



**Aughton & Ormskirk U3A  
GARDENING GROUP NEWSLETTER  
April 2016**

Welcome to this the third of the Gardening Groups newsletters which we hope you will find of interest. We hope that you are enjoying the newsletter but please let us know if you would like any specific topics covered.

The March meeting was well attended and Brian Houghton entertained us with an interested talk on Fuchsia's. He covered the history of the plant and the various aspects of growing and obtaining good displays.

All meetings start at 2pm in the Scout & Guide HQ. Full details of all meetings can be seen on the U3A website at <http://aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk>

**MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

**Topic: "Gresgarth Hall Gardens Through the Seasons"**

**Speaker: Steve Halliwell**

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**MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**

**Topic: "A Long Drive to Lhasa Tibet exploring Alpine Plants"**

A botanical trip exploring the culture and Alpine plants of Tibet

**Speaker: Peter Cordall**

We look forward to welcoming you to the U3A Gardening Group Meetings.

**Gardening Group Contact Details:**

**David Blanchflower Tel: 01704 889736 email: blanch2203@gmail.com**

**Painting the Modern Garden: From Monet to Matisse at Southport Vue Cinema**

**Tuesday April 12 2016 the performance is in Screen 1, starts 7:00 PM and ends 8:50 PM**

Monet was an avid horticulturist and arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art but he was not alone. Artists like Van Gogh, Bonnard, Pissarro and Matisse all saw the garden as a powerful subject for their art. These great artists, along with many other famous names, feature in an innovative exhibition from The Cleveland Museum of Art and The Royal Academy, London. From the exhibition walls to the beauty of artist gardens like Monet's Giverny, we take a magical journey to discover how artists used the modern garden to explore radical and wonderful new ideas.

**The Gardening Group Needs Your Active Involvement**

If the gardening group is to continue to operate and provide a service to U3A members it needs your active support. Will you please consider offering your services to set out chairs, make tea and be actively involved in the running of the group?

Please contact David Blanchflower 01704 889736

## Southport Flower show 18th – 21st August 2016

The Gardening Group has negotiated a discounted entrance fee to this year's Southport Flower Show; the £19 ticket is discounted to £16 if purchased before the end of June 2016. You can purchase online at [www.southportflowershow.co.uk/tickets.asp](http://www.southportflowershow.co.uk/tickets.asp) using the discount code U3A or by telephone 01704 547 147 there is a postage fee of £1 with telephone ticket requests but no additional fee when tickets are ordered online. The offer is only valid until 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Southport  
Flower Show



**The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives.**



*Gertrude Jekyll*

### Garden Jobs for April

- 1) Keep weeds under control
- 2) Tie climbing and rambling roses
- 3) Sow new lawns and repair bare patches
- 4) Divide bamboos and water lilies
- 5) Increase water given to house plants
- 6) Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds
- 7) Treat timber structures with preservative
- 8) Dispose of out of date garden chemicals

### How to Grow Fuchsias

There are few plant groups that are as diverse as the fuchsia. These exotic looking beauties are firm favourites for their pendant flowers in a wonderful range of colour combinations. Fuchsias may be deciduous or evergreen depending on their variety and growing conditions. They're versatile too, growing happily in sun or semi shade. These hard working shrubs will flower virtually all summer long, filling borders, beds, window boxes, hanging baskets and patio containers - in fact, they will bring colour to almost any position that you can think of.

Pot up fuchsia plug plants using a good quality, well drained compost and grow them on in warm, frost-free conditions. Trailing fuchsia plug plants may be planted directly into baskets, window boxes and containers. These should also be grown on in warm, frost free conditions until they are well developed.

Pinch out the growing tips of each plant while they are still small to promote bushier growth and more flowers. When all risk of frost has passed, gradually acclimatise fuchsia plants to outdoor conditions over a 7 to 10 day period, before moving them (or planting them out) in their final positions.

