

Buckingham

Garden Centre



'Passionate about gardening'

NEWSLETTER

LATE JUNE / JULY 2017 ISSUE



JOIN OUR SUMMER
PRUNING COURSE
WITH CLARE PRICE

EVENLEY WOOD JUNE EVENT
TOP ADVICE ON GROWING LILIES AND ROSES

**WHAT'S
INSIDE**

Latest shop news and products, Must-have plants for midsummer plantings, Plant of the Month Garden Card exclusives, Five Minutes with Local Butcher Lee and his THRIVE Charity raffle for July and What's On.

As you probably know this year marks the 50th Anniversary milestone of the BBC's *Gardeners' World* programme. For us gardeners it remains the go-to gardening programme for expert advice, seasonal tips, opportunities to view gardens from around the UK and of course enjoy the antics of current presenter Monty Don and his two dogs, Nigel and Nell. I've grown up with the presenters including the wonderful Geoff Hamilton, genial Percy Thrower and the stalwart Alan Titchmarsh. *GW*'s five decades have defined the way we garden and also have reflected on how the garden centre business has developed. *Gardeners' World* has been integral throughout, reporting and commenting on the day to day development of the horticultural world with an ever-changing band of enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters that brought their own skills to the programme.

The Garden Trade's connection to *GW* has not been good as garden centres are unable to get advanced notice of what plants are going to be recommended, so often they do not have them in stock for viewers who have been inspired to plant. In a world of super speed communication this nagging missing link still remains. So, my hope that this will change soon and we'll be kept up to date with what Monty, Joe, Rachel and Adam enthuse so passionately so you, the gardening public, can benefit and purchase the plants lovingly 'promoted' on the BBC. Happy anniversary to *GW* and here is to the next 50 years!

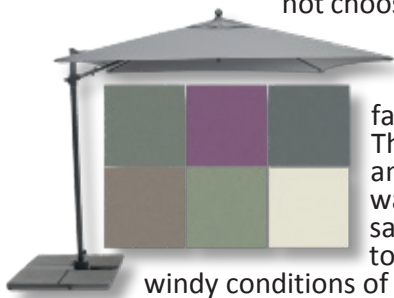
Enjoy your midsummer garden - whatever the weather!

Chris



SHOP UPDATE: SHADE PROTECTION AND KADAI FIREBOWL

SHADE LOVERS To keep you away from those harmful UV rays this summer why not choose from our great range of parasols that will provide you and your garden with some much needed shade. Kettler has a great selection of colours to choose from as well as different sizes to keep your family safe whilst enjoying the BBQ and party season. Their push up and wind up systems make them quick and easy to use as well as including a 12 month warranty. The choices of colours are slate, amethyst, sage, aqua and stone. We also have a range of covers to protect the parasol in the harsh downpours and windy conditions of late summer and the winter.



PROTECTING YOUR GARDEN FURNITURE As a lot of us are aware we love to sit out on our garden furniture but never know how to treat it or what to use, here is a quick and helpful guide to help you through a variety of treatments. We stock a lot of wooden furniture here in the Garden Centre and are often asked what the difference between treating and preserving is.

Many of the hardwood furniture do not require treatment such as Teak, Roble and Mahogany as they have a high oil content which is a natural preservative. These timbers will turn to a silver grey colour after 3-6 months. If you want to keep the original colour you should treat it as close to the purchase date as possible. If you decide to treat it later you will need to clean your furniture before applying the treatment. Timber cleaner must be applied to wet furniture and is used to remove all dirt and residue in the first instance.

Due to the wood being a natural product it will expand and contract in different seasons and periods of weather, this may lead to small cracks and unevenness in your wood.





You can use the following to protect your furniture: Timber Protector – a water based, environmentally friendly product for use on Teak and Roble, which nourishes and gives more uniform appearance to the timber. Timber Treatment – oil based for use on Teak, Mahogany or Roble, to help enhance and protect timber. Timber Sealer – for use on Teak, Roble, Mahogany and Pine to provide a protective coating but allowing the timber to breathe whilst reducing the amount of weathering. Do ask staff for extra information. All of these treatments are designed to prolong the durability of the furniture so you can enjoy your garden for as long as the sun allows.

A DIFFERENT AND ATTRACTIVE BARBEQUE Pauline Brown looks at the story behind The Kadai Firebowl. The ethos of Christo and Kate's business is 'To minimise our impact on the planet by using recycled materials where possible and only producing items that will last and hopefully improve with age if properly cared for'. They have born this in mind since Christo spent a year back in 1990 travelling by motorbike around India. By 1995 he and Kate started selling antique treasures they had brought back from their frequent visits



to India and selling them in the antiques market in Church Stretton. By 2002 they had started to develop a range of goods carved by highly skilled craftsmen in Rajasthan. A year later a close relationship was built up with families of small workshops across Rajasthan, and then in 2004 Christo and Kate exhibited the Kadai at the RHS Chelsea and received a Merit Award for Outstanding Presentation for the design created by Julian Faulkner. This was the first proper public showing of the Kadai.

The following year, having seen traditional Kadais used as cooking bowls in India, but with the fire underneath, they came up with the idea of putting the fire inside the bowl. In 2006 they returned to RHS Chelsea and launched the original Kadai as a fire bowl then later that year grills were added as it was realised it would make a great barbecue. By 2008 they had perfected the design for the recycled Kadai, hand-made from oil drums in family workshops in India. The range was increased adding various features then in 2010 it was sufficiently advanced to be introduced at two trade shows

in the UK, resulting in considerable interest and stockists taking on the range across the UK.

In 2011 amongst the accessories available to compliment the Kadai was a Charcoal Maker and this was entered into the first Chelsea Flower Show Products of the Year Awards and it won! By 2012 Christo and Kate were still sourcing Indian antiques for sale but they decided to focus all their attention on the Kadai Firebowls. By 2014 the original team of four had expanded to over 10 then by 2016 the products were selling at over 200 outlets in the UK. Now in 2017 we have taken on this very different and attractive Barbecue with its many accessories and not surprisingly it is proving very popular. We have two displays of the Kadai - one in the main Foyer and the other within our Shop, close to the furniture.



BATTLE OF THE GARDEN GIANTS LILIES VERSES THE ROSE

In a recent *Gardeners' World* magazine poll both Roses and Lilies faired well as the UK's most popular summer flowering plants, says Chris Day. So, here's a few tips on making sure they both perform well for the summer.

If you are growing lilies then well-drained soil is essential, ideally humus-rich, moisture-retentive loam. If drainage isn't good, grow them in large pots with plenty of drainage. On Buckingham clay incorporate plenty of Tree, Shrub and Rose Planting Compost with one-third horticultural grit around the bulbs at planting time.

Most are happy in sun, but the Turk's cap lilies, such as *L. martagon*, are better in light shade. These Western European and Central Asian species are the best for the British climate.



Plant deep - at three times the height of the bulb, as most root from the stem as well as the base. *L. candidum* is the exception. Slugs are the great enemy, above and below ground - so take necessary action. Soil wise, Orientalis forms favour slightly acidic soils whereas Asiatic lilies grow well in our alkaline soils.

Keep an eye open for scarlet lily beetles, pick off and crush underfoot if seen. If you are growing them in pots then you can use Glue Bands from Agralan. Apply these around the pot so stopping the lily beetles literally in their tracks as they try to cross the pot. They stick to the glue and then you can kill them easily

without using any insecticides. In pots they benefit from the compost being moist at all times, but not sodden. Feed with a high potassium liquid fertiliser such as tomato feed every fortnight through the summer.

Our affair with the rose remains as strong as ever. The introduction of David Austin, Harkness and Peter Beales Classic roses to our range has given us a much wider choice of varieties across the Hybrid Teas, Cluster flowered (floribunda), Climbers, Ramblers, Groundcover and Patio forms. There's so much roses can give to the garden - structure, fragrance and of course colour. To make sure of a flawless rose performance preventative spraying for Mildew and Blackspot needs to be at the top of your list. Spraying needs to be carried out regularly and we would recommend either using RoseClear Ultra or MultiRose for not only a good control for the two fungal problems that afflict roses but it will also take care of those pesky greenfly too.



Keeping your roses flowering does depend on if the variety is repeat-flowering. After colour and scent, this is the question which needs to be answered. In smaller gardens repeat flowering is essential, it means you can enjoy flowers in June/July and again in August and even into September, they do take a break so they are never continuous. Remember to deadhead your roses directly after the first flush and apply some TopRose or Vitax Q4 fertiliser to help encourage the next wave of flowers.



It is also worth cutting back your roses after the blooms have faded in the autumn by around half. The main reason for doing this is to reduce wind rock which can cause serious problems by damaging the roots.

You can learn more about associating Roses and Lilies at Evenley Wood Garden as part of their Lily & Rose Festival on Sunday 25th June. See page 11 for more details.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PLANTS DEPARTMENT

The mid summer perennials really do come into the fore, so look out for some fantastic varieties of Echinacea (pictured right). Look out for the new SunSeeker colours including a vibrant orange form. The popular form 'Magnus' provides weeks of colour and is useful at attracting both bees and butterflies into your plot. For many people the Rudbeckia are the quintessential cottage garden plant and justly so. Two varieties to look out for are 'Little Henry', an ultra compact form only 60-90cm tall compared with the usual 150cm plus in height yellow cone-flowers. Equally compact R. 'Goldstrum' reaches just 60cm tall and spreads to 45cm by late summer. The large, golden-yellow, daisy-like flowers up to 12cm (5in) across have rightly earned this form the coveted RHS Award of Garden Merit. All of the Salvias tend to take centre stage later in the summer, but surely *Salvia* 'Hot Lips' (shown left) is the variety we do enjoy growing in our borders and pots. This variety needs a bright sunny aspect to maintain the unique bi-colour blooms of white and lipstick red throughout the growing season. Interestingly as we have observed this year the colour can vary according to the temperature, with lipless all white or all red blooms appearing from time to time.



We also have a new limited selection of potted fruit and ornamental trees which feature in our Mail Order range. Please come along and browse the range and these offer good value over our standard range of trees. Two particularly good

trees to look out for include *Malus* 'Rudolph', a crab apple with rose red flowers followed by orange-yellow fruits. (pictured right) *Acer* 'Crimson King' is a highly decorative medium sized garden tree featuring outstanding rich dark crimson leaves turning to red, brown and orange in the autumn. These plants offer excellent value for money.



We are also offering a range of individually grown Raspberry varieties, including the recently introduced 'Joan J' (pictured left). This variety starts cropping from July through until October with fruits which are somewhat larger than 'Autumn Bliss' with excellent flavour.

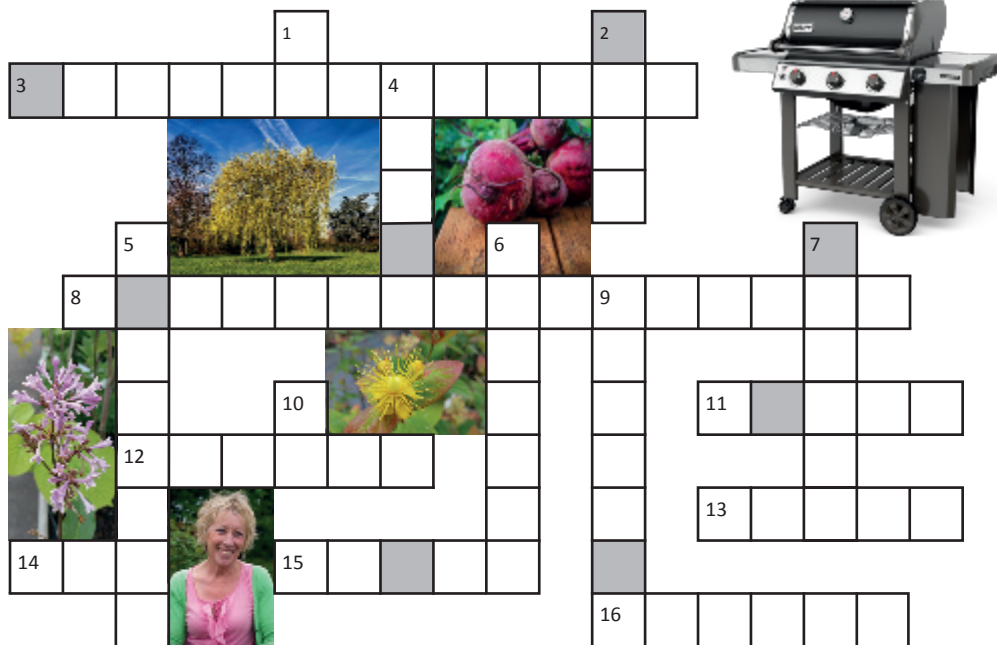
We also have available Raspberry 'Malling Jewel', a summer cropping variety with medium to large sweet dark red berries on compact growth. It is a heavy, reliable cropper and is considered to be one of the best flavoured raspberries available. These are available in 10cm poly pots at £2.00 each or 3 for £5.00. You can pick and mix the varieties in the offer to get the cheaper price.

As Wimbledon approaches our thoughts naturally turn to strawberries and cream. We have a great range of varieties available to purchase online and at the Garden Centre. You can take your pick of 'Hapil' (right), an early summer cropper with fabulous flavour; 'Alice', a mid-season succulent soft and flavoursome berry and 'Florence', a late season and reliable cropper with a great taste. All strawberries are sold in 9cm pots at £1.79 each or any 10 strawberry plants for £16.50.



PUZZLE CORNER - UP FOR A SUMMER CHALLENGE?

Would you like to win a £25 Buckingham Garden Centre Gift Voucher? Enter our crossword competition below. Use the clues to fill in the answers. Take the letters from the shaded boxes which form an anagram of a popular climber (5,3).



ACROSS

DOWN

3. Sobbing Salix (7,6)
8. Livingstone daisy and also means "midday flowering" (16)
11. Type of soil that often does not retain water or nutrients (5)
12. Phaseolus coccineus: _____ bean (6)
13. Roots, Tubers, Rhizomes, Corns and _____ (5) ?
14. Zodiac lion: Doronicum Little _____ (3)
15. Carol _____, enthusiastic Gardeners' World presenter (5)
16. Forsythia, Hypericum ad Kerria all produce this colour of flower (6)

1. Katherine Hepburn 1981 movie: __ Golden Pond (2)
2. Draceana _____ of India, a foliage house plant (4)
4. Popular brand of both Gas and Charcoal BBQ (5)
5. Beta vulgaris with a sweet red root (8)
6. Passiflora edulis: _____ flower (7)
7. Plastic greenhouse Poly _____ (6)
9. Gardening is a form of ? (7)
10. Ivor Novello song: "We'll gather lilac __ the spring again" (2)

Once you have solved the anagram, send the plant name you have discovered by e-mail to competitions@buckingham-nurseries.co.uk with the subject line July Crossword or post your entry to July Crossword Competition, Buckingham Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE. Closing date 31st July 2017.

THRIVE - OUR CHOSEN CHARITY FOR 2017

With the limitations that cerebral palsy puts on movement and co-ordination, Nicole faces challenges on a daily basis. I'm Helen Crichton and I have been a Horticultural Therapist at **THRIVE** in Beech Hill for nine years. I always had an interest in combining my previous career in nursing with horticulture. While studying Landscape Management I learnt about horticultural therapy and then went on to



work at a nursery which specifically gave opportunities to people living with disabilities. Joining **THRIVE** was the perfect move for me!

I first met Nicole (pictured left) when she started at **THRIVE** in Beech Hill seven years ago. She was a little bit apprehensive at first but her bubbly, fun loving character soon shone through. This helped her to make new friends quickly and along with her sense of humour and independent streak she soon became an established member of the **THRIVE** family.

I've worked weekly with Nicole at The Vyne Walled Garden Project, a local National Trust property near Basingstoke, where she helps to maintain the kitchen garden and learns woodland conservation skills. Nicole is currently learning

to cope with a change in medication which can make her feel extremely tired so at the moment she has decided to remain on-site at the Trunkwell Garden Project.

Nicole loves physical activities which can help strengthen her weak right side particularly digging and transporting plants. We work together to find solutions to the frustrations of her physical condition and she embraces the physical aspects of gardening with real gusto and a fantastic work ethic. She is very motivated and actively joins in as part of a team. I also love the fact that she gardens with perfectly manicured pink nails!

I believe the whole **THRIVE** experience has really helped to shape Nicole into the well-rounded, knowledgeable gardener that we see today.

Following completion of her Entry Level Diploma in Horticulture last year, Nicole has become a real asset to Thrives' garden project here at Beech Hill and she is always encouraging and helping others through her caring and sociable nature.

Working with Nicole is so motivating! I admire her resilience and the fact she never lets anything stand in her way and I look forward to developing new skills with her in the future. Will you donate today so that more people like Nicole can have a fulfilling future?

With your support, we are using gardening to help people to get the most out of

their life! For information on

THRIVE or to take advantage of their free support and advice on all aspects of social and therapeutic horticulture, phone 0118 988 5688, e-mail info@thrive.org.uk or visit www.carryongardening.org.uk

You can help us to help **THRIVE** by purchasing our range of herb plants. We will donate 10p from every sale of 9cm and 1-litre pots of herb plants sold this year.



**BUY A HERB PLANT FROM
OUR RANGE AND WE WILL
DONATE 10P FROM EVERY
SALE TO THE THRIVE
CHARITY**

OUR CHOSEN CHARITY FOR 2017



LAST CHANCE TO CLAIM YOUR FREE GIFT THIS JUNE

FREE GIFT

STARTS
1ST JUNE

A PAIR OF
TOWN & COUNTRY
GARDENING GLOVES
(MENS OR LADIES)
RRP £4.99



OR



A BOX OF
PHOSTROGEN
ALL PURPOSE
PLANT FOOD
RRP £4.99

WITH PURCHASES OF £20 OR MORE

Offering 10p per litre per day. Offer valid on one kind of stock from T&C Ltd or T&C Ltd's
subsidiaries and Phostrogen Ltd. T&C Ltd's subsidiaries are not for sale. See our website for full terms and conditions.

www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk

Buckingham
Garden Centre



"Passionate about gardening"

FIVE MINUTES WITH LEE CRAWLEY, LOCAL BUTCHER

Hi Lee, Please can you tell us a little about yourself and your business?

I'm 48 and been butchering for 30 years and running my own business for 5 years. I trade in markets and the Garden Centre covering Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire 6 days a week.

Where do you live and how would you describe your garden? I live in Bletchley and I'd describe my garden as being very sparse, but tidy with a few hanging baskets

Oh, do you have any strong gardening links way back then? Only that my Grandad was a keen gardener, who was a 'live in gardener' in the New Forest, Hampshire.

We know this is going to be a difficult one, but if you were stranded on that castaway island, which foodstuffs would you like to take with you?

That's easy sausages for the BBQ, ice cream and lager!

Your favourite edible? Cucumber (pictured right with Lee).

Your favourite gardening activity? Relaxing and lounging in the garden.

And least favourite? Oh, weeding and mowing the lawn!

You have run your own business for many years - what single piece of advice would you give to someone setting out today? Be yourself, be polite and put in the work.

How do you feel Brexit will affect your business in the years to come? Hopefully make us stronger.

Do you have any hobbies? Greyhound racing.

If you could have one Super Power what would it be? The ability to create a happy peaceful world.

Facebook or Twitter? Facebook.



HELP CHARITY THRIVE WITH OUR TASTY RAFFLE IN JULY

We will be running a **THRIVE** raffle to win fresh produce vouchers from our popular stall holders. In July Lee Crawley, our enthusiastic Sunday Butcher is kindly donating a £40 voucher to use to purchase meat from his stall. Raffle tickets will be available from our Customer Service Desk and the draw for the Butcher Lee's £40 Voucher will take place on Sunday 30th July. The winner will be notified on the day. Our usual competition Terms and Conditions apply.



MAKE TIME TO DISCOVER EVENLEY WOOD GARDEN

If I had been given a £1 for charity for every person to have said to me words to the effect 'I have lived in this area for years and have never visited Evenley Wood Garden before and now realise what a gem I have missed all these years!' a local charity would have had a nice swelling of their funds, writes Pauline Brown.

Only this weekend a member of our staff came to me to say that despite all the posters and information we have given out over the years she had visited the

Garden for the first time and was amazed at its diversity, tranquillity and beauty. She showed me a photograph of an amazing plant she had seen there and had no idea what it was and I immediately remember walking in the Wood with the late and extremely knowledgeable Tim Whiteley who made a point of taking us over to see this very same plant, the parasitic, *Lathraea clandestina*, Purple Toothwort (pictured right),



which is only seen when in flower, hence its name 'clandestine'. It is closely related to the more common Toothwort, *Lathraea squamaria*, which often grows on the roots of Hazel on the edge of woods and is again only seen in flower but the bizarre scaly flowers are creamy white with purple tinges, unusual but not spectacular. However, the flowers of the Purple Toothwort are vivid purple and grow along the length of the roots of willow, poplar or alder, all water loving trees, found mainly alongside streams or lakes. Those in Evenley Wood, as far as I know, are only in one place beside a small lake on the roof of a willow, and what a sight they are!



This is just one of the many interests of these local Woods – there is the 'Scilla stream', Martagon and other Lilies, a stunning collection of Euonymus, amazing Magnolias and so many species of trees giving beauty at different times of the year, so much to be seen that a visit at any time of the year is well worth while. This year we decided that our visit should be at Snowdrop time and, as usual, found ourselves still wandering round when in

theory the Gardens were closed – there is so much to see one just loses track of the time. The only ones who were not so keen on the walk were our two Medical Detection Dogs, Lexi and Kiwi, who were very disappointed not to be allowed to swim in the lake, romp along in the streams or chase each other through the woods – they had to be on their best behaviour but at least they enjoyed all the wonderful smells and a long but sedate walk - dogs are welcome but obviously on leads only! For details see www.evenleywoodgarden.co.uk



WHAT'S ON THIS SUMMER AND EARLY AUTUMN

EVERY WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

You can stock up on your fresh produce throughout the week with Martin and Susie's fruit and vegetable stall. Every **SUNDAY** between 10am-4pm you can also purchase fresh meat and poultry as Crawley's Family Butchers from Brickhill will be here. See page 9 for details of our special THRIVE raffle.



SUNDAY 25th JUNE Evenley Wood's Lily and Rose Festival. In celebration of two of our favourite flowers! Food, stalls, children's activities, talks, and more. The Garden Centre will be attending and Chris Day will be giving an inspirational talk on Re-inventing The Mixed Border to celebrate how roses and lilies can be used in the garden for best effect. Details here www.evenleywoodgarden.co.uk/whats-on/

TUESDAY 18th JULY Summer Pruning Course hosted by Clare Price 9.30am-12.30pm. Please book at the Customer Service Desk at the Garden Centre. This is your chance to learn about the many aspects of summer pruning of shrubs, fruit, topiary and climbers. There will be practical demonstrations and advice on keeping your equipment in first class conditions. The cost for our Garden Club Members is £15.00 and cost to non-members would be £20, including drinks.

GARDEN VISIT RHS Hyde Hall & Flower Show on Thursday 3rd August BGC Members £43, Non Members £48. RHS/BGC Members £36.00. RHS/BGC Non Members £41.00.

WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER A talk - '25 Years of The Parks Trust in Milton Keynes'. The Milton Keynes Parks Trusts charity is unique in how it was set up to care for the parks and public open green spaces of Milton Keynes. From concrete cows to (real) sheep, ancient woodlands to newly created parkland, this charity cares for over 5,000 acres of green space, equating to 25% of the total area of Milton Keynes. All our talks are in the Talks Room in the Restaurant, at 4pm, and will last approximately 45 minutes with time for questions afterwards. To book a seat contact our Customer Service Desk on 01280 822133. Garden Club Members free, £3 for non-members.

JUNE UNTIL SEPTEMBER A National Garden Scheme shout out for Leonie Thorogood's Hill House Garden, Castle Street, Buckingham MK18 1BS. This years it is open by arrangement from June to September. Adults £3.50, Children free. Home-made teas available on request. Call 078860 714758 or e-mail leonie@ptjassociates.com More information at www.ngs.org.uk

SATURDAY 23rd & SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER Apple and Honey Show Weekend. Top RHS fruit expert Gerry Edwards and Moulton College's Fritz De Zutter will be joining us over this celebration weekend of the apple. The Mid-Shire Orchard group will be talking community orchards as well as some apple pressing demonstrations over both days. The local Beekeeping Group will be holding their annual show on the Sunday. Follow us on Facebook for the latest details on all events and garden trips.

GARDEN VISIT Batsford Arboretum & Bourton House Garden Thursday 12th October BGC Members £48.00, Non Members £53.00. For details and to book please call our Customer Service Desk on 01280 822133.

SPECIAL GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS OFFER COUPONS



2 SAUCES FOR £4.95



Hickory Smoked BBQ Sauce, Thai Sweet Chilli Sauce, Peppered Steak Sauce or Roast Red Pepper Ketchup. Normally £2.99 each

PLANT OF THE MONTH: JUNE

BUDDLEJA 'ROYAL RED'

Normally £9.99 each

Garden Club Members' Price:

£4.99

**PLEASE PRESENT THIS VOUCHER TOGETHER WITH A
VALID GARDEN CENTRE DISCOUNT CARD FOR OFFER**

OFFER SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



PLANT OF THE MONTH: JULY

CISTUS HYBRIDUS

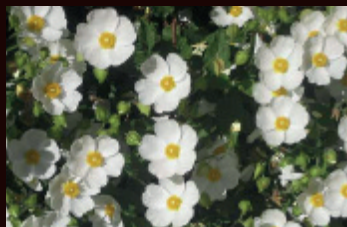
Normally £9.99 each

Garden Club Members' Price:

£4.99

**PLEASE PRESENT THIS VOUCHER TOGETHER WITH A
VALID GARDEN CENTRE DISCOUNT CARD FOR OFFER**

OFFER SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



PLANT OF THE MONTH: AUGUST

SEDUM 'AUTUMN JOY'

Normally £9.99 each

Garden Club Members' Price:

£4.99

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Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BuckinghamNurseries
Summer Opening Times: Mon-Sat: 8:30am-6:00pm, Sun: 10am-4pm.