



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

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Well its just recently that we have been blessed with all kinds of weather—almost every day, including snow showers. We hope that we'll get to enjoy some proper sunshine before mid-summers day—keep your fingers crossed!

Despite, or perhaps in spite of the weather, it is a busy time of year, planting hopes and dreams for the season ahead. After our success with dahlias last year, we've now planted a cutting bed on our allotment and have high and fragrant hopes for a super floral harvest. What gardening and growing-plans have you made for this new season?

As some of you may know, **this year is our 40anniversary as Clitheroe Garden Club**, and our August edition will be a pictorial stroll down memory. We'd love to see photos of the club, your allotments, gardens and club shows and prize winners, so please do get in touch if you can help.

We'd love to receive articles for the newsletter, so please do get in touch at the address below:

Happy gardening!

Kevin and Sophie

Items for the Newsletter should be emailed to

sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk.

A note from our Chairlady, Sandra.

We have had a number of very busy Sunday mornings at the Sales Hut. There are new plants coming in all the time and we are well stocked with all the usual sundries.

Trevor Mitchell is keeping an eagle eye on prices trying to keep them as low as possible. He says "Thanks are due to the membership for coming to the Hut to buy their garden products, instead of going elsewhere. We are very grateful for their continued support."

Thanks are also due to Ted Woodend who has undertaken to be Sales Hut Caretaker. He keeps the flower border looking lovely and the lawn is as good as a bowling green! Everything is spick and span. He is on hand every Sunday with a cheery smile and giving help where it's needed.

Whilst on the subject of volunteers- we do need more. As everyone knows, there is no annual show this year, but we are still hoping to get volunteers for next year. Also, we would love to have two new committee members. I know we're all short of time nowadays, but **we really do need some help**. If you would like a chat about what's involved or any information, please contact me on 01200 422818.

Sandra.

Trip to Arley Hall Garden Festival.

Trip to Arley Hall Garden Festival on Saturday 25th June.

Bolland Garden Club are running a coach trip to the lovely Arley Hall and places are available for Clitheroe Garden Club members. Tickets cost £19.50 including admission to the festival and travel from Clitheroe and return journey.

If anyone is interested, please contact Lynn Symm, treasurer on 01200 447 127 for more information.



<http://www.arleyhallandgardens.com/the-gardens/>

Open Gardens.

Don't forget the Open Gardens on Sunday 10th July from 1400 – 1700.

At the moment we have three gardens to visit, they are:

Beverley and Tony Cooper, 28 Peel Park Avenue.

Pam and Simon Entwistle, 37 Little-moor Road.

Brenda and Jonathan Fenton, 31 Queen Street. This is a fairly new garden, lovingly created and tended over the last 5 years, with roses and herbaceous perennials in bloom (weather permitting!)

We shall be raising money for Water Aid.



The Coffee Morning

The committee opted for a change of venue for the coffee morning this year and the event was held at the United Reformed Church. The volunteers on the stalls braved a very cold wind to take some of the produce outside, the

plant stall as expected proved very popular and the home made cakes always go down well. The club raised £430 for North West Air Ambulance which was particularly good as there was another coffee morning in Clitheroe on that day.

Thank you to everybody who supported the morning whether by contributing to the stalls, helping to run the event or turning up and spending money!



Buzzy News from John the beekeeper.

Here we are on a rainy 1st of May. It has been a horrible start to the year for the bees. I have managed to get all but one of my colonies through the Winter. It has been quite a challenge this time because we have had some very unseasonably mild days and this has seen the bees out flying instead of clustering so they have been eating all the stored honey I left for them. Because they were unable to find any nectar during this time, I had to make sure they were given plenty of food. During cold weather we cannot feed bees with any type of liquid food such as Ambrosia or sugar syrup. The bees cannot digest it and sometimes end up with dysentery and this weakens them. They need to be fed a fondant paste which is specially formulated for honeybees. In an emergency, they can be given Bakers Fondant. Any beekeepers who did not keep a check on the food stores in the hive will have lost their bees. The colony I lost died of an infection called Nosema which affects the gut of the bee. We used to be able to treat for this condition but this is now disallowed. It tends to spread inside the nest when the bees are confined due to bad weather and we have had a lot of that. Hopefully we have now got through this risky period and as the weather warms up, the bees can get out flying and any residual infection will be cleared up. Towards the end of this month, many colonies will have built up and begin to get overcrowded. The queen can be laying up to 2000 eggs per day at this time of year which is incredible. The average though is usually around 1500. This is when they get the urge to swarm and leave the hive to set up a new home. As a beekeeper I have to try and prevent this by ensuring I keep a close check on the space available to the bees and the signs of swarm preparation such as building special queen cells so that when the queen has left with the swarm, the colony can produce a new one. Splitting colonies up and replacing queens are just some of the steps I can take to try and stop this. I say try because unfortunately, the bees don't read the same books as me and if they want to go, they go and I then have to catch them. If you spot a swarm or know someone who has one arrive in their garden, contact Ribble Valley Environmental Health and they will call me. You can always call me direct if you are certain they are honeybees.

From late May onwards, I get many calls from people who want me to attend a swarm they have in their garden. For every 50 or so calls I get, perhaps only one is a honeybee swarm. People will insist they know what honeybees look like but they really don't. Most of the calls are either to wasps or Bumble Bees. I sometimes have to deal with people who become quite aggressive if I tell them that I only turn out to honeybees. When I mention ringing a pest controller, the most popular answer I get is that they don't want to pay but I should come be-

cause it is my fault that they have wasps or Bumble Bees in their bird boxes. Honey bees will not nest in bird boxes unless perhaps you have an eagle box. There are usually over ten thousand honeybees in a swarm and it will be about the size of a rugby ball. Also they are not aggressive as a rule but just leave them alone. You will notice around now that there are a lot of bumbles about. They are the overwintered queens and are searching out nest sites. They will usually only raise a colony of about 3 to 400 so they will fit in a bird box. Be thankful if you have some and just let them get on with the wonderful work they do. The only exception to this is a fairly new arrival to Lancashire. The Tree Bumble Bee, *Bombus Hypnorum* arrived here around five years ago. They start nesting very early on and will actually evict nesting birds from the nest boxes. They build slightly larger colonies than our native bees and will defend the area around their nest. As the new queens are hatching, the male drones hover around in groups outside the nests waiting for them to exit on their mating flights. This can result in around 20 to 50 bees hovering outside the bird box making it look like they are swarming. I had 17 calls in one day to this event from all around Lancashire and I am expecting something similar this year. If you have anything like this happen to you, I am happy to take your calls for advice but please remember that I don't turn out to move them. They would just come back. If you can put up with them, they will all be gone by the end of August. Hope you all have a good season and my bees pollinate your crops for you.



What to do in June from the RHS folks.

Sowing and planting

Fruit

Transplant outdoor melons under cloches, pinching out the growing point.

Move forced strawberries outdoors.

Vegetables

Continue sowing salad crops, such as beetroot, Chinese cabbage, pak choi and radish. Leafy salad crops may do better when sown in partially shady sites since hot dry weather can lead to bitter tasting leaves.

Sow French, runner and broad beans, peas, squash, sweetcorn, and outdoor cucumbers directly into prepared beds outside.

French beans are best sown in traditional rows, 45cm (18in) apart, at 15-22cm (6-9in) spacing.

Sweet corn works best planted in blocks, at least 45cm (18in) spacing, with two seeds per hole. Any seeds sown earlier under cover can now be planted out into the same block pattern. Sow before mid June and only in southern districts.

Runner beans need well-prepared ground and suitable supports (often a frame or wigwam of bamboo canes tied together with twine) for the shoots to twine around and grow upwards.

Courgettes, marrows and pumpkins can still be sown outdoors in early June in southern districts.

Although most winter brassicas need to be sown earlier in the season, calabrese, turnips and kohlrabi can be sown now for an autumn crop.

Start treating potatoes and tomatoes against blight.

Celeriac and celery can be planted out early this month. A well-prepared site with lots of organic matter dug in is essential.

Outdoor ridge cucumbers can be planted out early this month. They benefit from a site that has been enriched with lots of organic matter to help retain water

Kidney bean and vegetable gratin

Raisins, chillies and fresh herbs add interesting flavours to a rich, warming casserole of rice, vegetables and beans, topped with grilled cheese and served with Greek Yoghurt. It also provides 2 portions of your 5-a-day!

Ingredients:

3 tbs virgin olive oil, 1 medium onion, 2 medium celery sticks, 2 cloves of garlic, 1 medium red pepper, 125g seedless raisins, a pinch of dried oregano and another of dried crushed red chillies, 1 tsp ground cumin, salt and black pepper, 400g canned chopped tomatoes, 175g broccoli, a handful of fresh coriander, 420g canned kidney beans, 275g cooked microwave rice, 125g frozen sweetcorn, 70g Italian style cheese.

To serve: 200g natural Greek yoghurt, fresh crusty bread.

Serves 4, cooking time 30 minutes.

1) Put a kettle of water to boil. Heat the oil in a large, heavy-based saucepan over a very low heat. 2) Peel and chop the onion, rinse and thinly slice the celery and peel and crush the garlic. Add them to the oil and gently fry for 5 minutes. 3) Rinse, deseed and chop the pepper and add it to the pan with the raisins, oregano, crushed chillies and cumin and fry for 2 minutes. 4) Add salt and pepper, the canned tomatoes and tablespoons of hot water. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. 5) Rinse the broccoli, cut into florets, put them into a saucepan and cover with boiling water. Bring back to the boil, cook for 2 minutes, then drain and set aside. 6) Preheat the grill to medium. Rinse and chop enough coriander to give 4 tbs and set aside. 7) Rinse the kidney beans, and add to the vegetable mixture with the rice and sweetcorn. 8) Remove the pan from the heat, then stir in the coriander and grate the cheese over the top. Grill the gratin for 5-6 minutes to melt the cheese. 9) Serve accompanied with yoghurt and crusty bread.



Speakers meetings

As we come to the end of the season for the Speakers meetings we thank Frances Cullen for booking such a varied selection of good speakers for the monthly meetings. My own favourite has been Steve Mees who is responsible for the composting at Holehird Gardens in Cumbria, no mean feat itself. Steve talked about "The magic of compost" and proved to be both informative and entertaining. I'm afraid he may find himself giving tutorials on composting to several club members who agreed they would make a point of visiting Holehird on Tuesdays when Steve works there as a volunteer.

If you have heard speakers at other groups that you think garden club members would enjoy then please don't keep them secret, our new speakers secretary Beverley Cooper would love to hear about them so please pass on their details to her.

Email addresses

Have you given your email address when you paid your membership fees but don't receive any emails from me? It may be because you've changed provider or I have got your address slightly wrong. If you would like to receive updates and reminders about club activities and you don't get them at present then please email me at lesleyontheplot@gmail.com. Needless to say your details won't be shared with other parties .

A reminder too that you can access all the club newsletters via the club website www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Our Club's 40th Birthday.

This is the 40th year of Clitheroe Garden Club, and the summer edition will be celebration of this. **Please get in touch and share your stories and photographs of the clubs, your wonderful gardens and allotments over the last 4 decades.** We'll print a selection of the best in the next edition. Photos and stories can be emailed to the address below, or left at the Hut for the attention of Sophie. Thank you!



Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the August 2016 issue should be sent in by late June to the above email.

