



# Catisfield Gardening Club Newsletter Winter 2025-6

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NEWSLETTER 10/2025

"WINTER, A LINGERING SEASON, IS A TIME TO GATHER GOLDEN MOMENTS, EMBARK UPON A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY, AND ENJOY EVERY IDLE HOUR" --JOHN BOSWELL



## From the Chair

Dear Members,  
 Welcome to our  
 last Newsletter of

2025 before we have a winter break. **This Newsletter is also the last monthly edition we will produce for we are cutting back to one newsletter a quarter from 2026 so the next edition will be "Spring" covering March – May. The reason is that as you will appreciate producing a monthly newsletter between February and November is a very time-consuming job, and we are indebted to Susan for the amazing job she has done in achieving this year after year. To help take the pressure off Susan we will now produce a quarterly newsletter. You can help very much by submitting articles and items to her.**

We conclude the Club's year on Thursday 13 November with our AGM. We try to make the AGM a fun and entertaining event as well as needing to conduct the official business required by the Club's constitution.

We will be sending out by e-mail in advance of the meeting the Agenda, Previous AGM Minutes and Balance Sheet along with some of the Committee's reports to speed things up at the AGM. Please print these off and bring them along to the meeting.

Once the formal business has been concluded we will once again enjoy the excellent buffet put together by the amazing Jan Purnell. Please bring along your own "tipple". It can be either alcoholic or nonalcoholic. We will then hold our annual inter-table quiz. This time we have something very different for you this time the competition is based on the TV Quiz Game "Impossible" You will be given a question and there will be 3 answers provided. One of the answers is Correct, one of the answers is Incorrect but Possible and the third answer is Impossible. The correct answer will score the most points, the possible answer a smaller number of points and the Impossible answer will score you minus points. To make it even more interesting teams will move up a "Snakes and Ladders"

Board. Make it to a ladder and you improve your chances of your table winning a prize – but watch out for those snakes!

Please see the article below about renewing your membership for 2026 early. We have the membership cards ready for you and a strong and informative programme for next year and 2 Away Days including our own unique tour of Mottisfont Rose Garden when it is closed to the public. A copy of the programme will be available at the AGM. I would like to end my article by sincerely thanking all the Committee and you the Membership for your amazing support during 2025. I would also like to thank my lovely wife Theresa who has decided to stand down as our Beverage Coordinator for all the hard work she has put in over the years in ensuring we always have good beverages and those lovely biscuits at our meetings!

**Glenn, Chairman**

## Membership renewals

Annual memberships renewals are now taking place. You can rejoin at any of the meetings or if you prefer you can renew using the form [on-line](#) and making payment to "Catisfield & District Gardening Club", Sort Code 09-01-28 Account 80083701. Please use your name as the reference.

## Plant of the season: Euonymus

Euonymus comprises a very varied genus of shrubs: evergreen or deciduous, flowering or not, suitable for shade or sun, with heights ranging from 10cm (try E. 'kewensis' or 'silverstone' to 8 metres (e.g. E. 'hamiltonianus', a semi-evergreen variety with autumn colour and fruits). Also known as "spindle", some varieties have very attractive berries and autumn foliage. Several can be trained against walls or other structures: I have a wall-trained plant and one of our members has turned theirs into a beautiful evergreen arch. Generally easy to grow they tolerate any soil and don't mind drying out occasionally once established. The one thing they don't like is permanently wet soil.

All euonymus varieties are harmful if eaten, so don't eat them!

### Best for shade: 'Silver Queen'



Evergreen variety holding the RHS Award for Garden Merit, Silver Queen grows to around 2.5m height and

spread. Unlike some variegated varieties, which can become straggly in deep shade, this one remains dense. Dark green leaves with wide creamy margins, sometimes with a touch of pink. It's quite slow growing but with patience it can be trained up a wall, and I have it growing on my north-facing wall as shown below.



### Best for fruit: europaeus



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Vigorous deciduous variety which holds the RHS Plants for Pollinators award. Small greenish-white flowers in spring are followed by pink fruits which split to reveal orange seeds in autumn as shown above. Leaves turn pink or red in autumn. Grows to 4 metres height and spread but can be kept smaller by pruning. E. europaeus 'Red Cascade' has the same stunning fruits but redder autumn foliage, also holding the RHS Award for Garden Merit.

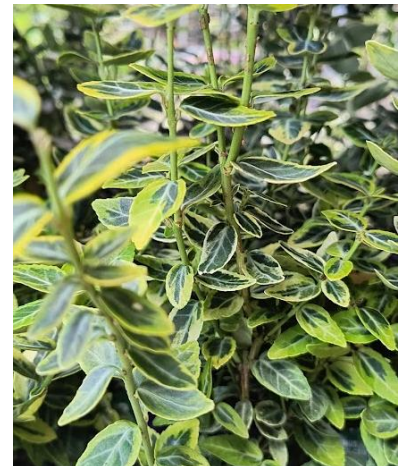
### Best for large areas: hamiltonianus

One of the largest euonymus, growing up to 8 metres in height and spread. If you have the space for this you'll be rewarded with similar flowers and berries to 'europaeus'. Some varieties e.g. 'hians' have white fruit as shown below, although these still split to show orange seeds.



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### Best variegated variety: 'Emerald and Gold'



Bushy evergreen shrub bearing dark green leaves with yellow-green margins. Growing up to 4 metres in height and spread, unfussy about light levels and aspect. Very easy to grow.

## Question of the month

Last month's question was: with most of my plants now dormant, can I just sit back and relax. Or are



there still things I should be doing in my garden?

To be honest, in this area I'd be surprised if your plants stay dormant for long. Climate change means that many previously seasonal plants are remaining in leaf or flower for much longer periods, in my own garden I often have roses on Christmas day. So you may find that you're spending time weeding, pruning and tidying as usual for much of the season.

The Winter Checklist at the end of this newsletter should give you some ideas of what you can do when plants are not actively growing. Of course how much of this you actually do is up to you, most of the tasks are good practice rather than mandatory so you can certainly put your feet up if you wish. But things like cleaning maintaining your gardening equipment and structures may actually save you time and money in the longer term by avoiding rotting wood, unwanted insects hatching from eggs left in pots, and having to replace rusted tools.

Here are a few ideas for if you want to keep going, over and above those already included in the Checklist:

- Sort out your shed. Clean, tidy and get rid of anything taking up space which you no longer need.



- Clean hard surfaces such as paving stones and decking. Treat wooden decking to preserve the wood and reduce slipperiness.
- Sow "green manure" on bare vegetable beds to smother weeds and add nutrients ready for next year.



- Look through seed catalogues, plan what you want to grow next year and order some seeds.
- Regularly remove fallen leaves from ponds. If these sink to the bottom and rot they can raise nitrogen levels and reduce oxygen, which makes the water harmful for fish and wildlife.

### Question for next newsletter:

Our next question is: I like to have fresh flowers on my dining table and would like to cut costs by growing some of these myself. What should I grow?



If you have any views on this question send them to [gardenclubnews@btinternet.com](mailto:gardenclubnews@btinternet.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The results will be published in the Spring 2025 newsletter.



Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 11-1, garden open day. Free admission, donations welcome. Haslar Rd, Gosport PO12 2AA, please park in the Haslar site car park which is a 3-minute walk away.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm: Catisfield Gardening Club AGM.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 4-9pm, Christmas light trail: RHS Wisley. From £10.45 adult members / £15.95 non members. Book here: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/whats-on/wisley-glow>

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 10:30-1:30, workshop: "Absolute Beginners Make Your Own Compost" at RHS Wisley. £20, book here: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley/viewevent?EID=2577&ESRC=CMS>

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2-4pm, artists' garden open for the National Trust: Annalal's Gallery, 25 Millhams Street, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1DN. Adults £3, children free.

27<sup>th</sup> November – 3rd January, 4.30pm – 8pm: Festive light art installations, Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey. From £20 per adult, information and booking at <https://www.lightuptrails.com/>

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm, artists' garden open for the National Trust: Annalal's Gallery, 25 Millhams Street, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1DN. Adults £3, children free.

22<sup>nd</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> December: Wreath-making, St Margaret's Nursery Titchfield. As of date of going to press availability is: Sat 22 Nov am & pm, Sun 23 Nov am & pm, Wed 26 Nov am, Wed 3 Dec am, Fri 5 Dec am, Sun 7 Dec am, Wed 10 Dec am, Fri 12 Dec am, Sat 13 Dec am & pm, Sun 14 Dec am & pm, Wed 17 Dec am. £35 per person which includes materials and refreshments. Call 01329 846006 to reserve a place.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Exbury Christmas Fair, Exbury Gardens. Open 10-7:30pm on Saturdays and 10-4pm on Sundays. £6.50 adults, children free, free to all after 4pm. Admission includes admission to the gardens up to 4pm, information and booking here: <https://exbury.co.uk/events/christmas-at-exbury-everything-you-need-to-know/>

4<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> December 4:30-8pm, festive light trail. Staunton Country Park, Petersfield Rd, Havant PO9 5HD. From £12 per adult. Information and booking here: <https://www.enlightenmoments.co.uk/events/staunton-farm-2025/>

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 10:30, guided tour with cake and hot drink, Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey. £33 including garden admission (normally £16.50). Details and booking at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens/whatson/NY-Jan26>

In addition to the above, the following gardens are open to visitors through the winter. Check websites

for prices, days and times before visiting:

- Beaulieu: <https://www.beaulieu.co.uk/>
- Sir Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens/visit>
- Gilbert White's house & garden, Selbourne: <https://www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/>
- Mottisfont (National Trust), near Romsey: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/mottisfont>
- The Vyne (National Trust) near Basingstoke: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/the-vyne>
- Denmans Garden near Chichester: <https://www.denmans.org/>
- Compton Acres near Poole: <https://www.comptonacres.co.uk/>
- Furzey Gardens Minstead (until 23<sup>rd</sup> December): <https://www.furzey-gardens.org/>
- West Dean Gardens: <https://www.westdean.ac.uk/gardens> (free entry for RHS members October – February on non-event days).

## WINTER CHECK LIST

At the beginning of the season, get your garden ready for winter. Raise outdoor containers with pot feet, bricks or sticks to prevent water logging, and insulate them e.g. with bubble wrap or hessian to reduce frost damage. Move tender plants into a greenhouse or conservatory if practical; otherwise protect from frost with horticultural fleece.

Mulch your borders with 5cm of compost, straw, leaf mould, bark chippings or well-rotted manure to protect perennials against the coldest

temperatures. Pile straw or bracken around the base of tender shrubs.

Insulate outdoor taps to prevent freezing. Prune or stake tall plants, climbers and young trees to prevent wind damage.

Rake up fallen leaves into piles or use them to make leaf mould.

Prune fruit trees, acers, vines and roses.

Lift dahlia tubers after the first frost, clean them off and store in dry compost in a cool, frost-proof place.

Plant bare-root hedging, roses, trees and shrubs. Move dormant plants that are in the wrong place to more suitable sites.

Fork over your vegetable patch and flower beds to aerate them.

In January prune blackcurrants, gooseberries and redcurrants.

Inspect your tools, clean them, sharpen cutting edges and oil joints. Clean pots, water butts and greenhouses. In dry weather, treat wooden fences, trellis, arches and garden furniture with a preservative to protect them from weathering.

Clean out and re-hang bird boxes; it's too early for birds to be nesting but they will use boxes for roosting and will be looking for suitable sites for nesting next spring.

**You can get excellent monthly advice from the RHS web site at the following link:** <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/november>. You can then click on other months

**Our next newsletter will be Spring 2025, and the cut-off date for submissions will be February 20<sup>th</sup>.**