



Open Gardens Manuden 2018 Sunday 8th July

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If it's not too late dear reader Happy New Year! As this is the first article of 2018 I am pleased to say it is the year for Manuden to throw open its gardens for people to enjoy! We are happy we already have people agreeing to open their gardens and that plans are under way for a bumper event! If you want to join in then contact me and don't forget it's all sorts of gardens that open. You don't have to have a large garden even the smallest of gardens have their charms. The only criterion is that you enjoy your space and want to share it! We have had visitors who don't even own a garden and just enjoy strolling around the village appreciating where we live.

As usual here are a few tips for things to do in your garden in February. In last month's magazine I included a tip of knocking the snow off conifer branches to stop them bending out of shape. Since this winter is proving rather chilly it's worth including it again but also adding that grasses may need protection. Some people leave them for the frosted effects rather than cutting them back however you can tie them up with string to help mitigate snow damage. Other things to be getting on with are the pruning of apple and pear trees. Cut back winter flowering Jasmine they get rather straggly and benefit from this as they will flower on new growth through the year ahead. Check your hanging baskets and water if dry they will start to pick up on milder days and so dead head the pansies to encourage more flowers. Order snowdrops now and split clumps in your garden to make more clumps. Snowdrops are the one bulb you need to buy with leaves on rather than in packets hanging on garden centre hooks!

More details to follow – if you would like to open your garden next summer then please **contact** us on:-

open-gardens@manuden.org.uk