

Garden in August

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The garden is lush at this time of the year and we can look forward to a variety of flowering plants and shrubs.

These include Lavatera, Nicotiana, Petunia, Phlox, Salvia, Verbena and Helianthus (sunflower), Fuchsia and Hydrangea. Although new growth is starting to slow down as the plants respond to reduced light levels. Weeding between plants is difficult which offers a good excuse not to do it. Pulling up any obvious annual weeds and some deadheading should be routine but this is the time to relax and enjoy the fruits of your labours. If the weather realises there is still time for summer the lawn may quickly lose its rich green colour but will soon colour up again when the rains return. Hanging baskets will benefit from a trim and a regular liquid feed for the rest of the season as reserves are likely to have been used up.

As you relax and enjoy your garden start to plan for next year – look critically at how your beds have gone this year and plan changes which can be carried out over the winter.

Other tasks

Pruning Wisteria

Where space allows Wisterias can be allowed to ramble unchecked but they usually flower more freely if you prune to create stumpy spurs. It is on these previous years growth that the larger



plumper flower buds will be produced.

To create spurs, pruning is carried out twice a year, in August and again in February. In August begin by tying in any new shoots that are needed to extend the existing framework of branches, to fill in any gaps or to replace worn-out limbs. Then shorten the current year's shoots to about 30cm (1ft). Removing shoots at this time of year will restrict the amount of growth, improve air circulation and allow in more sunlight to ripen the young stems. All of these factors help to improve flower-bud formation.

Deadhead flowering plants regularly.

Water! Particularly containers, and new plants.

Collect seed from favourite plants.

Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready.

Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries.

Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners.

In early July we held a Police surgery in the fire station which was very well attended. Please remember to pop along if you have any particular issues to raise with your local Community Policing Team, or even if you would just like to meet us.

Before the school finished for the year the Community Police Team for Silloth were highly involved in school activities with the children and teachers, promoting the benefits of staying with school for those going into the upper years, getting a good education and we also helped out at Anti bullying classes with the younger pupils. Now that summer holidays are here we wish that the children have themselves a good break and return to school in September refreshed.

PC Andy Robertson attended the Silloth Town Council meeting where it was brought to our attention the recurring problem with youths congregating at the old tennis courts down near the Rugby playing fields. The Policing Team decided to inform the children at the school that any Anti-Social behaviour on those courts which involved disrupting local families and businesses would not be tolerated. The police have been patrolling the area and any youths spoken to will receive a

Keep ponds and water features topped up. Enjoy your gardening.

Police Report by PCSO Lindsey Noblet



verbal warning followed by a written warning to their parents. In light of this we request that parents ask their children who are using this area as a football pitch to play responsibly.

PC Yvonne Benson, our local Community Liaison officer attended a Neighbourhood Forum meeting at Solway School, where local issues can be discussed directly with the council. Various issues about the town and local area were discussed and a follow up of these will be published in the Solway Buzz. One item discussed was the availability of Community Grants for local community groups. For more information or to request an application form please call Pat Ackred, Neighbourhood Development Officer, on 01900 325013 or alternatively go along to the next meeting which is on Monday 10th September 2007 at Allonby Village Hall.

I helped out with a local litter pick along Mawbray beach with

the Solway Coast Ranger. There were several volunteers who all greatly helped to clear a lot of litter from the area. The police who along with other partners help to promote a cleaner environment thank all those who helped on the day and thank the ranger who coordinated the litter pick, we hope to hear of more local opportunities to contribute to preserving our beautiful environment.

We would like to appeal once more for a volunteer to help with our campaign to reduce the speeding traffic around Silloth. We need volunteers in Silloth and Allonby to take on one of our Speed Indicating Devices (SID's). A volunteer needs to be able to put the SID in position every morning and take the SID back into their garage/home overnight for the duration of a week. Full instructions and equipment will be given by a police officer when the SID is dropped off. The device is on wheels and so can easily be moved, however the battery that charges the device is quite heavy and so will need a strong person to lift it. After assessing the suggestions from the KIN surveys recently collected we can see that speeding in the town and the nearby area are a main concern. We would like to address this by using the SID scheme.

On the 24th July, in the evening a young sapling tree was badly

vandalised in Silloth near the council depot near the Pines wood. The tree was uprooted and had its main trunk snapped to make sure it would not grow again. The tree was planted by an elderly lady two years ago in loving memory of her late husband. The tree has little monetary value but enormous sentimental value and special permission was given to this lady by the town council to honour her husband. The Community Officers are appealing for witnesses to come forward who may have seen or heard any people in that area on that evening. The tree can not be planted again so the only reward that the lady would receive would be to see the offenders charged for their offence. We would be grateful for any information which may help the enquiry.

Finally, you may have seen various posters up around the Silloth town and the local villages with your local Community Policing Teams contact details on. We are hoping to make the community of Silloth and the surrounding villages and towns feel that their local bobbies are more approachable as part of our Neighbourhood Policing campaign, so give us a call if there is anything we can assist with. You can find out more about this initiative on the Cumbria constabulary website: www.cumbria.police.uk.

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