

The Garden in May

Series by: Nadia Bunner
Tel: 016973 52024
gardens-by-nadia.co.uk

May is a month of vibrant profusion.

For weeks plants have been gradually waking up from their winter slumbers and by the end of the month the last of them complete the overture. Summer can begin. There is something special about May. Maybe it's the vivacity of growth, maybe it's the intensity of colour, maybe the light levels. Maybe it's the combination of all these things which makes the May garden seem so fresh, clean and inviting as no other month.

In areas of acidic soil rhododendrons and azaleas are at their very best around the second-third week of the month.

There is much to be done in the garden but it is always less of a chore with the sun on your back.

May notes

Hanging baskets

These can be put out towards the end of the month on a still dull day to harden them off. Do listen out for any frost forecast and protect the baskets if necessary. When choosing or planting hanging baskets and containers go for the biggest possible. Large baskets always look so much better and do not dry out so readily. Water retaining gel is



not necessary with large baskets.

Lawns

Lawns will be growing fast now, and can be cut at their seasonal shortest. Don't forget to keep the edges trimmed.

Try to avoid mowing when the grass is wet, to avoid smears. Minor patches of weeds can be cleared with a hand fork, and the odd tap-rooted rosette-forming weed like dandelion can be killed by dribbling a few spots of glyphosate into the centre of the rosette. Take care not to put any on the lawn.

Pruning and Training

Keep tucking in the soft stems of clematis into their supports.

Flowers

Sow sunflowers in pots or in the ground.

Plant out cannas and dahlia tubers 3-4in (10-12 cms) under the

surface, and mark them with a cane set behind them, so you know where you can safely hoe and later drive in a stake.

Grasses and Bamboos

Grasses and the related bamboos prefer to be moved and divided now, while they are coming into active growth

Slugs and snails

This is real slug time. Deal with them by your favourite means. Beer traps, fruit skins, slug

pellets, etc.

Kitchen Garden

Watch out for the little caterpillars of the gooseberry sawfly which can defoliate a bush in no time, and spray at once. Fortunately they succumb readily to the



milder insecticides.

Put straw or leylandii clippings amongst strawberry plants, to keep the soil from splashing onto the setting fruits.

This is the month for sowing outdoors. Get busy with beans,

beetroot, carrots, ruby chard, leeks, parsnips, spinach, and salads like lettuce, endive, parsley and rocket.

Sow tomatoes, courgettes, pumpkins and sweet corn in pots.

Enjoy your gardening.

Council Tax

Report by Mayor:
G Wilkinson

Something which we all dislike at this time of year is the dreaded bill from Allerdale dropping through the letter box.

As usual it costs more yet again; the County section, Allerdale section and the Police. At the bottom of this comes the Parish/Town precept. This year Silloth Town Council, by careful management of funds have been able to reduce this amount by 16.7%, which equates to £7,000 less requested from town residents than last year. We are one of only two towns in Allerdale who have managed a reduction.

If one studies the leaflet with the demands notice you will see that

the other five towns in Allerdale have increased their precept between £7,000 and £20,000.

Buzzie
by
Ellie Clapham
from
Carlisle



Caravan Care

Caravan and Camping Spares and Accessories
Timber Decking Design and Construction
Interior and Exterior On-Site Caravan Valeting
Site and Timber Deck Pressure Washing
Garden Maintenance
17 Eden Street, Silloth
Tel: 07921 567 413
info@caravan-care.info
www.caravan-care.info
Free, No Obligation Quotations

CRIFFEL INN
For Good Value, Home Cooked Meals
Bar Snacks Tue-Sat day times
Upstairs Restaurant from 5:30pm
Home of the "Silloth Special"
Mighty Steaks & Grills
Sunday Lunches 12-3pm
Regular Entertainment - see 'A' boards
Criffel Street, Silloth, Tel: 07884 100452

The Good Companions Residential Care Home
Long & Short Term Stays in Single En-Suite Rooms
Criffel Street ~ Silloth ~ tel: 016973 31553

Golf Hotel
Open all day
Morning Coffees from 10am
Bar Meals 12 noon to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm
Extensive menu plus specials and Traditional Roast Lunches every Sunday
Afternoon Teas
Restaurant Meals - for that special occasion
Tablé d'hôte dinner £18.50, also a la carte
Wedding Receptions
Christening Meals
Wedding Anniversaries & other functions
Private Rooms for parties of all sizes
We use fresh local produce, including Solway Shrimps. and do our own baking
Tel: 016973 31438

Addison Orthodontics
Denture Repair Service
54 Esk Street
Silloth
016973 32208

TOP 2 TOE BEAUTY SALON
Beauty treatments include:
Waxing, Eyelash Tinting, Eyebrow Shaping, Manicures, Pedicures, Facials, Massage, Body Treatments & Electrolysis (permanent hair removal)
For a FREE consultation, or appointment call Shirley Parker on:
016973 33009 or 07871 413425

SCRUMPTIOUS
Baguettes
Luxury ice-cream
Fresh coffee
Phone orders welcome
016973 31300
4 Wampool Street Silloth
Open 7 days