nitrogen
4. Belladonna
5. Falstaff – in The Merry Wives of Windsor
6. True
7. Bell-shaped
8. Pebbles and stones
9. Nougat – who knew?
10. Gala



Winter Tracery

A Frosty Royal Horticultural Societies Gardens Wisley



It was thought that gardens go to sleep from November, with a former theory that we should put the garden to bed, cut down the herbaceous plants and grasses, and hibernate until the warming sun returns.

However, as the images below show, there is much to see and enjoy in the Winter Garden.

I thought I would share a few images of my most recent visit to the Royal Horticultural Gardens Wisley when an air frost had set in. The gardens, almost devoid of visitors, were a joy to walk around and enjoy the effects of the frost on the vast array of plants and trees to be seen there.

Would highly recommend a visit or two over the winter months to remind us that classic gardens are worth visiting throughout the year.





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It's no secret that creating a beautiful garden or growing your vegetables takes time, dedication, and passion. There is always something new to get excited about and pay attention to with the ever-changing seasons.

At **the Garden Superstore**, we understand what your garden means to you. We are passionate about sharing our expert, in-depth knowledge to help you on your gardening journey, from quality gardening calendars to product reviews and helpful guides to help your garden look its best all year round.

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The logo for 'the Garden SUPERSTORE' is located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement. It features a stylized green 'G' with a leaf-like shape inside, followed by 'the' in a small, orange font, 'Garden' in a large, bold, green font, and 'SUPERSTORE' in a smaller, bold, green font. Below this, the tagline 'a growing success' is written in a small, orange font.



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London in Bloom is grateful for the continuing support of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, which has provided a grant to London in Bloom for 2022

MPGA is a long-established Charity that has played a vital role in preserving and improving countless gardens, neglected sites, and green open spaces across London. We provide modest grants to those who share with us a desire to improve the environment and, thus, the quality of life for the local community. Our work brings us into contact with various groups, including local councils, schools, hospitals, hospices, museums, voluntary organizations, and community groups.

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners, first mentioned in City Corporation records in 1345, is a survivor of the medieval craft guilds which exercised control over the practice of their crafts and ensured proper training through the system of apprenticeship.



The Worshipful Company of
GARDENERS

The Company is a "living" guild, and the numbers of its members are both professionals and amateurs actively involved in the craft. A common bond of horticulture and gardens unites all.



The Royal Parks Guild is a voluntary Partner Organization of The Royal Parks who are responsible for managing and preserving over 5,000 acres of historic parkland across London.

Our aim is a serious one – championing The Royal Parks by promoting their qualities, including horticultural excellence and historical significance, whilst offering practical support where appropriate. Allied to this is the service to its members through the provision and development of a broad range of social activities and keeping members abreast of current and past news of The Royal Parks.

The Royal Parks has worked with London in Bloom since its inception in 1967.

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