



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

Join us for our Apple & Chilli Weekend



Our popular event returns over the weekend 21st & 22nd September, 10am-4pm, with experts and top advice on all aspects of fruit and vegetable growing. We'll have John Edgeley, top apple identification expert joining us on the Sunday with chilli expert Jason Breed and Fruit Expert Fritz De Zutter available to answer your questions over Saturday and Sunday. Plus, we'll have entertainment for the kids, local food stalls, Buckingham Bee Association, RSPB, The Puzzle Centre and much more.

Spring into action...

Our ranges of fabulous spring bulbs are now on sale from heady Hyacinths (including 'prepared' bulbs for forcing), stately Alliums to Wordsworth's Daffodils and Narcissi to a kaleidoscope of Tulip varieties, plus many more. We have plenty of instore offers available again this season. Large Value Packs, £5.99 each or 3 for £15. Large Value *Narcissi* 'Tête-A-Tête' - Buy One, Get One Free. Classic Combos, £4.99 each of 3 for £12. Hyacinths, 75p each or 5 for £3. Carry packs, £5.99 each or 3 for £15.



Bulb of the Year: Tulip viridiflora 'Hotpants' Packs of 7 bulbs cost just £2.99. Why plant it? This beautiful new variety, *Tulipa viridiflora* 'Hotpants' has pure white flowers with a delicate raspberry rim around the edge of each petal and they are slightly streaked with raspberry and green. Viridiflora tulips are known for their long flowering capabilities as they flower in late spring, bridging the gap between spring bloomers and early summer plants. Height: 45cm (18in).

WHAT'S INSIDE: 10 Tips for Sept & Oct... HTA Design A Christmas Card... Percy Thrower remembered... Growing Season Ups and Downs... Honey news... Preparing for autumn planting... Buckingham Palace Gardens Revealed... Bulb of the Year... Spotlight on Chapel Cottage Plants, our premier perennial grower and supplier.

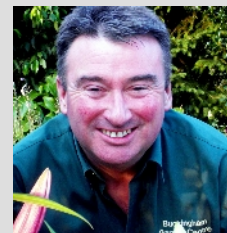
The summer has been pretty good for us, dry, warm, sunny, dare I say a blast of proper seasonal weather at last! So, if the past few years are anything to go by September and October should provide us with ample warmth, mists and fruitfulness. The farmers appear to be happy with the season too, which is good to help keep food inflation under control. Locally,



we have something else to celebrate, a new 'secret garden' within the magnificent Stowe Landscape Gardens. It's just opened and its called the Lamport Garden and it has already gone into the Top 10 of the National Trust hidden walking gems in the UK. The Lamport Garden, so we hear, was started by the 1920's but never finished. However, Head Gardener Barry Smith (pictured left) and his team have developed and crafted it with a winding path through woodland with mature trees, rocky banks, cascades and rock pools. We are looking forward to exploring it and we hope you can too. Enjoy the autumn

and your garden, whatever the weather.

PS: We look forward to seeing you at our Apple & Chilli Weekend over the 21st & 22nd September.



Chris

Great Excitement!



Honey, honey and more honey. Three 'supers' from our hives were taken over to Steeple Claydon at the beginning of August for the honey to be extracted.

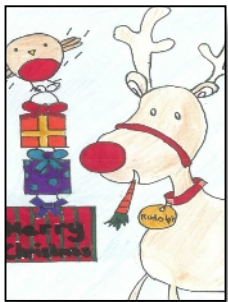
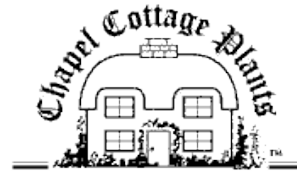
Today this was transferred to three sizes of honey jars, the specially designed labels put on and this is now on the shelf for sale from the Garden Centre Shop. A proud moment for Patrick who has worked so hard with his team of helpers both Ian and Ed in particular, to keep the bees happy and healthy throughout their second year here at the Garden Centre. Four jars of the honey

sold on the first day they were put out in the shop and we have had feed back from one of these customers who said that it was delicious, a very clean flavour with none of the musty aftertaste you can sometimes get with honey.

It has been a great learning curve and we have been so impressed by all the help we have had from other bee keepers. They may be very rightly proud of the end product of their honey and everyone is convinced theirs is the best, but they are all so willing to help not only with their knowledge but also practical help. Patrick has learnt so much and feels far more confident now that we can go into the winter better prepared whatever the weather throws at us, and for next year the bees will be as healthy and 'happy' as possible.

We are now back to two very full and active hives who should be strong enough to face the harder times of winter. To do this two smaller hives have been united as it was felt they would be too small to overwinter. The other hive has proved to be very strong and, as we are now out of the swarming period, we should not have any more eventful days of retrieving swarms and resettling them. The large lime tree in the corner of the fruit selling area is now in full bloom at time of writing, hence the wonderful aroma around the Garden Centre, especially in the rear of the car park, so the bees still have plenty to feed on.

We are very pleased that we have been able to contribute a little to helping to increase the number of these wonderful creatures, and in doing so have a heavy crop of fruit on the trees in the selling area, plus a good crop of bright red cherries on the mature tree on the edge of the selling area, which up to now has had a miserable crop. Apart from these advantages, we can now offer, for sale honey produced on site so local people can take advantage of this, especially those who suffer from hay fever as by eating a teaspoonful every day their hay fever should be kept at bay! Unfortunately this only applies if you live within three miles of the Garden Centre.



Be creative for Christmas!

HTA Design a Christmas Card Competition runs from 12th September to 14th October. Please pick up details and an entry form from our Customer Service Desk. We will be also contacting local schools in the area directly as we'd like to encourage them to take part too!

HOW WE REPORTED IT LAST NOVEMBER... A big "WELL DONE" to Alice Daniels.... Why? Well, during the autumn the Horticultural Trades Association ran a nationwide competition to design a Christmas Card.

We actively promoted this competition and thousands of children entered nationwide. However, Alice Daniels, aged 11, from Bicester designed, drew and handed in this fantastic design into us to enter. The great news is that Alice's entry was selected the best in the Midlands section, collecting a well-deserved £50 National Garden Gift Voucher.

10 Gardening Tasks for September / October

KEEP your Christmas potatoes topped up with compost as they grow in their pots (pictured). Make sure they are kept well watered and fed and do offer some fleece protection as the nights draw in. If you have a well-lit porch or greenhouse, bring them under cover from late October to help extend the growing season. Continue to sow vegetables for overwintering, to mature next spring, including Turnip, Spinach, Winter Lettuce and Oriental vegetables. Plant overwintering Onion Sets of which you'll find a good range of varieties in the Shop. In mild areas you can sow overwintering Broad Beans in situ. Cover with fleece or cloches to provide insulation in colder areas, as well as protection from pigeons. Likewise Carrots and Peas can be sown in September but in mild areas only. Prepare the ground for new fruit trees, nuts, vines, canes and bushes for planting from November onwards.



NOW is a good time to divide any overgrown or tired looking clumps of alpines and herbaceous perennials such as Crocosmia. This will invigorate them, and improve flowering and overall shape, for next year. Wait for the first frosts to hit Dahlias and Cannas before lifting the tubers or rhizomes. In warmer regions, they may be alright left in the ground, but do cover the crowns with a protective layer of straw or bracken. Most perennial weeds are vulnerable to weedkiller in early autumn. Applying a product containing Glyphosate such as Roundup will ensure that the roots,

as well as the top growth, are killed. Treasured plants must be protected with plastic sheeting.

CLEAR dead leaves promptly once they start to fall, as rotting leaves can be a source of disease in the garden. They are, however, useful on the compost heap and can be shredded first with a shredder or mulching mower, to help them break down quicker. Good garden hygiene helps to prevent disease, so it is vital to throw out or destroy infected leaves. Do not compost them or leave them lying, as this could spread the disease.



YOU can harden your lawn up for winter by applying an autumn lawn feed, which is high in potassium. Do this after scarifying (pictured) and aerating but before applying a top dressing. Do not give summer feeds that are high in nitrogen as this will only result in weak, soft growth, which will be prone to disease in the autumn weather. Toadstools and fairy rings appearing in the lawn may be a sign that scarification and autumn lawn care is necessary. The month of September is your last chance to use lawn weedkillers to control perennial weeds such as daises and buttercups. This is an ideal time of year to create new lawns from turf or seed.

COVER the surface of ponds with netting to stop falling leaves from entering. Accumulated debris in the pond can encourage growth of algae and weeds, which will eventually harm the fish by reducing available oxygen levels. Top up water levels when necessary, particularly during warmer weather, and continue to remove Blanket and Duckweed. You may need to thin out submerged oxygenating plants, as they can quickly build up and crowd the pond. From October remove fountains and removable lighting systems, clean them, and store over winter in a safe place. Also move filter pumps up to 12in (30cm) below the surface so they can only draw cold water from the surface and then turn off in very cold weather.

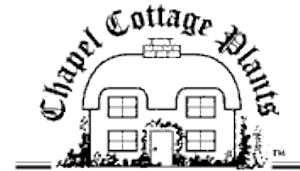
CLEAN water butts by emptying them and spraying out with a jet nozzle on the hose. They will then be ready to catch the extra water expected at this time of the year. Likewise, drain out standpipes and irrigation lines to avoid damage caused by water freezing inside them. Consider building a post and chicken wire leaf pen for autumn leaves. They turn into leaf mould - very useful as a soil improver or as an ingredient in potting and seed composts.

PLANT Wallflowers, Forget-me-Nots, Bellis, Primulas, Violas and winter Pansies and other spring bedding plants in prepared ground or pots. Continue to plant spring-flowering bulbs. Don't neglect hanging basket and container maintenance - a little deadheading, watering and feeding can keep them going until mid-autumn. Once they are past their best, re-plant with spring-flowering bulbs in layers together (pictured right) with hardy bedding plants. Raise patio containers on to bricks or purpose-made pot feet to avoid them sitting in water during the winter.



LAST opportunity to trim deciduous hedges in order to keep them looking tidy over the winter. Prune bush roses now, if not done already, as reducing their height will prevent wind rock. These plants are generally shallow-rooted and can become loose in the soil if buffeted by strong winds. Climbing roses should be pruned by the end of October. Shrubs normally pruned hard in the spring such as *Buddleja davidii*, *Cornus alba*, and *Lavatera*, can be cut back by half now, to help prevent wind rock and to neaten up their appearance.

REMOVE any greenhouse shading paint applied earlier in the season, in order to maximise reducing light levels late in the season. Greenhouses can be insulated using plastic bubble wrap, available in the Shop. This



will cut down the heating bills for the winter, but do make sure to attach the polythene in such a way as to minimise the amount of light blocked out by strips of tape etc, as the wrap itself will reduce light levels somewhat. Check that the greenhouse heater is still working. Replace any spent wicks or broken parts on

paraffin heaters, and get electric or gas heaters serviced if necessary.

QUICK FIXES Check tree ties and stakes before winter gales cause damage. Climbing roses should be pruned now if not done last month. Get your lawnmower, hedge trimmers, plus any other power tools not needed over the winter, serviced now in preparation for next year. Sow Sweet Peas in a cold frame or the greenhouse for early summer blooms next year. Sow other hardy annuals e.g. Calendula, Centaurea, Limnanthes and Poppies in situ.



Our Mike wins the Buckingham Ford Eco Challenge



If you are an avid reader of the Brackley, Bicester or Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser, you may have spotted our very own Mike Easom competing in the Buckingham Ford Eco Challenge, which ran over 6 weeks. Well, Mike won with an impressive 58.2mpg. Just goes to prove he is green fingered in gardening as well as eco driving!



Ready, steady & prepare for this season's bare-root

Soil preparation is the key to establishing your plants, so as the bare-root season draws ever closer here are three simple pointers to get you prepared.

Clear perennial weeds from the area for your hedge, fruit tree or soft fruit. Problem weeds are best treating with Roundup. You need around 6-8 weeks for a good effective 'kill' from a herbicide, so do this as soon as possible. Do check with us on the products available. Always follow the instructions carefully before use.

Once cleared of weeds, look at how best to improve the soil structure and its nutrient content. Simply incorporating some well-rotted manure or home-produced garden compost is always a good starting point. However, you can also opt for planting composts and concentrated bagged products



available from the Garden Centre. Avoid digging too deeply, normally a good spade and a half depth is sufficient, incorporating your compost as you go.

When planting time approaches, think about adding some Bonemeal fertiliser into the soil around the roots. You also may want to boost the Mycorrhizal activity of the soil by either dipping your bare-root plants in a solution of RootGrow or by simply adding a small amount to the planting hole when placing your plants in their planting location.

The bare-root season commences from November onwards with fruit trees arriving toward the end of November. Timing is dependent on weather, soil and air temperature – a few chilly nights are necessary to induce dormancy.

A Garden Fit for a Queen

Back in July, 25 members of our Gardening Club enjoyed a visit to Buckingham Palace State Rooms with a special exhibit marking the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, plus a tour of the Palace Gardens, Chris Day reports.

Just over 39 acres (16 ha) of Buckingham Palace Gardens, located at the rear (west) of Buckingham Palace surrounded by a wall certainly plays its part of being “The Lungs of London”. Walking around the grounds on a 45-minute guided tour, it certainly was an eye opener. There were plenty of facts given. However the overriding figure that over 2000 species of plants can be found in the grounds was good for starters. We moved forward and once we passed through the roped area we were told we were entering the Queen’s private garden. The original garden layout can be attributed to William Townsend Aiton. However, other influences came from Sir William Chambers and Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown.



Our first stop was beneath two of the largest trees, the London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*) which are over 200 years old though they looked older. These provided useful cover from the rain and here our guide explained the importance of trees throughout the gardens. They green the environment and provide privacy which are the key issues, after all this is Central London with high-rise offices and apartments which potentially provide the best viewing points to the Palace Gardens. So, that’s why the London plane trees are so important! Their huge canopies, which are highly tolerant of atmospheric pollution, provide the perfect haven underneath. There are over 100 mature trees planted on the Estate and many of them are 26m or more in height. There are plenty of native trees planted, including Alder (*Alnus*), Birch (*Betula*) and Thorn (*Crateagus*), 39 different types to go with the 74 different Oaks (*Quercus*).

In the distance one of the many deep perennial borders full of fantastic summer colour was planted with non-traditional cottage garden favourites such as Banana (*Musa Cavendishii*), Bamboo, Cordylines and Ginger (*Hedychium*). As you walk along suddenly, literally within a few steps you lose the feeling of grand Estate and move into imagining you are in the countryside.



Our next stopping point was opposite to a lovely mature Mulberry just forming its fruits. Interestingly, as the guide explained, there is a strong connection with Mulberry trees in the Palace Gardens, dating back to the days of King James I - and there is still a tree dating back to his day. However, back in the days when it was decided to grow Mulberries to produce silk – some 4 acres of them - across the garden, a major mistake was made. It was an error concerning the type of Mulberries to plant,

which seems so hard to believe. However, it turns out that the gardener simply planted the wrong sort of Mulberry plant causing much embarrassment as black Mulberries (*Morus nigra*) were originally planted when in fact it should have been white Mulberries providing the food for silkworms! However, despite this faux pas, and the failed attempt to establish a silk farm in the grounds, the result is that for over 10 years the Royal Estate now holds the National Collection of 34 named varieties of Mulberries (each tree in the collection is identified by the Plant Heritage label).



Some of the trees have seen a fair few lightening strikes and the great storm of 1987 took many casualties. Dutch Elm Disease, Leaf Miner attack and Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) have also all impacted themselves.



The lake in the gardens covers 3.5 acres and the lake 'island' accounts for a part of the 5 acres of uncultivated areas in the garden and is covered in wildflowers, grasses and decomposing logs. This year for the first time since 1900 the white Helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) has been found in the gardens of the Buckingham Palace. Some 42 species of birds were recorded in one year and the garden has four successful bee hives, located on the island in the lake and surrounded by wildflowers through the summer. Elsewhere, large pieces of wood are stacked

in piles in the Palace grounds. These piles provide habitats for a variety of flora and fauna, including beetles, spiders and fungi.

Set to one side of the pathway, the Estate is keen to actively promote composting. Some 99% of green waste is recycled on site. Green waste includes grass cuttings, twigs, branches and 'arisings' (soiled straw from the stables in the Royal Mews).

As well as 350 types of wildflowers, the Palace Gardens operates a 10% long grass policy to help encourage sustainable wildlife. This is evident around many of the trees and gives a much more naturalistic feel to the whole garden.

For such a large estate I was expecting more than the 8 full time gardeners, plus the Head Gardener. However, additional seasonal staff maybe brought in for grounds duties through the summer months.

The guide said the title of "statement" tree this year goes to a towering *Robinia* 'Frisia' (pictured right). It certainly was large. However, due to the shade its leaves were lacking the punch of an open location. Close by, a Horse Chestnut tree, well over 100 years old, was receiving plenty of special care having been treated for the bleeding canker disease.



Passing through the formal rose gardens, obviously a favourite area, you could see massive beds of top Hybrid Tea, Floribunda and English Roses vying for attention. However, these are overshadowed by the Waterloo Vase made for Napoleon, which stands a whooping 15ft (5m) tall and weighs a cool 20 tons. The guide explained the Vase was fashioned from a single piece of Carrara marble and it has been a feature in the garden since 1906. Like so many of the artefacts in the garden, many of the roses have also been given to The Queen as gifts.

Another deep herbaceous border and a tennis court emerge from a spectacular foliar screen. Wimbledon champion Fred Perry used to play tennis here with King George IV we are told.

So, despite the wonderful grandness of the Palace, the Gardens come over rather understated along the mile-long path. I was disappointed in that it lacked the theatre (of the Palace which was magnificent) and I didn't see one trained or manicured box plant or clipped formal hedge. That said, the wide and diverse magnificent tree plantings, the sweeping deep sumptuous herbaceous borders, the feature garden buildings and the inspiring garden features harmonised well together. However it sorely lacked the wow factor of say Hampton Court or Highgrove. I overheard one of the group say, with tongue firmly in cheek, "Where are the dog kennels!" Well, there are plenty of trees!

A ticket to ride?

We are busy planning our 2014 garden visit trips and talks programme for our Garden Club members, but we'd love to hear from you to find out what you would like to hear and see throughout 2014! Please do let us know by either contacting our Customer Service Desk or by e-mailing chris@hedging.co.uk. Please leave us your name and a contact phone number together with your suggestions.

Percy's centenary celebration



2013 would have marked Percy Thrower's 100 years; however the Shrewsbury Flower Show, where Percy used to be Parks Superintendent, last month marked it in a very special display, writes Chris Day.

For those too young to know who Percy Thrower was, well he was the godfather of the TV gardening genre, "Mr TV Gardening" in the 1960s to 1980s. Born in Buckinghamshire on January 30th, 1913, Percy died in 1988 aged 75. However

with his trademark pipe and avuncular manner, he was familiar to generations of viewers (namely *Gardeners' World* and *Blue Peter*) and radio listeners. I was so fortunate to meet Percy Thrower at his garden, The Magnolias, near Shrewsbury on two occasions. I was 14 years old when he opened his garden for charity, so a drive from Manchester to Shropshire took me and my parents to see his garden and speak to him and get his books signed too. Just like Monty Don's 2-acre 'Longmeadow' and Alan Titchmarsh's 'Barleywood', Percy's garden featured on *Gardeners' World* nearly every week for years. Remember there

were only three TV channels then so Percy was a massive TV celebrity, he even appeared on the *Morecambe & Wise Show* and was given the red book treatment on *This is Your Life*. However, he was a true gent, a passionate gardener who appealed across the board and was not afraid of re-inventing himself for a new audience when he was *Blue Peter*'s gardener at TV Centre.



Percy famously got the sack (*The Sun* newspaper headline stated "Percy gets the welly boot from the BBC!") from *Gardeners' World* when he decided to do some TV commercials for "the other side", it was ICI garden rose products if I remember. Perhaps the time was right for his exit, he had presented the programme for 7 years, and leaving in 1976 opened the door for the likes of Geoff Hamilton, Alan

Titchmarsh, Toby Buckland and, most recently, Monty Don.

However, it's Percy's local connection which I'd like to mention in further detail as this is rather special. Percy Thrower's father, Harry, also a gardener, moved from Bawsdey Manor, in Suffolk to Horwood House, Little Horwood as Head Gardener. Percy was determined from an early age to be a head gardener like his father, and worked under him at Horwood House for the first four years after leaving school. He then became a journeyman gardener in 1931, at the age of 18, at the Royal Gardens at Windsor Castle moving on to the Park Department in Derby and finally becoming Parks Superintendent, in 1946 a role he remained in until 1972.



The gardens at Horwood House must have been quite something then with a gardening team of 16. The position of Head Gardener came with a six-roomed cottage next to the vegetable garden, which was about 2 acres (0.81 ha) and enclosed by a 10-foot-high (3.0 m) brick wall. According to Percy Thrower's autobiography, the wage for the head gardener was £2 per week, plus the cottage, heating, free fruit and vegetables, free milk and miscellaneous perks. The wages for an ordinary gardener were 28



shillings per week. There were lean-to greenhouses heated by a coal boiler via water pipes. There was an extensive apple orchard of nearly 200 trees, which was able to provide apples all year apart from a few summer weeks. The head gardener was also required to provide exotic fruits at the time, such as peaches, melons, grapes etc. He was also required to produce mushrooms. The beehives were also the responsibility of Harry.

When Percy was born in the cottage he was the first child to be born at Horwood House. Percy started work as a "pot-and-crock" boy at Horwood in the spring of 1927, even though the house didn't really need one. Percy received a shilling (that's 5p!) for an 11-hour day and worked a five-and-a-half-day week. He was able to supplement his income by catching wildlife; the estate paid 6d each for moles, magpies and carrion crows, and sometimes he would earn more from this than his wages.



So, Percy Thrower's local connections and universal appeal have made him special in the world of horticulture. Back in 1979 when I met Percy Thrower again, this time at the Southport Flower Show, he introduced me to the then editor of *Amateur Gardening* magazine, Peter Wood. Little did I realise that chance meeting would lead me, for a number of years at least (1994-1999), into the world of writing for *Amateur Gardening* and then as a proper "staffer"

in their Poole offices. Suffice to say when Peter Wood, in his later years after he retired as Editor, used to call in to office every Friday afternoon with his copy for me to check. It seemed the magic of Thrower had touched me too! If you ever get a chance to read his story, *My Lifetime in Gardening* do, his books are legendary and his legacy to the way we view gardening today, immeasurable.

What peculiar things are happening in the garden this year?

We gardeners get used to the fact that every year the plants in our gardens behave differently due to the weather conditions, and in the Plant's Office of the Garden Centre, writes Pauline Brown, we get endless tales of oddities, some of which we thought we would pass on. In the veggie plot these are some of the tales:

Runner beans: Comments from three different growers.

"They are growing very well, but not twinning round the poles – the only way to get them to climb is to tie them to the poles!"

"Growing well, producing masses of flower, but still not a bean in sight. All a white flowered variety."

"Growing exceptionally well and already producing an enormous crop, much earlier than usual. This is true of 'Enorma' and 'Scarlet Emperor', but two infill white flowered plants have yet to set a bean."

Broad Beans, French Beans and Peas: Lots of people saying they are cropping 2-3 weeks late – a problem if your runners are early as well.

Yacons: These are very healthy looking, have produced lots of leaf but have only got to 18 inches (45cm) high, so if Thompson and Morgan are to be believed they have got a long way to go before the autumn harvesting.

Ocas: All those growing in pots made very good attractive heads some 18 inches high and round, but a couple of days ago all collapsed over, still looking green and healthy but not symmetrical which is a shame. However, those in the ground are still symmetrical, apart from where a passing rabbit has had a nibble.

Fruit Trees: The lack of pollinators at times this spring has definitely had a marked effect on the crops, with some varieties carrying very little or no fruit, but others very heavily laden. Our fruit trees in the selling area of the Garden Centre are nearly all laden with fruit, but they had the advantage of our very active bees working from their hive adjacent to them. This just goes to show what an advantage honey bees are to us gardeners.

Soft Fruit: The heavy rain in the winter, which must have leached out many nutrients from the soil, is showing its effects with chlorotic leaves on fruit, especially cane fruit. Good feeding will correct this, but the crop has not been so good as a result. A generous application of Vitax Q4 should improve matters if applied now and again in spring 2014. Also the hot spell and lack of rain has meant some fruit such as loganberries are not filling out properly.



And elsewhere in the garden... Some trees and larger shrubs have shown symptoms of drought, losing leaves in early August. We've seen a sharp increase of examples in vine weevil damage on evergreens (pictured left), mildew on roses and vegetables, scale insect on bay trees, aphids on Sweet Peas but few instances of slug and snail issues.

Finally, the positives... Our lawns haven't needed cutting as often (since July), the warmth and sunshine has encourage much more butterfly activity and lady birds have started to gain in numbers after last year's washout summer. Bedding plants have excelled with the extra summer warmth and many perennials, if pruned directly after flowering, are set to give a second or third flush of bloom. It was a great summer for strawberries, although the season was short – even the pick-your-own farms had to finish early! Oh, Andy Murray won Wimbledon and the England Cricket Team won The Ashes... life on the lawn and wicket is rosy!



What's On

Don't forget our two Farmers' Market dates: Thursday 12th September and Thursday 10th October, 10am to 2pm. For details of who will be here, do check out our Facebook page for the latest information. Details of the address at the bottom of this page.



Finally, our Tip of The Moth!

If you still enjoy wearing pure wool jumpers, writes Pauline Brown, the age old problem of moths enjoying eating the wool maybe something you have to battle with. You can use moth balls to keep the beasties at bay, but they are somewhat smelly, or you can use chemical deterrents. However, a simple and apparently effective solution is to collect conkers in the autumn and put these amongst your woollen goods and this will be a



chemical and smell free solution. These will need changing every year to stay effective. This tip comes from a reliable source and I shall try it myself this autumn, so if anyone else tries this we shall be interested to hear their results – it sounds too good to be true to me!

I was delighted to be stopped by a customer who had read the tip of how to peel your onions without tears which we put in March/April 2012 newsletter. She now follows the advice and never has painful, tearful eyes now, so I now know this does work for others as well.

Buckingham Nurseries & Garden Centre

Tingewick Road, Buckingham, MK18 4AE. Tel: 01280 822133

E-Mail: enquiries@hedging.co.uk, Web: www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk

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

Summer Opening Hours: Mon-Sat: 8:30am-6pm, Sun: 10am-4pm.

Winter Opening Times (commencing from Monday 28th October): Mon-Sat: 8:30am-5.30pm, Sun: 10am-4pm.

Trust Chapel Cottage Plants – We do!



Chapel Cottage Plants are Hardy Perennial growers based in North Cambridgeshire close to the Norfolk and Lincolnshire borders. Family run by David and Ann Green and their eldest son Nicholas, the company will be celebrating its 25th year of Trading in March 2014.

Growers of over 3.5 million perennials in two pot sizes, a 1-litre range and now to be launched next year is a 3-litre range, which you will see at the Garden Centre. 85% of the varieties are grown outside in the open nursery beds giving you a truly “hardy” plant. Also, with 70% of production grown from seed or cuttings on the nursery, you know you are getting a British Grown product.

Offered to Garden Centres throughout the UK 12 months of the year plants are always available, but business really starts in earnest from mid-February

continuing to be busy until late October. With a regular workforce of 25 full-time staff, peak periods can take this up to over 100 with seasonal workers.

It is very hard to predict how well new varieties will sell into the Garden Centre market. Up to 50 new varieties may make their way into our catalogue each year.

Old favourites like Delphiniums, Lupins (pictured right), Aquilegia and Phlox sell in large numbers year after year. Sales for Delphiniums can reach up to 150,000 pots across the UK during the year covering 14 to 16 colours.



The 1 litre range is by far the main core of the business, as gardens become smaller with the design of new build properties. This size of pot can give you a greater choice and great value for money.

Autumn planting is ideal for a larger part of this range and many plants can give you colour late into the year in borders and containers. Asters and Phlox are great colour for this time of year. Look for Penstemons for late summer flowers as well. Asters and Phlox are very hardy plants; some Penstemons you may find will need a little frost protection if the winter is very hard. Best of all, these late summer perennials will brighten your borders and containers.

