

## **Gardening - some thoughts and ideas for Spring and Summer....**

Most of us see our garden as an area for pleasure and fun but more than ever before it is used as an outdoor living room for mental harmony and social interaction.

But nothing just happens - organisation and work are required! Peter Dickinson, our Gardening Group Convenor talks us through what we should be doing now in the Garden.....

### **Spring**

April and May are the traditional start of the gardening season.

- Spring clean borders. Hand weed or hoe the borders and mulch with well rotted matter.
- Feed the beds and borders with general fertiliser for roses and shrubs.
- Plant shrubs and perennials.
- Sow seeds in the greenhouse and prick out seedlings.
- Begin mowing the lawn regularly - Oh yes you can!!!
- Apply lawn feed and treat moss.

### **Late May**

- Plant out potatoes and main crop vegetables.
- Plant tomato plants in unheated greenhouse.

- Prune spring flowering shrubs.
- Cut back spring flowering bulbs. Move and divide them if you notice gaps.
- Begin to prepare hanging baskets

## **Summer**

Now is the time to enjoy your garden but there are still some important tasks to do such as:

- Watering and dead heading plants.
- Feeding plants in tubs, hanging baskets and in the greenhouse.
- Protecting your soft fruit with netting. Pick the fruit when ready.
- Raising the lawn mower blades slightly. The grass will stay greener if allowed to grow a little longer.
- Enjoying your tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and soft fruit.

Take regular photos of your garden and keep a log of successes and failures.

Finally....make a priority list for next year!