



Aughton & Ormskirk U3A GARDENING GROUP NEWSLETTER December 2018

Welcome to the Gardening Groups newsletter which we hope you will find of interest.

Full details of the Gardening Group can be seen on the U3A website at <http://aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk/groups/gardening-group/>

The gardening group had an excellent November meeting with a most interesting and informative talk on "Weeds" by Matthew Smith.

December Gardening Group Meeting

Wednesday 12 December 2.00 – 4.00 pm.

Venue: St Michaels Church Hall

The December meeting will take the form of a quiz with mince pies.

Wednesday 9th January Meeting

Cliff Porter will speak on the topic "Where would we be without Bees."

EDEN PROJECT IN MORECOMBE

The **Eden Project** International plans to open a version of its Cornish tourist attraction in Morecambe.

The environmental centre, which attracts more than 1 million visitors a year, said it was looking for funding for the project after carrying out a feasibility study. It is understood the Morecambe project would cost about £100m to launch, half of which would be government funding, with the remainder provided by private investors and philanthropists.

The project is being developed by Eden Project International Limited (EPIL) in partnership with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, Lancaster University, Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council. It is part of EPIL's ambition to build Eden Projects around the world.

The Eden Project Cornwall has attracted 20 million visitors since 2001.

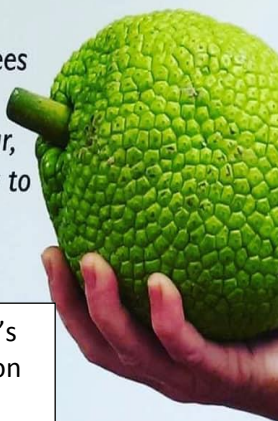


In the greenhouse

- Put up insulating material such as bubble wrap on inside of the greenhouse.
- Clear leaves and twigs from greenhouse gutters.
- Clean pots and seed trays.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation.
- Watch for over wintering pests.

*"If a man plants ten breadfruit trees
in his life,
which he can do in about an hour,
he would completely fulfill his duty to
his own as well as future
generations."*

Joseph Banks 1769 Captain Cook's
Botanist reporting on the situation
in Tahiti



Garden Jobs for December

- 1) Alpines can be sown this month.
- 2) Continue to cutback faded herbaceous perennials.
- 3) Lift and divide herbaceous perennials.
- 4) Root cuttings can be taken from perennial poppies.
- 5) Apply mulch to protect plants that are borderline hardy.



Leaf-Mould

Leaf-mould is arguably the most nutritious and nature-friendly mulch you can apply. Pretty much every plant loves it and what's more it can be completely free! It may not look like the most attractive mulch but apply in Autumn/Winter and by spring it will have blended in with and really enriched your soil. The only major drawback is that leaves do take some while to decompose and if you plan to DIY this is something you plan for a year in advance.



Collect as many leaves as possible in black bags and cut some small holes to let the air in. Ensure the leaves are thoroughly wet as leaves break down through fungi. Come next Autumn you'll have some of the finest and richest mulch money can buy... not that you have to spend a penny! Of course, leaf mould is available to purchase in fairly substantial bulks.

