



Aughton & Ormskirk U3A GARDENING GROUP NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

Welcome to this issue of the Gardening Groups newsletters 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/>

NO MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE GARDENING GROUP

Group members will be aware that it is now over a year since we held a monthly meeting of the gardening group. Sadly no one was prepared to help with the running of the group.

We are still hopeful that the gardening group can once again become active, but for this to happen we need volunteers to actively run the group. If anyone is interested in stepped forward to run the group they will be given support by the Group Support Committee.

Gardening Group Contact Details:

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

Think about container displays

October is the month we should be planting up winter containers, so they can establish themselves before the really bad weather sets in. Try cyclamen, winter-flowering heathers and pansies for colour, as well as container-grown shrubs including small-leafed hebes and skimmia, while ornamental cabbages bring form and colour to winter pots.

Don't forget to plant spring bulbs in window boxes and containers. Zingy yellow dwarf narcissi, deep blue muscari and other dwarf bulbs including scillas, chionodoxas and early crocuses are perfect for pots.



Composting

- Continue to clear leaves from lawns to avoid brown patches; collect up the leaves in leaf mould bags or pile them onto the compost to create lovely mulch for next year's borders. Rake them up, then mow over to chop, then gather them up – this will make their conversion to leaf mould much quicker.



Now's the time to pep up your lawn. When the wet weather comes, scarify and spike your lawn to remove moss and dead grass, improve oxygenation and relieve compaction.- Give the lawn an autumn feed and add top dressing, especially if you have clay, chalk or sandy soil



Garden Jobs for October

- 1) Sow hardy annuals for bigger plants next year.
- 2) Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, crocus and hyacinths now.
- 3) Keep deadheading annuals and perennials to extend their performance.
- 4) Prune climbing roses and rambling roses once they've finished flowering.
- 5) Divide and replant perennials.



DIARY DATE FOR 2018

HARROGATE
SPRING FLOWER SHOW

26TH – 29TH April 2018



HARROGATE
SPRING FLOWER SHOW