

ARMCHAIR ADVENTURES

A Gardening Emergency Adventure Transcript

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventure theme song:

*On an Armchair Adventure you can go anywhere you like,
On an Armchair Adventure imaginations fly.*

Connie: Top of the morning, afternoon or nos da, wherever you're listening from adventurers! The voices of today's join in at home adventurers are...

Adventurers: Saying their names

Connie: Hi Everyone!

Children: Hi Connie!

Connie: Welcome to another exciting bonus episode based on our adventures in reducing, reusing and recycling! We've got our amazing summer BBQ party later today and I've had to remind Uncle Chris he'd promised to make over the Armchair Adventures garden for it! I just went to check how everything was and it looked like the local tip! And this isn't just any old party, we've got loads of special guests coming, and did I mention its today! Arrrgh! He's completely forgotten! Go and lend him a hand adventurers, I think he's going to need it!

Music: Armchair Adventure's theme (instrumental only)

SFX of Uncle Chris rummaging around a garden shed, moving tools etc.

Unc. Chris: Hello everyone, I'm having a bit of a tizz here! Connie's just been on the phone and reminded me I'd promised to sort out the Armchair Adventures garden for the yearly summer BBQ, and I haven't done anything, I've completely forgotten!! And it's really soon! Like this

afternoon soon! Well, I guess I do have a vague memory of saying yes....

SFX change to twinkling flash back sound and the following hazy memory of Uncle Chris and Connie chatting:

Unc. Chris: Yes, I can definitely do that Connie! Easy peasy!

SFX chipmunk (Connie speaking back to Uncle Chris)

Unc. Chris: Oh growing? I'm amazing at growing stuff Lol, my fingers are greener than cucumbers...

SFX twinkling sound, followed by more rummaging in the garden shed

Unc. Chris: And this isn't just a low-key thing for me and the gang, oh no! We've got loads of special guests coming too! We've got Dolly Parton from Pat's 'Dancing Adventure' in season 2...

SFX clip of Dolly from 'A Dancing Adventure'

Unc. Chris: Then there's the yeti from season 3's 'Magical Mystery Cycling Adventure,' and he's coming along to make some new friends!

SFX clip of the yeti from 'Cycling Adventure'

Unc. Chris: And the pressure is on because the MBM executive we met in the 'Camaraderie Adventure' from season 3 is coming to check things out too!

SFX the MBM exec

Unc. Chris: But that's not the worst bit...I've also got a bit of a confession to make adventurers... I've never grown anything in my life! Have you? What things have you grown adventurers?

SFX DING

Adventurer: I grew a sunflower with my mum last summer.

Adventurer: I've grown a load of tomatoes.

Adventurer: I've grown lots of potatoes 'cos I love mash!

Adventurer: I've grown a lettuce!

Unc. Chris: Well that all sounds great! I'm totally jealous, I wouldn't even know where to start. That's why I'm about to take you on a TV show style bonus episode called 'GARDENING SOS!'- because this is an *emergency!*

Let's get the gang on a group telephone chat to sort out this gardening nightmare! Because with an Armchair Adventure adventurers, we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Start. Call. Now.

SFX phone call sound underscored Gardening SOS theme (think bargain hunt)

Unc. Chris: Hello everyone...and welcome to 'Gardening SOS!'

Customers: Hiya, hello, bonjour...etc.

Unc. Chris: Today were helping out Uncle Chris from Tameside in Greater Manchester, with his gardening woes!

Linda: Hang on, but aren't you Uncle Chris?

Unc. Chris: Yes...

Linda: Then shouldn't we be introducing you, if you're in distress?

Unc. Chris: Oh, right, ok go on then...

Music: Gardening SOS Theme

Pauline: Hello everybody, we're here in Tameside...

Ada: Where Uncle Chris has absolutely zero gardening know how...

Pat: Zilch...

Lynda: Absolutely nothing...

Jan: A full grown up without even one idea in his head about growing things...

Steve: A head so empty of gardening knowledge...

Linda: He could almost float away like a balloon.

SFX balloon pumped up and floating away, birds tweeting...

Unc. Chris: Alright, alright you lot, that's enough! On with the show! Let's get to Tameside and tame this lack of gardening knowledge!

Music: Gardening SOS Theme

Steve: Hello everybody, we've just arrived at the Armchair Adventures garden and to be honest Uncle Chris, it's a right old state!

SFX barren landscape, tumble weed, wind blowing, crows cawing

Ronnie: Oh, look at those flower beds! It's weed city!

Linda: You'll never grow anything in that soil Uncle Chris

Pat: It's dry as a burnt pizza!

Lynda: That greenhouse has seen better days

Walter: Barely a pane of glass in it!

SFX rustling through grass

Pauline: And I can hardly see anything over this grass!

Ronnie: It's like a maze, I'm lost! Help!

Walter: Hang on! I'm coming Ronnie!...

Ronnie: I'm over here!

Walter: Where?

Ronnie: Here!

Walter: Oh no...I'm lost too now! Lily! Help!

Lilly: Oh, here we go!!!

Linda: Let's pretend to help Lilly find Walter and Ronnie, as we wade through the long grass adventurers!

SFX DING

SFX wading through long grass underscoring children's responses

Adventurer: Over here!

Adventurer: Follow me, Ronnie!

Adventurer: I'm lost too now! Help!

Adventurer: I've got you Walter!

Walter: Thanks for getting us out of that grass adventurers!

Ronnie: I felt like I was lost in the jungle!

Pauline: Oh, Uncle Chris how could you let this happen?

Unc. Chris: (very over dramatic, wobbly tears voice) Oh it's all just gotten on top of me Pauline, and with work being so busy I've just had no time at all, what will I do?! Oh, it's a disaster, a total palaver!

Linda: Very dramatic Uncle Chris!

Unc. Chris: Thanks Linda!

Pat: Well, its lucky for you, here at Gardening SOS...

Walter: We have a local expert on hand to help!

Lynda: With their top five gardening tips!

Ada: Let us introduce you to our gardening Guru-

Linda: It's Ciaran from 'Sow the City' in Manchester!

SFX fanfare

Ciaran: Hello everyone!

Customers: Hello, hi, lovely to meet you etc.

Cyril: Can you tell us a bit about what you do at 'Sow The City?'

Lily: We'd love to hear!

Ciaran: Well, 'Sow The City' is a non-profit organisation that helps empower communities to grow and live more sustainably. So that means things like growing your own food, reusing and recycling and helping the planet!

Customers: That sounds amazing! I love growing things too etc.

Unc. Chris: Well, I'm so glad you're here to help! Look at the state of the Armchair Adventures garden! I can't wait to hear your top 5 tips to help us transform this place in time for the Summer BBQ!

Jan: And don't forget to tell him when it is Uncle Chris...

Unc. Chris: Oh yeahit's this afternoon...

Ciaran: Of course, happy to help! But it does take some time to grow a garden, they definitely won't be able to help you do it in time for that!

Lily: Don't worry Ciaran!

Cyril: We're on an Armchair Adventure!

Jan: Anything can happen in your imagination!

Pat: We can even make the garden travel through time!

Ciaran: Just the garden? By itself?

Cyril: You betcha!

Ciaran: Now that is cool!

Unc. Chris: Phew! Thanks everyone! Then let's get to work gang, over to you Ciaran, what's up first?

Music: Garden Show Theme to underscore the tip and fade out

Ciaran: Well, seeing as you're having a summer BBQ, top tip number one is... growing your own food!

Ronnie: That's a great idea!

Ada: Because supermarket food comes from all over the world...

Steve: ...and all those planes cause a lot of pollution...

Unc. Chris: And if we grow things we like to eat, nothing will go to waste. What things should we grow for our summer BBQ adventures?

SFX DING

Adventurer: I'd grow olives if we got the weather.

Adventurer: Tomatoes...

Adventurer: We can grow sweetcorn...

Adventurer: I love corn on the cob!

Adventurer: We definitely need those potatoes...

Adventurer: We can do wedges then!

Adventurer: Onions for hot dogs!

Adventurer: We can't grow them but we've got to have sausages!

Walter: Right, let's get this grass under control...

Pat: ...and dig a nice veggie patch!

SFX a roaring motor

Cyril: What's that noise?

Lynda: It sounds like a monster truck!!

SFX the engine revs

Linda: Oh, my word! Its Ronnie!

Pauline: And he's not on a monster truck...

Jan: He's riding a monster mower!

SFX more engine revs getting closer.

Ronnie: Out of the way gang! I'm getting my own back on that grass!

Lynda: You don't have to ask me twice! Run gang!

SFX mower cutting the grass but an extreme version, underscore with Ronnie laughing and saying 'take that' etc.

Unc. Chris: Let's help Ronnie tackle this grass on our own monster lawn mowers!
What does yours look like adventurers?

SFX DING

Adventurer: Mine's black with fire coming out of it!

Adventurer: Mine's green and it's got a red bit on the front, and it's got tiger stripes on it!

Adventurer: Mine's rainbow with a flag on it!

Adventurer: Mine's all red with a load of snakes on it!

Adventurer: Mine's like a big batmobile, with saws on the side!

Adventurer: Mine's called the 'Grunting Grass Eater!' No-one will mess with it!

Unc. Chris: Now let's get on board and show this grass who's boss! Rev up your engines adventurers and pretend to mow this grass...

SFX DING

SFX lots of lawnmower/motor sounds

Adventurer: Woohoo let's go!

Adventurer: Woohoo!

Adventurer: This grass is making me sneeze!

Adventurer: Achoooo!

Unc. Chris: Fantastic! Now the grass is under control, let's dig a nice vegetable patch. You too adventurers, pretend to dig the soil with us, hevvvve hooo!

SFX DING

SFX digging sounds

Adventurer: Awww, this is hard work!

Adventurer: I've hit a rock!

Ciaran: And now to plant some seeds!

Pauline: My favourite! Come on Uncle Chris!

Ada: You just push them into the soil

Jan: And leave about a foot between each one.

Cyril: You too adventurers! Pretend to plant some seeds with us...

SFX DING

SFX planting seeds, rustling and digging the soil

Adventurer: Get them all in a row.

Adventurer: Mind my potato patch.

Adventurer: Great work team!

Unc. Chris: Oh, fantastic I'm feeling a lot more confident already! What's the next top tip Ciaran?

Music: Garden Show Theme to underscore the tip and fade out

Ciaran: Well in at number two it's making a compost heap, then you can use it to help things grow.

Unc. Chris: Eww! Won't that stink though?! Don't fancy eating a burger next to that!

Lily: Don't be daft Uncle Chris!

Ciaran: Not if you get the balance right. Just make sure you use a good mix of uncooked food scraps, old grass cuttings, and things like waste paper or card.

Jan: You can also get a compost bin if you're that worried!

Pat: Or have it in its own section, like down the back there.

Ronnie: Let's use some of these grass cuttings.

SFX of Ronnie walking across the garden and throwing grass cutting into the compost bin

Steve: You too adventurers, what things could you use to create a compost heap at home?

SFX DING

Adventurer: Horse manure!

Adventurer: I can use sawdust from when I clean out the hamster.

Adventurer: I'll do the sae with my rabbits!

Adventurer: There's lots of card from recycling too.

Adventurer: What about the rotting vegetables in my fridge?

Adventurer: Mouldy half eaten apples too.

Adventurer: Banana peels!

Ciaran: And remember it doesn't have to be big either, a small pile is just as good as any.

Pauline: We actually wrote a compost rap with Connie in season 2's 'Compost Adventure,' do you remember gang?

Gang: Oh yes! I loved that one! Etc.

Ciaran: I'd love to hear it!

Cyril: Then let's have a listen to it gang...

SFX compost rap from 'A Compost Adventure'

Ciaran: That was brilliant, I'll be humming along to that all day!

Unc. Chris: Me too! (Hums a few bars) Wow, ok I'm on board! Especially since it will help the veg for the B to the B to the Q grow!

Ada: It's not just vegetables either Uncle Chris, it helps flowers grow too.

Music: Garden Show Theme to underscore the tip and fade out

Ciaran: Speaking of which! In at number 3 is growing a wild flower garden.

Walter: Oh yes! That will help the bees and other flying insects.

Pat: All the pollen and nectar helps them too.

Ada: Let's all pretend to be buzzy bees, collecting all the nectar adventurers...

SFX DING

SFX bees buzzing

Adventurer: Buzz, bzz, bzzz!

Adventurer: Check out my wings!

Adventurer: Hands off that flower, it's mine!

Adventurer: Last one flying to the dandelions is a rotten egg!

Ciaran: And the best part is you don't have to be careful about it either, just pick a patch and throw all the seeds in however you like!

Unc. Chris: I vote to use the entrance of the garden so it will have a welcoming wild flower bloom for the party! Come on adventurers, pretend to scoop up the wild flower seeds and throw them all over the soil...

SFX DING

SFX sprinkle off seeds landing on the soil

Adventurer: Fly like the wind little seeds.

Adventurer: I can't wait to see what you grow into.

Unc. Chris: Oh yes, that's going to look marvellous.

Steve: And if you get some dandelions and dock leaves in there, they can also be eaten as part of a salad.

Lynda: And don't forget about stinging nettles.

Linda: Oh, I loooove a stinging nettle soup! Its full of vitamins.

Jan: Watch out when you go picking them though, make sure you wear gloves.

SFX of Cyril rustling around the leaves

Cyril: Gloves? What for?

SFX more rustling

SFX stinging sound

Cyril: Yaaaaawchhhh!!! I've stung me hand!

Lily: Quick use this dock leaf! Rub it on the sting!

Cyril: Ah that's better!

Unc. Chris: This is looking so much better already! And I feel like I've learnt loads too. But do you know what I'd really love.... a nice water feature! But that sounds like far too much messing around...

Music: Garden Show Theme to underscore the tip and fade out

Ciaran: Not at all Uncle Chris! In at number 4 is making your own pond!

Unc. Chris: Wowsers! How will we do that?

Steve: Well it doesn't have to be fancy Uncle Chris

Pauline: You can use old washing up bowl...

Ronnie: Or a big bucket!

Ciaran: Exactly right gang. You can just dig it into the ground and fill it up! It also makes a great home for wildlife too. You might even get some frogs or fish!

Unc. Chris: So cool.

Linda: Well, seeing as we have lots of room, we can use this old sand pit! My grandkids don't play in it anymore.

Pat: Oooh it's a lovely shell shape too, our very own mermaid pond!

Unc. Chris: That is going to look so good! Let's all pretend to be frogs and fish in our brand-new pond adventurers...

SFX DING

SFX splashing, frogs ribbiting etc.

Adventurer: Let's go!

Adventurer: I challenge you to a fish race...

Adventurer: Here comes the frog dive bomb...

Adventurer: Glub, glub, glub...

Adventurer: What are you doing?

Adventurer: I'm speaking fish!

Unc. Chris: Right so I've got some food sorted, a wild flower meadow, compost to help it all grow and even a pond! It's looking so good in here, but how will we water it all?

Music: Garden Show Theme to underscore the tip and fade out

Ciaran: I'm so glad you asked Uncle Chris, because in at number five is saving rainwater! You can get a special container called a water butt to collect it in.

Unc. Chris: **But** what's a water **butt**?

SFX drum joke sound

Lynda: It's like a big bin that attaches to your drain pipe...

Pat: With a tap at the bottom...

Jan: So, you can save water and use it when you need it.

Ada: That's a great idea! Even my house plants love rainwater.

Walter: And it will save you lots of money on your water bills too.

Unc. Chris: Right then a water butt it is. And just in time...look at that big black cloud incoming!

SFX wind, thunder in the distance

Linda: That's not a cloud Uncle Chris...it's the whole sky!

Customers: Oh no, what we gonna do, etc.

SFX thunder and rain

Jan: Run for cover!

Ada: It's going to pour it down!

Cyril: But where can we go!

Ronnie: Quick get in the green house!?

Unc. Chris: But there's no glass in it!

Pat: Well, remember that time travel I mentioned? Now seems like a good time for it!

Jan: Let's speed up time for this garden.

Pauline: Cue the time travel effect.

SFX time travel noise

Customers: Wooahhhhhh, look at everything changing! The black clouds moving away! Incredible!

Cyril: This is amazing! What can you see growing super-fast adventurer?

SFX DING

SFX magic sound of things growing

Adventurer: Look at those sunflowers reaching for the sky.

Adventurer: I can't wait to taste those carrots.

Adventurer: Seeing the wild garden bloom is amazing!

Unc. Chris: Wow! Thanks so much for you help gang. We've managed to sort it all out just in time for the party. I mean wow, would you take a look at this!

SFX birds tweeting, summer atmosphere

Ada: It's so beautiful and relaxing.

Walter: Let's have a moment to take it all in.

Customers: Nice deep breaths in and ahhh sound.

Lynda: This reminds me of the song in your tree top adventure from season 1
Linda.

Linda: Oh yes.

Pat: Oh, I love that one!

Pauline: Let's have a listen to it as we take in the beautiful garden...

Linda: Great idea Pauline! We can all sing along with it as well, you too
adventurers...

SFX DING

Music: Extract of the song from 'The Treetop Adventure'

Ronnie: That's lovely.

Steve: Thanks Linda.

Lynda: It's so important to appreciate the moment.

Steve: Looks like we're just in time for the summer BBQ too!

Walter: The weather's beautiful.

Ciaran: And all your hard work has paid off, the garden looks incredible!

Unc. Chris: Thanks so much for helping me out everyone, I feel much more confident with my gardening now! Those tips were brilliant Ciaran. But I've also learnt my lesson, growing a garden takes time and careful planning! I won't make that mistake again!

Ciaran: Happy to help Uncle Chris.

Unc. Chris: Ey up, and here comes Connie!

SFX footsteps/chat of Connie and a few other people arriving in the distance

Pauline: I hope she likes it!

Jan: You weren't kidding about the special guest's either Uncle Chris!

Cyril: There's loads coming in, the captain from the cruise ship...

Linda: All the animals from the compost adventure!

Lilly: ...even a shark!

SFX the hubbub of all the guests arriving

Pat: Oh wow there's Dolly Parton! Hey Dolly! It's me Pat...

SFX Dolly saying well hello there!

Pauline: Aww and our friendly yeti pal! Hello yeti, lovely to see you...

Yeti: Hello everybody.

Cyril: And there's the Made By Mortal's executive!

Pat: He's going to be impressed. Over here!

Jan: Let us show you around and tell you all about the good stuff we've been up to...

MBM Exec: Of course gang, love to chat...

Unc. Chris: Well Connie...what do you think?

Connie: Wow Uncle Chris, this is absolutely fantastic! The wild flowers as you walk in look so cool and colourful! There's lots of home-grown delicious food to eat! And look at all the wildlife in the shell pond!

Unc. Chris: Well, I had a little help from Ciaran and the gang! Not to mention the adventurers at home. Thanks everyone!

Adventurer: No worries!

Adventurer: You're welcome Uncle Chris.

Adventurer: I love gardening!

Adventurer: Anytime!

Adventurer: Save me some carrots!

Music: Gardening SOS Theme

Unc. Chris: Well, that's all we have time for here at 'Gardening SOS' but I think we can all agree Uncle Chris has been well and truly helped! So, let's say goodbye to our journey of the imagination and get back to reality. Hope you're all enjoying the summer everyone!

Byes from the customers and adventurers

Unc. Chris: End. Call. Now.

SFX phone down.

Unc. Chris: Lovely.

Music: Armchair Adventure theme song:

*On an Armchair Adventure you can go anywhere you like,
On an Armchair Adventure imaginations fly.*

Credits: This episode of Armchair Adventures was funded by Suez Recycle 4 Greater Manchester Community Fund.