

# ARCH COMMUNITY GROUP

"Flowers, Bees, Butterflies, Trees"

Follow us on Facebook: **ARCH Community Group**

Whilst the first round of free gardening courses have finished for the summer, there will be some new courses in the autumn. The courses have proved very popular, particularly the woodworking course when the attendees made birdboxes and bug boxes to take home if they wished.

The ARCH Community Garden in the Wynd has held a number of volunteer gardening events on Saturday mornings, planting vegetables, weeding and generally keeping the area tidy. Our volunteers are trying different methods to try and help our plants during this very nice warm spell. They have planted beetroot through membrane after preparing the beds first and in our flower beds the volunteers forked over the top soil and gave the plants a good watering before covering with a thick layer of bark. Fingers crossed this will save on watering but still give up plenty of joy!



Unfortunately our potato trials came to an abrupt end as someone had pulled all of the top growth off the potato plants, so we decided to clear the bed ready for repairs.



However, our potato trials did show some differences between 2 types of potato sown, but we can also see that as the plants were pulled too early the harvest was smaller and not as many as we expected. From the seed potato we only got just over 1Kg of potatoes but from the old supermarket potato we harvested just over 18Kg just think what could have happened if we could have finished the trials as intended.

*Steve*

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Email: [info@archgardening.co.uk](mailto:info@archgardening.co.uk)

[www.archgardening.co.uk](http://www.archgardening.co.uk)



ARCH-Gardening



ARCHCAROLINE

## GARDENS TO VISIT/FLOWER SHOWS

### 8 Chapel Road, Hitchin SG4 8NU

Standing in the heart of the village, surrounding a C17 cottage is an informal garden having no lawns or straight level pathways with a good selection of perennials, shrubs and alpine. The path meanders past ponds and waterfalls. With one of the largest collections of vintage garden tools and machinery on display as featured in Garden Answers.

Dates: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018 - 12.00pm - 5.00pm

### Beechleigh, Birch Green - Hertford SG14 2LP

Set in 2.5 acres, the garden combines bold confident lines of contemporary planting with more traditional herbaceous borders. The house and outbuildings formed part of the historic Panshanger Estate with the new design incorporating reclaimed stone and red brick from the original buildings. Long beds of perennial grasses surround the 13m reflective pool, forming a focal point to the main house.

Dates: August 25th - 5pm - 8pm

## Helpful Numbers:

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



Perfect Ground Solutions  
Colin Peters  
For all your lawn treatments  
01920 461958  
Quote: ARC1

All Printing - including Wedding & Business  
Shawprint  
Anita Shaw  
01462 600003  
Quote: ARC2



Happy gardening

*Caroline and the* **ARCH** *Team*

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# UNDER THE ARCH

ARCH Newsletter July/August 2018



ARCH, Unit 5 & 6 Green Lane 3, Letchworth Garden City, Herts SG6 1HP

I hope this newsletter finds you well and surviving the extreme heat we have had recently. We are asking a lot of our plants and gardens this year - first the long, freezing temperatures of the winter, very little spring and then straight into summers heatwave all within 6 months. There has been a lot of water being used to keep both us and the garden hydrated and those of us with water butts have found that they have run dry and I personally, wish I had installed more than one, particularly after all that rainfall we had to endure over the winter and spring. This year I will be linking a couple of butts together, to collect much more.



However, "grey" water can also be used. I've left a bowl in the sink just for that purpose, rinsing fruit and veg, washing hands, rinsing a cup before reusing - all of this water can be collected and put on the garden. Most lawns are now brown but I am assured that the grass will soon be turning green again, once the rain does appear. Although if you are planning to have your lawn scarified this autumn, now would be the ideal time to do this rather than waiting for the rains. If you are away and need help with the watering please do let us know and we will be happy to pop in and water for you.



I know many of the gardens are suffering loss of plants as the weather takes its toll. On the plus side (I always like to find a positive!) we can see which plants are real survivors - established yew, hawthorn, silver birch, roses, honeysuckle, sedums and Japanese anemones are all plants that appear to be ok through both the winter cold and now the summer heat. However, penstemons, acers and hydrangeas all appear to be curling up. Obviously every garden is different with different soils, micro climate, etc but it is an indication of what plants work where and planting more of what works rather than planting moisture lovers in a dry garden.

Inside this Issue

DID YOU KNOW?

ARCH COMMUNITY GROUP

ARCH WORD SEARCH

GARDENS TO VISIT

*Caroline*

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Now covering Ampthill/Flitwick areas of Bedfordshire.





DID YOU KNOW?

**Petrichor** - is the earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil. The word is constructed from Greek meaning "stone", the fluid that flows in the veins of the gods in Greek mythology..

- DONT FORGET,** we can deliver products to you on our next visit. As an idea of prices, these are:

  - Multi purpose compost £7.50 standard bag delivered
  - Bark £7.50 standard bag delivered
  - Bulk bags are available (Please ask for pricing)
  - Bedding Plants, Shrubs, Trees (Various prices from £18.00 delivered)
  - Hanging baskets (wicker baskets containing bedding)

If there is anything else you need please let us know, either by speaking with your gardener, telephoning the office on 01462 686491 or send an email to admin@arch.uk.com. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Overgrown Gardens

Apart from a lot of watering, particularly when clients are away, the team have still managed to work clearing and tidying areas of overgrown gardens:



BEFORE AFTER



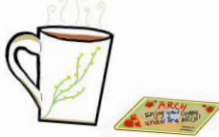
BEFORE AFTER

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.



ARCH WORD SEARCH



WATERING

H	P	L	D	S	W	T	Q	S	W	S	V	F	U	E
I	A	X	H	I	E	C	H	A	Z	M	V	Z	I	Y
T	V	I	J	T	Y	L	T	U	M	C	T	I	R	Y
A	M	J	L	E	A	E	R	Z	N	H	S	A	R	H
O	K	H	A	S	R	B	X	J	I	D	L	J	I	R
C	F	X	O	B	T	Q	D	H	N	L	E	P	G	Q
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I	E	T	B	S	C	Y	N	R	I	S	N	I	T	Q
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P	D	X	K	V	U	Y	W	A	T	E	R	I	N	G
W	A	T	E	R	I	N	G	C	A	N	E	O	M	J
C	M	R	T	R	I	B	L	M	R	O	T	S	T	P
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BIRDBATH  
HOSE  
RAINCOAT  
STORM  
WATERBUT

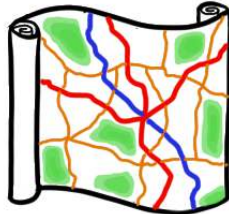
BUCKET  
IRRIGATION  
RESERVOIR  
THUNDER  
WATERING

HAILSTONES  
RAIN  
RIVER  
UMBRELLA  
WATERINGCAN

AREAS WE COVER:

NEW AREA COVERED: FLITWICK AND AMPHILL

- Baldock
- Hitchin inc: Wymondley and St Ippolyts
- Knebworth
- Letchworth inc: Ickleford and Arlesey
- Stevenage inc: Graveley, Walkern and Weston
- Stotfold inc: Clifton, Henlow, Shefford and
- Stondon, Welwyn inc: Digswell



GDPR

As most of you are aware the new GDPR regulations came into force in May this year. Thank you to those of you that have returned the small postcard forms to the office it is appreciated. For those of you that haven't yet done so it would be appreciated if you could return yours. The ARCH Privacy Policy is available on the ARCH website, www.archgardening.co.uk. Should you require a hardcopy please do let me know and I can arrange this for you. Thanking you for your assistance

**HINTS & TIPS:** Continue to deadhead bedding plants and roses. Feed all plants in containers. Install water butts ready for the autumn rains. Prune wisteria.

