

ARCH COMMUNITY GROUP

"Flowers, Bees, Butterflies, Trees"
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The scarecrow has arrived at Standalone Farm, after it's adventures at Hampton Court Flower Show. You may remember from the last newsletter that Northfield School won the Letchworth competition, run by ARCH Community Group, to build a scarecrow. It can be viewed at the "In Bloom" garden, next to the "International Garden Cities Garden".



A number of volunteers have taken a well deserved break over the traditional holiday period this summer but will be back again in September to help tend the gardens. We are always looking for new volunteers to help in the existing gardens - The Wynd and Standalone - and also any new projects that come

about, like the Eco Garden which was partly planted by volunteers.

The gardens at Standalone Farm are looking great, considering they were only planted a few months ago and have had considerable "weather" to deal with. They continue to be maintained by the volunteers who are generally there on a Friday. If you fancy a bit of weeding and deadheading, while chatting with other gardeners then please join us. Just give us a call or send an email for further information and timings.



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GARDENS TO VISIT

Alswick Hall

Buntingford, Hertfordshire SG9 0AA
This is a Tudor house with 5 acres of landscaped gardens, set in unspoiled farmland. It includes two natural ponds with rockeries, herbaceous borders, shrubs, roses, extensive dahlia beds, a woodland walk and a wild flower meadow. A lovely location, with a Plant Fair on the 11th September.

Opening times: 11th September 2-5pm
Entrance fees: Adults: £5.00 / Children: £0.00
Contact: Cathy Curtis - Telephone: 01992 585969

Huntsmoor

Stoney Lane, Bovington, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0DP
A Rose garden, rhododendron border, arbutum, kor pond, nature pond, shrub and herbaceous borders. There is also a 'cave', and lots of places to sit. Home made teas and gluten free provided. Disability information: Full access to garden including easy access to WC.

Opening times: 18th September 2-5pm.

Contact: Mr Brian Bradnock & Ms Jane Meir - Telephone: 01442 832014

Helpful Numbers:

Royal Horticultural Society - Telephone - 0845 260 5000 <https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Perfect Ground Solutions
Colin Peckers
Specialist lawn treatments
01920 461938
Quote: ARC1

Shapprint
Ashtons
01462 600003
Quote: ARC2

Happy gardening
Caroline and the ARCH Team
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UNDER THE ARCH

ARCH Newsletter August/September 2016

ARCH, Unit 5 Green Lane 3, Letchworth Garden City, Herts SG6 1HP



How's your 'Olympic' summer going? Plenty of hot, dry weather has meant a lot of watering this year. So nice to see blue skies, after the grey wet days of spring - a distant memory. Although those with water butts have complained that they haven't filled up quick enough!

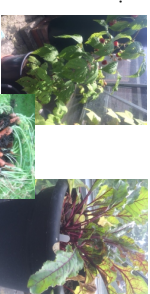
Lawns won't be looking at their best after the warm/dry weather but they surprise us every year when they 'bounce' back and start to look lush after the first rains.

I've been harvesting carrots, tomatoes, courgettes, beetroot, blackcurrants, strawberries and raspberries, all of which have been pot grown. It is amazing the variety of fruit and vegetables which can be grown in a container. Along with a few herbs on the windowsill, you can enjoy plenty of fresh produce, from the comfort of your own home.

The team meanwhile have been busy with the basic maintenance service but also laying garden paths, building raised beds, redesigning borders and planting. Together with installing a couple of new fence panels and trellis work. There have also been a record number of customers requiring our watering service this summer, which is an indication of the better weather we've had this year.

So while we enjoy the last weeks of summer, we, as gardeners, are always looking forward to the next season which is, of course, autumn. The next busiest time of year, after spring, for us. That means spring bulb planting time. Over the next couple of months is the ideal time to plant spring flowering bulbs - crocus, irises, daffodils and tulips, amongst the more common. Remember, these can be planted in either pots, troughs or borders - the choice is yours!

Happy Gardening!



Inside this Issue



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DID YOU KNOW? ONE OF THE MANY BENEFITS OF BEING

AN ARCH CUSTOMER...

We can supply:

- ✓ Tree stakes/ties
- ✓ Gravel
- ✓ Bulbs
- ✓ Compost
- ✓ Pansies
- ✓ Roses
- ✓ Fence Stain
- ✓ Mulch

Have you seen a gap in the hedge that needs filling before winter or are your pots tired after the hot summer and need refreshing?

As part of our service, we are happy to arrange delivery of various plants and products for your garden. Either delivering when we next visit or we can arrange the delivery of heavier and bulkier items as necessary, with our suppliers.

To arrange this, please call the office on 01462 686491 or alternatively, speak directly to your gardener who can arrange this for you.



Gravel



Fencing



Bulbs



Compost



Pansies & Roses

HINTS & TIPS: Dead head bedding plants - Cut back herbs - Harvest fruit / veg - Collect seeds of poppies & forget-me-nots - Top up water features - Prune wisteria.

SHE SHEDS

You may have seen the various reports in the press and on TV about the rise in popularity of "She Shed", the

female version of the traditional garden shed! Well, I have been lucky enough to

create my own "She Shed" from an unwanted

summerhouse. I have given the outside a new coat of stain and re-felted the roof. The

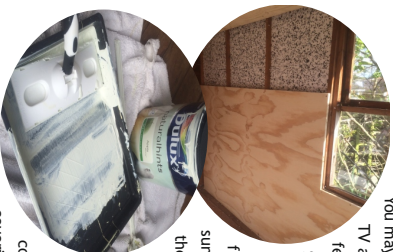
inside I have insulated before paneling and whitewashing. The floor has

also been boarded before covering with laminate floor

covering. It is located at the bottom of the garden in a corner, surrounded by planting on 3 sides. Why - I hear you ask? Well I needed somewhere to house all my gardening memorabilia, as well as to have a cup of tea away from the hustle and bustle of life. Yes, I can pick up the internet and my mobile phone signal does mean I can contact the outside world but it is nice to be able to sit and enjoy the planting and wildlife just outside the window.

OPPORTUNITIES WITH ARCH

With the workload ever increasing, there are always opportunities within ARCH. If you know anyone who wishes to join the team either from Letchworth or perhaps wants to have a gardening round nearer to home, then please ask them to contact me on 01462 686491.



AUTUMN

As I mentioned previously, autumn will soon be here bringing shorter days and cooler temperatures - all of which are ideal for planting new shrubs. The theory being that the soil is still warm from summer but the autumn rains will return making the perfect growing conditions - wet and warm - and the plants can establish before the harsh winter weather arrives.

Another popular job for the autumn is dealing with compost bins. If the contents are well rotted they can be spread over the garden during this time, before being refilled with the spent bedding plants and grass cuttings for the rest of the year.

If you have an excessive amount of leaves to clear, it may well be worth thinking about having a separate leaf bin built (something we can do), as leaves generally rot down slower than grass clippings.



JOBS FOR THE WEEKEND

So, how are your pots looking? Plants that have been in situ all summer but still have some life in them, will benefit from a thorough water and feed now, to give them some renewed vigour ready for the months ahead and before the first frosts. Don't forget to deadhead them and it's also worth removing some of the existing flowers. A small sacrifice now will give a longer flowering time into autumn.

If the plants are "passed their best", now is the time to remove them and refresh the compost before planting new autumn bedding or permanent planting.

Maybe include some spring bulbs as well - ready for next year.

