

Garden Ramblings

I wandered out to the shed late afternoon today in the murky grey mist and I was stopped in my tracks by the sound of birds. From the sound I knew they were small but not the long tailed tits that come over about 9am and 3pm. They must have been the ubiquitous mixed finches. I could just make out loads of them on the poplar trees annoying the pigeons and looking like end of the season Christmas decorations. I don't know how long I stood and listened but got chilly and completely forgot what I was outside for. Can't have been important. Still, it did remind me hedges need trimming before mid-February which is the time of birds starting to look for good homes But the apples are not finished yet and neither are the fruit bushes. I have decided I need sunshine to garden.

The new cutting garden needs a great deal of work too. having been given it a good coat of looking. I have a plan of campaign. I remembered the second rule of gardening that I read about some time ago, in a book by Christopher Lloyd, (1921-2006) . He was brought up in a lovely medieval house in Greater Dixter near Hastings -TN31 6PH. The house was re-designed and added to the by the architect Lutyens for Lloyd's parents . Lutyens was known to work with the great garden designer, Gertrude Jeckel, but not at Dexter.

When Lloyd took on the garden he gained a degree in Decorative Gardening and went on to write many books and make a wonderful garden. He believed that autumn cutting down of herbaceous plants should be left until birds had eaten the seeds and that some look so good when frosted. He believed plants should look comfortable and do my delight enjoyed plants close to each other with different heights and colours together. AND he gave good advice on replanting and moving plants. It was something like if a plant was in the wrong place move it at once. None of this waiting for the correct time of the year. The rule is simple .JUST DIG THE HOLE FIRST ! Judging the size can be a pain but sometimes it is as big as the neighbours will allow. Then dig up the plant and rush to the new place. I do make soothing noises and you'll love it there promises .Put the plant in, firm it in but not so you exclude all the air in the soil. and give it a good water and for a few more days and when dry.



I you have small gardeners, well young really give them a few tops cut off a fresh looking carrots, about as long as the fingernail of your thumb nail which is of course worn down by gardening. Place said carrots in small amount of water in a shallow container which always has a little water in and stand back to admire new growth or a rotted carrot. The main event may take time and I am equally excited by both. 🥕