



Children from Barnardos Early Learning Centre Te Puna Oraka in Shirley enjoying their fabulous edible garden. Watch out next month for our feature on the Edible Garden Awards.

WHAT'S COMING UP MARCH & APRIL EVENTS

CHS AGM

Monday 18 March 7.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Nomination of candidates for President, Vice President and (4-6) Board Members, items of general business and any notice of motion must be received at the CHS office no later than 14 days before the AGM with confirmation in writing from the nominated member. Nominations must be signed by 2 financial members and any notice of motion must be signed by 2 Financial/Honorary Life Members.

The Agenda, President's Report, Annual Accounts and Auditor's Report will be available from the CHS Office 7 days prior to the meeting by request, and at the meeting. Nomination forms are available from the CHS office and online:

www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm

GREEN THUMBS RADIO

Monday 11 March 9am

Out & About with the Canterbury Horticultural Society

Catch up with CHS Vice President Ray King and Annette Hill as they chat live on Plains FM 96.9 for "Canterbury through the Seasons". Ray and Annette interview some really interesting people and offer great gardening advice.

GARDENING QUESTIONS?

Head to the Horticultural Hub for answers!

Wednesdays & Sundays 1-4pm

Shop end, Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre

Visit the Hub for gardening advice and inspiration, the friendly folk are a wealth of knowledge and are ready for horticultural, botanical or conservation conversation. Run by volunteers of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and the Canterbury Horticultural Society.

2019 ASIA-PACIFIC TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 April 8am – 4pm

Outside Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre

See world-class competitive climbing arborists up close, explore the market stalls of the Arbor Fair and take in a series of free outdoor talks.

The talks will cover a range of tree-related topics, presented by experts in their respective fields, designed to entertain, inform and engage.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase or bring a picnic. Loads of activities designed with the kids in mind, including the popular NZ Arb Kid's Climb.

www.arbexpo.org.nz

ALL ABOUT GARDENING MARCH

Monday 4th 7pm & Tuesday 5th 9.45am

Our speaker is Dr Antony Shadbolt, Team Leader of The Christchurch City Council's Biodiversity Team. He has more than 30 years experience in the closely aligned fields of environmental horticulture, landscape architecture & planning, landscape ecology, and wildlife management & research.

Antony has been a key driver in the re-establishment of native forest and its associated habitats across the Christchurch area, and for the past ten years has been conducting wildlife research and monitoring in Sarawak, East Malaysia. He will talk about the Urban Forest, focussing on the restoration of indigenous forests in the Christchurch area and how if planned at a landscape scale they could support wildlife that has become locally extinct. Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

*Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
\$5 members, \$10 non-members
Includes tea, coffee & biscuits*

Please note this is our final AAG meeting at the Christchurch Bridge Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT *Farewell from Alan Jolliffe*

This is my last message as President of the CHS as our AGM is this month and a new President will be elected.

Having served 3 and a half years as President and a number of years on the Board I am pleased to say that we have made some major changes that will help the CHS continue to be relevant and necessary in providing leadership and encouragement for all those interested in gardening, horticulture and the environment.

These include:

- **Selling the Hagley Centre**
- **Investing capital to provide cash flow for the CHS activities**
- **Obtaining the lease on The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens**
- **Growing our education programme - with room to expand at The Kiosk**
- **Introducing new awards for outstanding achievement.**
- **Introducing some new technology**
- **Growing our online and social media presence**
- **Extending our Edible Garden Awards with the Council**
- **Increasing our relationships with other organisations**

These and many more things that individuals contributed to the CHS during that time.

I thank you all very much for your contributions for without them the CHS would not be as strong and as healthy as it is. Thanks also to all the Board members I have worked with.

I will be involved with The Kiosk and its displays and activities and with All About Gardening and other activities so I will see many of you at these activities.

Thank you for your help and support in my term as President.

Alan Jolliffe



CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Monday 11 March 7.30pm *note date change*
Charlotte's, 18 Ethne Street St Albans.

General cultural notes, pest control. Housing of Lates, Problem solving and questions.

Location of meeting venues subject to change. Please call the CHS office if in doubt. Tel 366 6937

GARDEN CLUB REPS

Tuesday 5 March 12pm
Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Thursday 21 March 3.45 - 5pm
Terra Viva Home & Garden
242 Roydvale Ave, Burnside

HERB SOCIETY

Thursday 28 March 6pm
University Garden.

Meet outside 72 Creke Rd. If raining go to Craft Centre at 395 Memorial Ave.

Visit the Herb Society Facebook page
www.facebook.com/CANHERBSOC

MEMBERSHIP SUBS

Thanks to all Members who have paid their subs. For those still outstanding please pay as soon as possible.

Membership cards (for those who requested a card) can be collected at AAG or from the CHS office. Please wear your card at AAG sessions, this helps the Committee to see who the visitors are and can be made welcome.

If you have changed your email address please notify us: office@chsgardens.co.nz



MONTHLY TIPS & TASKS *with Michael Coulter*

This month we see the end of the Summer and the long days. March is a busy time in the garden which I call the harvest season. Apples and pears are at their best along with the last of the stone fruit - are all to be enjoyed at this time.

The flower garden is a blaze of colour with Dahlias and Chrysanthemums all coming into full bloom along with the Autumn perennials just as many of the Summer annuals begin to fade.

The weather has been hot and dry over the last month so irrigation is still important, especially for seedlings that are planted out for the Winter vegetables or flowers as they need to have plenty of growth before the start of the cooler temperatures.

Spring bulbs may be planted into pots to give some early colour in the late Winter, there is plenty of time for bulb planting into the garden itself.

The lawns are not looking at their best after the hot dry Summer but once the cooler nights arrive, along with morning dews they will start to grow more quickly so will benefit for some fertiliser and

HERB OF THE MONTH *Canterbury Herb Society*

Five Season Herb *Plectranthus* (*Coleus*) *ambionicus* - family *Lamiaceae* (mint)

A member of the well known, ornamental *Coleus*, widely grown as a decorative garden plant for its attractive variegated red leaves. *Cream bordered*

This plant is becoming popular and sought after. There have recently been several enquiries about it. There are two varieties now available in Christchurch, one has plain green leaves, the other is exactly the same but has leaves with an attractive cream border.

Being tender, it will not grow outside here and even in Summer does better indoors where it makes an aromatic year-round pot plant. I brought it down from North Auckland many years ago and have it still. It is easy to propagate by putting a cutting into water where it roots quickly.

If a rooted cutting is neglected in a large pot indoors, it will grow into a sprawling untidy herb plant about 50cm high with a few spikes of small two-lipped mauve/pink flowers. I have seldom seen any flowers. The thick, brittle, hairy leaves and



stems, even if merely brushed past with a finger, give off a sweet, strong, lasting pleasing aroma. It likes regular watering but can be dry and happy. Grows well even in poor soil. Best kept in a pot to keep it tidy. It does not spread. Like all the *Lamiaceae* family, the stems are four sided.

Other names you may hear: Queen of Herbs, Five in One Herb, Mother of Herb, All Seasons Herb, Country Borage, Indian Borage, Five Spice Herb, Chinese Three in One, Broad Leafed Thyme.

Uses: The leaves are used to add flavour to meat and bean dishes in Caribbean cuisine. The flavour is described as being a combination of thyme and oregano. In Taiwan, the plant is used in traditional medicine to treat inflammation or swelling. In Indonesia, Philippines and India, the plant is used as a treatment for coughing. After giving birth Indonesian women sometimes drink soups made with the leaves to promote lactation. The essential oils are toxic to some insects.

For more great ideas with herbs visit: www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/resources/herb-of-the-month

RAMBLERS

Tuesday 12 March 9.45am

Redwood

Meet Grimseys/Prestons Rd Cnr

Tuesday 26 March 9.45am

Huntsbury Area

Meet Riverlaw Tce/Armstrong Ave Cnr

No walk if wet. FREE

2019 Programme available now:

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROUP

Wednesday 27 March 7.30pm

Deaf Society of Canterbury

80 Fitzgerald Ave

Pip & Stone Fruits by Richard Smith

A Visual Guide to Gardening through the Year #6 with Peter Saunders

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP

Wednesday 20 March 2pm

New members welcome.

Contact the CHS office for location

Tel: 366 6937

Email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

See the latest creations online:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsm3HUR3N>

weed control. The ground is warm and grass seed will germinate very quickly so now is a good month to sow new lawns or do some repairs to damaged areas.

Flower Garden

1. Deadhead flowering plants to encourage more flowers
2. Remove any Summer annuals that have finished
3. Summer perennials that have finished flowering may be lifted and divided
4. Sow sweet peas
5. Plant violas, pansy, poppies and polyanthus (including primulas) later in the month
6. Prepare the ground for bulbs to be planted next month

Vegetable Garden

1. Harvest produce when it is at its best, especially if you want to freeze or bottle it
2. Prune out the old fruiting stems of berry fruits
3. Clean up and remove any windfall fruit that is not usable so that any pests or disease is not carried over
4. Winter brassicas should be planted now
5. Green crops may be sown on unused areas to improve the soil
6. Strawberry runners that have rooted into the ground should be removed and may be used for new plants
7. As soon as crops have finished remove the old plants and compost if possible

Lawns

1. After a good watering (or rain) feed the lawn
2. Sow new lawns after good preparation of the ground
3. Once the grass is growing well treat for weeds
4. Remove any build up of thatch (before fertilising)



CHRISTCHURCH BEAUTIFYING - Summer Garden Competition

A selection of gardens from the Summer Awards. Congratulations to all the hard-working gardeners who participated!

Ruske Cup (Premium Garden)

Brian & Janet Lovelock (image below)
32 Applefield Court, Northwood.



H.M.Taylor Cup (Novice)

1st Allan & Margaret Shears
49 Richmond Avenue, Halswell
2nd Brian McSeveny
15 Seddon Street, Beckenham
3rd Mr & Mrs B Hattrill
25 Oriana Crescent, Hornby

Herbert Cup (up to 18m frontage)

1st Glyn & Ron Andrew (image below)
23 Molesworth Place, Cashmere



2nd Ursula Schmidke.

25 Molesworth Place, Cashmere

Sladen Cup (over 18m frontage)

1st Brian & Janet Lovelock
32 Applefield Court, Northwood
2nd R & J Stanbury
48 Woodhurst Drive, Casebrook.

3rd Carol & Ray Skinner

26 Applefield Court, Northwood

Howman Cup (Flats & Townhouses)

1st Peter Gooding
Villa 14, 73 Roydvale Avenue, Russley
2nd Judith & Keith McFarlane
Unit 41, 73 Roydvale Avenue, Russley
3rd Mr & Mrs Downs
Villa 31, 73 Roydvale Avenue, Russley

Tillman Cup (New Homes under 5 yrs)

1st Peter Lawrence (image below)
3 Watermill Boulevard, Northwood



2nd Lorraine & Brian Campbell

23 Horton Place, Avondale.

Betty Hart Trophy (Secret Garden)

1st Christopher Arnesen
460 Marine Parade, South Brighton
2nd Carol & Ray Skinner
26 Applefield Court, Northwood

Dacre Cup (Intermediate)

1st Anne & Donald Offwood
18 Watermill Boulevard, Northwood

CBA Trophy (Continuing Standard)

1st Sarah & Todd Schumacher

12 Tirangi Street, Hornby

2nd Jenny & Jim Clifford

33 Euphrase Drive, Halswell

3rd Ann & Tom Reed

42 Bickerton Street, Wainoni

SPECIALS - HOME GARDENS

Gower Trophy (Most meritorious feature)

Peter Lawrence

3 Watermill Boulevard, Northwood

Florinid Trophy (Best lawn)

Glyn & Ron Andrew

23 Molesworth Place, Cashmere

Redwood Trophy

(Best display of flowers & colour impact)

Brian & Janet Lovelock

32 Applefield Court, Northwood

Charlotte Harris Trophy

(Residential driveway display)

Brian & Janet Lovelock

32 Applefield Court, Northwood

McMaster Cup (Non-conventional garden of modern style)

Brian McSeveny

15 Seddon Street, Beckenham

Dobson Cup (Garden that most uplifts their surroundings)

Christopher Arneson

460 Marine Parade, South Brighton

COMING UP AT ALL ABOUT GARDENING

APRIL

Monday 1st 7pm & Tuesday 2nd 9.45am

Steve Bush joins us from **Trees for Canterbury** - more than just a nursery for plants! Steve participated in our 2018 Winter Speaker Series where he spoke about what Trees for Canterbury have done and where they are at today, including what they do other than just growing native plants.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

New Location! Join us for the inaugural All About Gardening meeting at The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Just over the footbridge from the Armagh St carpark



MAY

Monday 6th 7pm & Tuesday 7th 9.45am

David Brittain from **Kiwicare** - Innovating pest control and garden care solutions to help you live with nature.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens (just over the footbridge from the Armagh St carpark).

\$5 members \$10 non-members
Includes tea, coffee & biscuits

