

Wishing a Merry  
Christmas and  
a Happy New  
Year to all our  
members and  
their families,

from all of us in the  
Admin Group

Belinda, Chrissie, Fiona,  
Ingrid, Julia, Lucinda,  
Marga, Pam, Rosamund,  
Sally and Shirley

xxx



## December Activities

Our Club Christmas Lunch will be at Restaurant **Le Picadou, La Roque-Timbaut**, on **Tuesday 10th December**, from 12:00 Please find the menu and reservation form attached and send it off to Shirley, with your cheque and meal choice, to arrive no later than 4th December. I hope to see lots of you there!



## To Do this Month

Sunny dry days are to be welcomed for an opportunity to keep things tidy, maybe get any remaining bulbs planted, and to sow some overwintering salads.

Don't forget our **great discounts for ordering seeds** from Dobies (code GD1349F), Suttons (GS1018F) and Kings (via Belinda). Enjoy a wintery day by the fireside browsing through the catalogues and dreaming of next year's wonderful flowers and veggies....

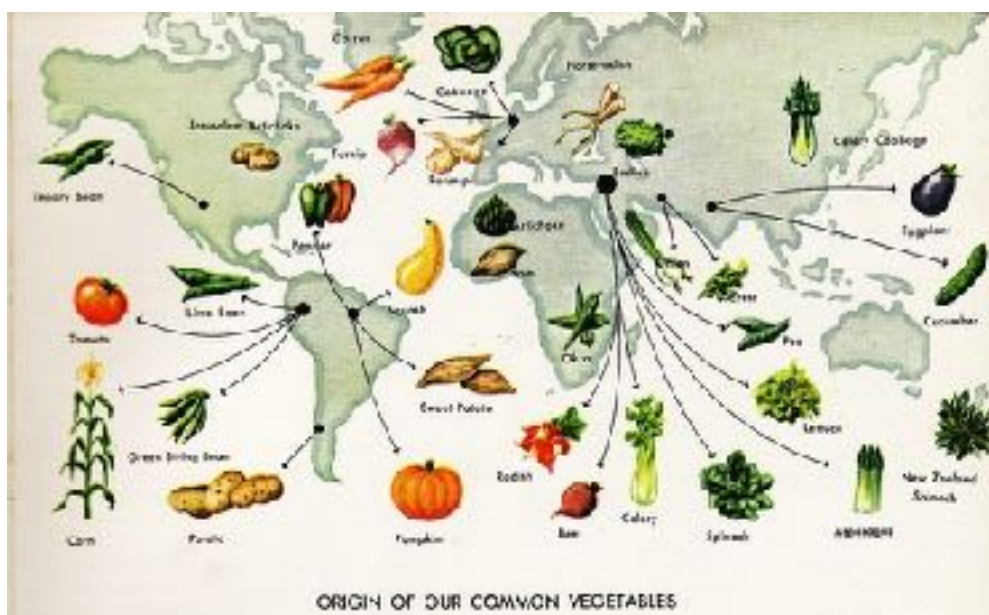
## Recent events

Our new location in the Amanda Mills room at the Salle de l'Eveille worked really well for us, although a few people did say that the acoustics meant it was a little difficult to hear the speaker, if others were talking at the same time (a note to our presenters to speak up and project to the back of the room and a request to members to please be considerate of those around you). The adjoining rooms and integral kitchen are really ideal for our purposes and we are very grateful to the organisers of Resto du Coeur for sharing their facilities with us.



For those of you who haven't been yet, you will find the Salle de l'Eveille just opposite the war memorial, on the Promenade de l'Eveille, which is behind Rue de la Mairie. There is plenty of parking along there under the trees.

Our November presentation by Mal Casson on the history of plants from the Americas was very interesting and well received, and there were a good number of plants in the swap as well as some new deep root-trainers on our sundries table. Researching the origins of the plants we grow is a fascinating topic and something we could do some more on in future.



Our previous meeting in October covered **Preparing for Winter** and **Making a Small Bug Hotel**. Our members got creative with this activity!



We shared the information and photos on our stand at the Journée de l'Arbre on Sunday 17th November, where there was plenty of interest to see.

Thanks to our volunteers on the day.

*Photos by Lucinda Wilson and Belinda Berry*



## Our garden at La Médiévale Argentée (Maison de Retraite)

We have had a successful year in the garden which has been lovingly tended and watered by our team of regular volunteers. We are now looking forward to 2020 and making plans for the new gardening year. The garden will be completely planted with permanent shrubs and herbaceous perennials by the end of this month, so the maintenance next year will be kept to a minimum. We aim to keep the garden looking lovely all the year round for the benefit of our garden club members, residents of the MDR and their carers and visitors.

Thank you to all our volunteers and we hope that your enjoyment of the garden rubs off on others, and that more members will come and enjoy working in the garden next year.

At our last Admin Group meeting it was unanimously agreed that the garden provides a valuable resource in terms of education and a source of seeds and cuttings for CJL members as well as giving pleasure to the residents, staff and visitors. In order to show members what we actually do at the garden, we are planning a short presentation at the AGM which will explain the evolution of the garden and then in April we will hold a cuttings workshop at the garden, which will be open to all members.



Special thanks to John Massey, and David and Louise Lakin, together with Yvonne Innes for their hard work in finally getting the pathway between the raised beds completed. It looks great!

*Photos by Yvonne Innes*

### Dates for your Diary

**January 12th**, at the Salle de l'Eveille: Tricia Geary will be talking to us about **Planting for Bees**. We should all be aware by now of how threatened our pollinating insects are by pesticides and monoculture, so it will be great to find out what we can do in our own gardens to help provide useful sources of nectar for them.

On **February 11th** we will be having our **AGM**, along with an informative talk about our work at La Médiévale Argentée.



## 2020 Programme

Our **new programme for 2020** is on its way to the printers, so we should have them in time to give out at our Christmas Lunch. We have an interesting and varied selection of topics for our monthly meetings, and will be adding more garden visits and other activities as the year progresses.

One of the key events in the year, for those of us who love visiting gardens, is our **club trip**, which Fiona is organising, to **Poitou-Charentes**. There is a fantastic selection of gardens, from the Dordogne to Île d'Oléron, over 4 days from **June 2nd to 5th**. We need 30 people to make this a viable proposition, so if you would like to join us, please let Fiona know as soon as possible, and make sure that you get your deposit paid by 16th January. You will find the proposed itinerary and an application form attached to the email with this newsletter.

Below is a gorgeous Autumn photo from Tricia Geary, of Beth Chatto's garden near Colchester, Essex. Gingko biloba overhead, and Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree) opposite.



In our June meeting, we will be sharing your photos of gardens that you have found inspiring from around the world, so please make sure that you keep a note of your favourites.

I think that covers it for now, I hope to see you at our Christmas Lunch on 10th December.

Belinda x