

Buckingham

Garden Centre



'Passionate about gardening'

NEWSLETTER



**TOY APPEAL
DROP OFF POINT
20th NOV - 18th DEC**



**STEP INTO CHRISTMAS TIME
INSTORE, CLICK & COLLECT & ONLINE**

**LATE NOVEMBER
/ DECEMBER
2015 ISSUE**

**WHAT'S
INSIDE**

What's new for Christmas? Top Seasonal Plants, Apple & Honey Show Weekend review, The London Sky Garden, Top Tasks for Late November & December, Tasty Food Hall treats, Poultry tips and much more.

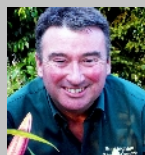
In our ever changing world of fast moving technology and day-to-day life, it's particularly good to see and read that gardening continues to get the thumbs up as a way of helping us to relieve everyday stress and help stimulate the senses.

In a recent report it was also highlighted that the garden can and often does double up as one of the best outdoor gyms! Routine gardening tasks such as regular pruning and lopping can shed around 238 calories every 60 minutes! Digging also fairs well - 272 calories per hour, although I know which activity I would prefer!

Getting out and about in the garden and on the allotment also appears to be good for our mental well-being according to another recent study. The study, by Westminster and Essex Universities, questioned 269 people - around half of whom did some gardening. The results revealed that those who spent as little as 30 minutes a week on their allotments saw significant gains in mental well-being, according to the Journal of Public Health. The research also showed the allotment gardeners had fewer weight problems. Those who had worked on their allotments at least once a week had lower levels of fatigue, depression, tension and anger and had higher self-esteem and better general health than those who had done no gardening at all! So, on that cheery note Christmas lunch won't feel such a guilty pleasure this year! Another mince pie, anyone?

Wishing all our customers a very Happy Christmas!

Chris



OUR COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS STARTS HERE ...

This year we've pulled out all the stops to create a great Christmas shopping experience with our winter wonderland of glitter and sparkle to provide you with plenty of magical ideas and festive inspiration. So, whether you're decorating your home and garden, or buying gifts, we are pretty certain you will find everything you need amongst our displays.

We do try and keep our displays and merchandising colour-themed, to making choosing colours much easier and a more pleasurable experience. We'll also have dedicated areas given over to artificial wreaths and garlands as well as Christmas indoor and outdoor lighting.



Step into Christmas in stunning style when you put one of our luxurious trees into your home. Whether you are looking for a new artificial tree or a replacement then do please check out our range. Notables for this season include a flock fir model, a pine tree with cones and berries and a fashionable trendy white tree are all available. Look out for ScentSicles hanging ornaments - a rather novel way to add authentic festive fragrance such as Cinnamon (pictured left) or Winter Fir to your tree, garlands and wreaths! Remember you can enhance all our trees with lights and many different decorations from the extensive displays.



Our Christmas indoor and outdoor lighting is mainly high tech LED this year. Premier low-voltage sets are available in a range of colours and you can choose from different designs, including Snowing Icicles, Chasing Lights, Cluster Lights and Supabrights.

We are offering battery operated LED lights too, again in a range of colours, perfect for creating displays where mains power isn't available.



You can complete your Christmas present shopping with ideal gifts for all the family. Our choice of plants, including planted arrangements and a gardening range, is as big as ever. We also have books (gardening and general reading), cards, gift wrap / gift boxes, calendars (from Dogs, Cats and Disney's Frozen to Top Gear and Buckinghamshire country scenes), soft toys, kitchenware, ornaments, family games, bird care, clothing, Yankee Candles (pictured left), toiletries, aquatics, tools, and much more. If you are still struggling to solve the present for the friend who has everything, one of our staff may be able to point you in the right direction, or failing that we sell our Garden Centre Gift Vouchers so that they can select their own gift. For friends and relatives further afield, we also stock HTA Garden Centre Gift Vouchers which can be redeemed at outlets throughout the country.

Our extended Food Hall is bursting at the seams with Christmas goodies - chocolates, cakes and mince pies from FATHERSONS Bakery for Christmas Day plus all our usual biscuits, jams, patés, cakes, chutneys, honey and pickles. This range compliments our growing range of fresh meats, cheeses and pies in our refrigerator – all of which are sourced locally.



You can also enjoy a wide range of local beers (over 18's only). Look out for our special Christmas brews such as Rockin Robin, a strong ruby beer, Snowmans Meltdown, a smooth dark stout and Elf Service, a light hoppy beer and the aptly named Cold Turkey, a golden premium lager, all from Cottage Delight.

We've a fantastic range of local wines from Chafor Wine Estate (Bacchus 2014, Chardonnay Reserve 2013 and Rosé 2014), based just down the road in Gawcott. We know many of you enjoyed visiting the vineyard and wine-tasting with Tim Chafor back in September. Do also check out the Northampton-based Fleur Field Wines with their White English Reserve Regional Wine P.G.I. and their Champs d'Armour Sparkling Rosé, the perfect festive fizz.



Our real Christmas trees arrive in late November; beautifully shaped, they are sourced from the best Scottish growers, including cut (Nordmann Fir and Noble Fir) and pot-grown trees (Nordmann Fir and Norway Spruce). These trees will not disappoint, providing you follow the care instructions. We'll net them for you and take them straight to your car or for the larger trees we can deliver them directly to your home, subject to a delivery charge.

Locally grown Poinsettias and Cyclamen are now available, plus we'll have a fantastic range of planted gift arrangements, boxed Amaryllis and fabulous orchids, too. We offer a comprehensive gift wrap service for all indoor plants and small gift items. Please ask at the Customer Service Desk for details.

THE BIG RASPBERRY PRUNING QUESTION ANSWERED

Of all the fruit questions we get asked, it is raspberry pruning that receives the most requests for advice and explanations. We have recently updated the advice we are giving with plants we send out, so we thought it might be useful to share the information with our Garden Centre Club Members too!

Bare-rooted raspberries need to be pruned hard back to 2in (5cm) above soil level after planting. This helps to stimulate the root system and encourages new canes (shoots) to develop below the soil and stimulates growth in the spring. Raspberries need a moist but free-draining neutral to acid soil. If your soil is particularly heavy, you can plant them on a ridge to assist drainage. Improve the soil by working in some horticultural grit if necessary. Watering is essential in dry spells after planting. Make sure you work plenty of organic matter into the soil and around the roots

such as well-rotted manure or Tree, Shrub & Rose Planting Compost, bonemeal and some rootgrow to help establish the roots. To help protect the shallow roots and maintain moisture mulch the soil after planting. Finally, don't plant your raspberry canes too deeply. Use the existing soil mark on the stem as a guide for depth.



LOVE YOUR CHICKENS THIS WINTER



Winter can be a challenge for any animal so a little extra care will go a long way, says Mick Collins. Right now is the time to give your flocks health a good check over. You should now be giving them a worming treatment, which can be supplied by your vet. Giving them some garlic granules or Vermex in their diet is a good start for their digestive system. It would be worth adding some vitamin drops to supplement their diet as well just to make them a bit perkier. Don't forget to suspend a cabbage in the run to help keep the

chickens occupied as well as giving them some essential greens as well.

The chickens will spend longer in their roost, and who can blame them, so keep up a rigorous mucking out routine at least once a week! It is also important to continue treating the chickens and the coop for Red Mite and Lice, which can still be a problem even in the winter. A sprinkling of disinfectant powder before you put in the fresh bedding will not only act as a sanitizer, but will help keep unwanted smells away.

A top tip is to take in the drinkers at night if it's going to freeze. This will save a lot of hassle in the morning. During particularly cold spells check their water during the day as well, as a good supply of drinking water is essential. Give them a handful of corn or scratch feed (such as Mixed Corn) an hour before bedtime to help keep up those energy levels as this should help to maintain warmth. They may not lay so many eggs during cold spells but a little extra effort is well worth it for their well being and for your peace of mind.

LOOKING TO THE CLOUDS FOR A SKY GARDEN!

Trevor Bradley, from our I. T. Department, goes in search of a tropical skyward adventure in the City of London.

20 Fenchurch Street is actually in Central London, a short walk from The Tower. It is an imposing 160m (525ft) skyscraper, the fifth highest skyscraper in London. But you are probably wondering where the garden is that I am visiting? Courtyard garden? Outside landscaping? None of these. In fact the garden is called The Sky Garden and its name gives away where this garden is. It is right at the very top of the skyscraper, 37 floors up.

You can't miss 20 Fenchurch Street. From pretty much anywhere in Central London you can see the building on the skyline. It is affectionately known as the 'Walkie Talkie' because of its shape, thinner at the bottom than the top. It does provide an interesting architectural addition to the London landscape alongside the likes of 'The Shard', 'The Cheese grater', 'The Gherkin' and 'The London Eye'. Approaching the building, you realise just how tall the building is.



But I wasn't here to admire the architecture; I was here for the Sky Garden. The Sky Garden has its own entrance and to gain admittance this is via a pre-booked, timed ticket, but there was still a small queue though. This is because there are high security checks before the staff let you through to the lift area – you are checked using the same security used at airports. You walk through metal detectors and your bags are checked through an x-ray machine. Standing, waiting for the lift, there is a little air of anticipation with your fellow visitors about to join you on the ascent to the summit. We enter the lift, the doors close. Are we moving? 15 seconds later the doors open and we have been whisked 37 floors to the top of 20 Fenchurch Street!



The first thing that hits you as you walk out of the lift area is the space. It is so spacious and very light and airy. This feeling is created because the whole of the top of the Sky Garden is glass. It creates one massive greenhouse effect. But that is the way it has to be because the planting here is that of a tropical greenhouse. The planted gardens themselves are either side of a central restaurant with staircases either side taking you up to the very top level. The gardens are created utilising slopes and terraces. There are constant misters providing water and humidity to the plants. Cleverly, the designers of the garden have created three separate areas on the slopes. At the top (which surprisingly receives the least amount of light), there are shade-loving forest plants; in the middle, there is a transition zone down to flowering plants at the bottom. The plants are from around the World – shrubs, succulents, trees, ferns, groundcover and climbers.





The low levels of light in the shady area were filled with a great mix of plants. *Cythea medullaris*, the New Zealand tree fern, was utilised. The fern can grow to 20 metres in height and is very fast growing - 15cm per year. As very few plants are now exported from New Zealand, the ones planted in the Sky Garden are some of the very tallest in Europe and so made a very special sight. Through the centre of the garden, in the transition zone, there are plants such as 22 *Cycas circinalis*. The literature says these are each over 100 years old! There are also 6 large *Cycas revolute* and also *Cycas Samia furfuracea* (Cardboard Plant). The bottom area is reserved for pure colour being close to the café area of the Sky Garden. The planting here included *Watsonia*, a gladioli relative. The planting scheme has been created to give all round year colour whether from the green of the evergreens

or the vivid colour of the temperate plants. The list of plants is huge and too large to reproduce here.

The Sky Garden is not only all about the garden though. Walk out onto the huge outdoor terrace and you have spectacular panoramic views of London. You will not find better views of London than you get from here, so long as you have a good head for heights! And before you leave and descend the lift back down to 'terra firma', have a hot drink and a sandwich from the food bar. Or if you feel like really treating yourself, there is a fully stocked cocktail bar. I was surprised just how cheap it was to stay and have my lunch there. And, if you are lucky as I was, you might even get a jazz band playing on the terrace to accompany it.

So, as you descend in the lift, your time at the Sky Garden is over. Well not quite. Make sure as you leave to check out the spectacular vertical garden, a version of which we also have here at the Garden Centre through the summer months.

Finally, there is one other thing worth mentioning. Something that may surprise you. You probably are wondering just how much this experience costs. London attractions are very expensive. For example, to view from the top of The Shard (a similar height and not a plant in sight!) costs £25.95. So what does the Sky Garden cost? Nothing! Yes, believe it or not, the whole experience is FREE! Now if that isn't value for money for an attraction in London then I don't know what is. All you have to do is make sure you book your tickets in advance here: <https://skygardentickets.com>. I hope, if this persuades you to visit the Sky Garden, that you enjoy your visit as much as I did.



PLANNING OUR GARDEN VISITS FOR 2016

We'll be announcing the planned visits for 2016 in the New Year, however we would be pleased if you could let us know where you would like to visit! This year we went far and wide to RHS Hyde Hall, Highgrove, Hidcote Manor Gardens & Kiftsgate, Batsford Arboretum, Steane Park, Thenford Park and Arboretum and Buckingham Palace to take in the Garden Tour amongst others. If you would like to pop over your suggestions to us we can look at them and provide some costings for feasibility of the visit. Please send your ideas over to chris@hedging.co.uk or leave your suggestions together with your name and contact details at our Customer Service Desk.

TOP TASKS FOR LATE NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

EDIBLES Sowings can be made outdoors of Broad Bean 'Aquadulce Claudia' (pictured) and the variety the 'Sutton' can also be sown now but must be given the protection of cloches. Continue planting suitable varieties of Garlic such as 'Solent Wight' until late November. For a continuous supply of Lettuce crops during winter plant varieties, such as 'Vaila' and 'Winter Gem', in containers, borders or cropping bags and grow on in a warm greenhouse. Protect outside crops with either Envirofleece, which is very popular with vegetable growers, or Enviromesh which acts as a barrier to garden pests as well as providing some frost protection.



CHRISTMAS wouldn't be Christmas without a lovely red Poinsettia (pictured). It is essential you position the plant in good light away from direct sunlight and draughts. Avoid temperatures below 55°F (13°C). Overwatering too, quickly damages the plant. When the surface of the compost begins to dry out, water thoroughly. Place the pot on a pebble tray, as a humid atmosphere will prolong the bract life. The process to encourage new bracts can be complicated so ask in the Plant Info Office if you need the details. However, successfully re-bracting a plant is something you should have a go at and if you do succeed you can say you've cracked it!



POND TIPS If the surface of water features or a pond has frozen solid, and particularly if it contains fish, melt the ice with care. Keeping an area of the pond free of ice allows toxic gases to escape – ensuring the pond can breathe and function correctly. If the pond is stocked with fish and it does freeze over, melt the ice by placing a pan of hot water on the surface, or install a pond heater such as the Aquael Floating Pond Heater. This 300 watt floating pond heater is robustly made from stainless steel with an expanded foam float and comes complete with a 10-metre cable. The heater is available in our Aquatic Department. Floating a ball on the water in cold weather can also delay freezing. However, never smash the ice, as the shock waves can harm fish. It is worth checking to see if any unwanted leaf debris, twigs and other material has been blown into the water and if necessary fish it out! If you are in a rural location do keep a wary eye out for unwanted visitors such as herons and cats.



ORNAMENTALS Taller growing bush roses can be pruned down by about half which will prevent the wind from causing them to become loose through swaying and in turn damaging the roots. The branches of standard roses should also be shortened. Our new range of root-wrapped rose bushes can be planted this month as well as bare-rooted hedging roses such as Rosa rugosa, 'Roseaie de L'Hay' (pictured) and 'Hansa'. There are plenty of interesting seasonal plants around including berried beauties such as Hollies (Ilex) and Pyracantha. Good evergreens, for example Camellias, Hellebores (including the Christmas Rose) and versatile Hedera (Ivy), are perfect to make useful displays as well as lovely gift idea too!



APPLE & HONEY WEEKEND REVIEW

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who attended our Apple & Honey Show Weekend. The sun shone and we had a great crowd eager to get their mystery apple fruits identified. Gerry Edwards, our top RHS Fruit expert, aka apple 'Sherlock Holmes' said it had been a very busy weekend, in fact possibly more than when he was asked to put names to fruit for the RHS, no less. Gerry identified over 50 varieties over the two days.



Fruit growing advice was in great demand again with Moulton College's Fritz De Zutter answering a high volume of questions, mostly relating to best growing practises as well as rootstock advice.

Claire from The Mid-Shires Orchard Group was kept extremely busy demonstrating the process of preparing the apples and making fine tasting apple

juice as well as providing tasty samples to all our customers (and staff) throughout the weekend.



Our other guests over the weekend included the Great Horwood-based Medical Detection Dogs Charity, Tim Chafor (pictured left) from Chafor Wine Estates in Gawcott, Cottage Delight providing some tasty treats, the local Buckingham Beekeepers and children's entertainers magician Phil Banks and Lin, face painting artiste.

On the Sunday we were delighted to hold the North Buckinghamshire and Buckingham Association Honey Show at the Garden Centre. As you know we're passionate about bees, so when the Association were looking for a new venue to stage their annual show we were only too happy to oblige.

We were also raising money and awareness for the

Aylesbury-Based charity PACE. To help raise funds we ran a Tombola with an eclectic assortment of prizes, including a pair of Virgin Train Tickets.

Our hearty congratulations to Maureen Goward and her daughter Lisa, who won the tickets (pictured with Virgin Train Manager / Community Champion Russ Cole). The Tombola raised £114.25 over the event.

Finally, a huge 'Well Done' to Jack Bullman (pictured left), aged 5, from Thornborough Infant School who won our 'Largest Sunflower Bloom Competition' for his school. The mammoth sized seedhead was over 45cm across and weighed over 2kg!



BEE NEWS & HONEY SHOW IN PICTURES

It is coming to the end of the 'Bee Year', but with the sun shining on the hives whilst I am writing this the bees are still very active and taking advantage of the late blossom around the Garden Centre, says Pauline Brown. At the beginning of the year we were the proud owners of six healthy hives. We are delighted to report that we still have six active hives at the Garden Centre, having combined the two smallest to make them stronger for the winter. Although we lost the smallest hive as it was 'robbed' by the stronger hives the partners now have one at their home in Great Horwood so an overall gain of one.



Over the season two extractions of honey have been made, the first producing 75lbs of delicious honey and the second 42lbs, of which one jar won a first prize for flavour at the North Buckinghamshire and Buckingham



Association's Honey Show held at the Garden Centre in September and also 2 jars of medium honey were awarded an amazing 'Very Highly Commended'. (Pictured below) The honey is on sale in

our Food Hall in the Garden Centre so buy it now while stocks last, especially those who suffer from hay fever as a spoonful a day should keep you free of sneezes for next season. This cure will only work for those who live within



a radius of about two miles of where the honey is produced, so as we have honey from the Garden Centre, Singleborough and also Great Horwood at the moment that covers quite an area. Stocks are currently limited so you'll need to get yours quickly.

This N.B.B.A. Honey Show attracted plenty of entries as well as much interest from our customers and as well as jars of honey to judge there were many honey related classes to view.

If you would like to find out more about North Buckingham Bee Keepers' Association you can visit their website at www.nbbka.org and remember you can speak to our Bee Keepers at the Garden Centre too!



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & EARLY 2016

EVERY SUNDAY Stock up on your fresh fruits and vegetables as Aston Clinton-based Lance Smith joins us between 10am-4pm.



We're also pleased to announce Crawley's Family Butchers from Quanton will also be in the Car Park (pictured Lee Crawley). Many of you will be familiar with the name Crawley's as they attend Winslow market every Wednesday as well as markets in Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Wolverton and Biggleswade.

DECEMBER Over the three weekends, commencing Saturday 5th December and running up to Christmas we'll have delicious mince pies and fruity mulled wine (fruit squash as a non-alcoholic alternative) available to all our Garden Centre customers. We'll also be running food tasting on a number of our Christmas food lines, including Cottage Delight and Mrs Bridges. See instore for details.



DECEMBER 1-24 Our Restaurant will be offering a delicious Christmas Menu, details available in-store. Booking is essential on 01280 827907.

FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY We hope you can join us in the spirit of Christmas Jumper Day which is now linked up to ITV's 'Text Santa' programme to raise money for Save The Children. We will be getting into the feel of the Day too with staff getting involved and, just like a non-uniform day, Christmas Jumper wearers will be donating to the charity.

WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY Chris Day will present a talk 'The Good, The Bad & The Bugly'. As pest and disease control becomes more of a problem as chemicals are withdrawn and new plant problems arise, Chris will give us an update on the main problem pests and diseases and how best to tackle them. The venue will be in the Talks Room in the Restaurant from 4:30pm and will last approximately 45 minutes with time for questions. To book a seat please contact our Customer Service Desk. Garden Club Members free, £3 for non-members.



WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY Book now for our Garden Centre visit to their legendary snowdrop display and beautiful winter gardens at the National Trust property of Anglesey Abbey, followed by an afternoon visit to Scotsdale Garden Centre with a special talk by Peter Jackson. Early booking is essential. For more details and to book please contact our Customer Service Desk on 01280 822133.

The Gardeners' Retreat
Christmas Menu
 Monday - Friday 12.00noon - 2.30pm
 from 1st - 24th December

STARTERS

SPICED ROAST PARSNIP SOUP,
 served with a White Bread Roll.
 CHICKEN LIVER PATE,
 served with Seasonal Chutney and Healin Time!
 or GOATS CHEESE & ONION TART,
 served with a Salad garnish.

MAINS

ROAST TURKEY,
 served with Seasonal Vegetables and all the Festive Trimmings.
 FILLET OF SEA BASS,
 served with New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables and Herb Butter.
 or LEEK & CHEESE CRUMBLE,
 served with Seasonal Vegetables.

DESSERTS

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING,
 served with Custard, Cream, Brandy Sauce or Vanilla Ice Cream.
 CHOCOLATE YULE LOG,
 served with Cream or Vanilla Ice Cream.
 or HOMEMADE IRISH CREAM CHEESECAKE,
 served with Cream or Vanilla Ice Cream.

Followed by COFFEE & MINTS

3 COURSES - £18.95 per head
 2 COURSES - £14.95 per head
 RESERVATIONS BEING TAKEN NOW!

POTATO DAY Next year's Potato event will be on Saturday 27th February, 10am-4pm. Please come along and chat to top vegetables experts, including Colin Randel from Thompson & Morgan Seeds, The Buckinghamshire Branch of the National Vegetable Society, Jason Breed from Kings Seeds and Fritz De Zutter from Moulton College (offering advice on fruit tree grafting). The event is free.

UPDATE Back on October 16th we held the Breast Cancer Care fundraising event 'The Big Pink' in the Restaurant. Thanks to your generosity £149 was raised.

SNUGGLE DOWN... A WINTER WARMER REMINDER



We've a bundle of things to keep you and your home toasty this winter. As well as coal and kindling you'll see a great range of essential fireside accessories – perfect to equip your existing hearth or to give it a much-deserved makeover.

If you enjoy the warmth and glow of an open fire or log burner, a reminder we offer logs at £6.50 per net, Smokeless Coal (£9.99, 20kg) and Premium House Coal (£7.99, 20kg), and Gardeco Firelogs at £1.99 each which last for 2-3 hours.

Don't forget those other winter essentials – torches, windscreen de-icer and Wellington boots! We have new ranges coming into the clothing department in the run up to Christmas, so keep an eye out for great gift ideas for family or friends or simply to spoil yourself!

PLANTS OF THE MOMENT

With NATIONAL TREE WEEK (28th Nov – 6th Dec) approaching it's a reminder that larger specimen bare-rooted trees can be established now and over the winter months. Many customers ask us for suggestions of suitable screening trees to help stop preying neighbours' eyes looking into homes! Good contenders would be *Betula Doorenbos*, the stunning white stemmed *Himalayan birch*, *Cotoneaster cornubia*, evergreen with red berries and the highly decorative *Amelanchier canadensis*. We can offer top expert planting advice, identify and source larger trees - both potted and bare-root - as well provide tips on selecting the best tree for your garden situation. As for local National Tree Planting events you can visit <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/Near-You>



December is all about seasonal colour and you can't really go wrong with the combination of attractive foliage and tight buds of *Skimmia*, especially the variety 'Rubella'. Plants which carry the Christmas name also need a shout-out, namely the perennial *Helleborus niger*, the popular *Christmas Rose*, which as we know isn't a rose at all, yet its flowers are so pure and angelic. The other seasonal beauty, *Christmas Box* or *Sarcococca*, can be grown individually in a pot or planted close to the house where its gorgeous scent can be appreciated. It also makes a wonderful compact evergreen hedge in the garden. This easy care evergreen shrub is smothered with tiny flowers along the wiry stems from mid winter until the early spring.

SUPPER WITH SANTA - BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

Don't forget we are now taking bookings for Supper with Santa. Children will enjoy a cold boxed snack, storytelling, a gift and a visit from Santa for £9.99. The all important dates are Tuesday 8th, Thursday 10th, Monday 14th, Wednesday 16th and Friday 18th December. The magic starts at 4pm and lasts around 45 minutes. Early booking is essential. For further information and to book please contact our Customer Service Desk on 01280 822133.



STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...



In the **Food Hall** we are selling a range of organically reared meat from Rachel's Farmshop. Local farmer Rachel Halverson is particularly passionate about the production of meat organically and free-range as well as ensuring high standards of animal welfare. You will find a small range of Rachel's meat products in the refrigerator, including mouth-watering rib-eye steaks, succulent chicken breasts and bacon and ham.

Our **Click and Collect Service** includes over 1,800 products covering gardening sundries, bird care, aggregates, coal, composts, logs, furniture, BBQs, poultry sundries as well as a comprehensive Christmas Shop. Go to our website www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk for full details. Many of these items can be ordered online for sending out - perfect for sourcing your Christmas gifts, perhaps!



Root-wrapped roses are now available for collection, click and collect and on-line. The quality of the plants is superb again this year and we have a really good range of varieties covering bush, climbers and ramblers, including the 2016 Rose of the Year 'Sunny Sky' (pictured left). This striking Hybrid Tea produces large yellow flowers which have a fruity fragrance.

We are delighted to announce that the national winner of the Horticultural Trade Association **Design A Christmas Card** is 5 year old Merryn Coates, who, like Jack Bullman, is a pupil at Thornborough Infant School. There were over 10,000 entries this year in the nationwide competition and Merryn's design (pictured right) will feature on the Christmas gift cards which are distributed to hundreds of retail outlets who sell HTA Garden Vouchers. Merryn wins £1,000 of HTA vouchers for her school as well as some special goodies for herself. We'll have more details in our next newsletter but until then congratulations from us all at the Garden Centre!



Buckingham Nurseries & Garden Centre

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Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BuckinghamNurseries

Opening Times: Mon-Sat: 8:30am-5:30pm, Sun: 10am-4pm.