



Hon. President  
George Cowgill

# The Newsletter

## No. 97

### Feb 2017

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So, here we are at the start of a new gardening year, and we hope that you, like us have high hopes for a colourful and productive growing season ahead. We've been inspired by more dahlias and flowers for our cutting beds, what changes are you thinking of making?

**The Sales Hut opens on Sunday 5th March**—so don't forget to pop on down for the usual plants, seeds and bargains.

It may have been a common theme in last year's newsletters and at meetings but **the club really does need more people to volunteer and invest a couple of hours of time in ensuring that our club can continue.** You can be that person that makes a difference to our club, we currently have vacancies at a committee level, at the Sales Hut and will be looking for help at our rejuvenated summer show.

### Please do get involved.

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 review of the year from our Chairlady, Sandra.

Clitheroe Garden Club

Annual General Meeting 1st February  
2017

### Chairman's Report

I am pleased to report that 2016, our 40th Anniversary, was a good year for Clitheroe Garden Club. We began with our annual dinner at the Vespa restaurant. It was a lively evening, much enjoyed by all and finishing with the usual quiz to keep our brains in working order.

We held our coffee morning on the 16th April at the United Reform Church. The weather was dry but very cold, which was hard on those running the outdoors plant stall. It was our first time at a new venue, so we were feeling our way. This year we will know the ropes and hope to improve even further on last year's good result, which was £428. As always this sum was sent to North West Air Ambulance.

On the 1st July there was a trip to Breezy Knees Gardens and nursery east of York, which was very popular and much praised. Mary Alty, who organised the outing, wrote in the Newsletter "I didn't expect to see such a wonderful garden which exceeded all my expectations." If you haven't been to Breezy Knees do try and go.

Sunday 10th July was our Open Gardens day. Once again this was a great

success. The weather was kind and there were lovely things to see in each of the gardens. We are extremely grateful to Brenda and Jonathan Fenton, Pam and Simon Entwistle, and Beverley and Tony Cooper for working so hard to achieve such an excellent standard. We raised £310 for Water Aid. We won't be having an Open Gardens day this year. The Committee is thinking of having an "Open Allotments" day with advice on growing fruit and vegetables, but this is only at the planning stage. We would need volunteers. Please watch the Newsletter for further information.

As you all know, we didn't have an annual show last year, but there will be one this year on the 26th August. We are very grateful to Noel Hodgson for volunteering to organise the event. Once again, please watch out for further information in the Newsletter.

I think last year's speakers were exceptionally good. I especially remember the "Magic of Compost" and "Patagonia, Plants, Peaks and Penguins". There will be another good selection of speakers this year.

We had a lovely 40th anniversary newsletter with some fabulous old photographs, all put together by Sophie and Kevin Miles, our hardworking newsletter editors.

We now move on to the Sales Hut. Last year I spoke of our intention to build a new shed. A lot of paving was done in readiness. This led to many comments from members about how nice it was to have a big paved area. This was followed by Ted Woodend having a massive turnout in Shed

No.2. This gave us a lot more covered space and we decided we did not need to have a third shed. However, we have purchased two beautiful top of the range cedar cold frames from Woodpecker Joinery. These will be used for winter protection and for raising seedlings, etc. in the spring and summer months. One is already in use. These coldframes have been purchased with money kindly left to the club by Mrs Mabel Cunliffe.

We have a brilliant team at the Sales Hut, including our president George Cowgill, and once again Trevor Mitchell has done an excellent job with the ordering and generally watching over the stock. You will hear about the excellent profit in the Treasurer's report.

I now need to say several thank yous. First, thank you to all our members for continuing to support the club. Next, I must thank our volunteers. Lesley Taylor, currently travelling in India, has been our secretary for many years and has done fantastic work, but is retiring this year. Ian Berry who has served as Treasurer since 2012, indicated that this was the last year he would be available as a full time Club official. John Gornall, a general committee member who has done a grand job, especially at the Sales Hut, is also retiring from the committee. The rest of the committee and all other volunteers deserve huge praise and many grateful thanks. Nearly all of them have been in harness for many years and are still very hard working and conscientious – we could not manage without them.

I think all I have been saying shows that our Garden Club is a thriving organisation. But we owe our success to our small number of volunteers. We cannot assume that they can go on indefinitely.

There were no nominations received for the role of Club Secretary, which is therefore vacant. The existing Committee was elected unopposed. There must be others willing to step into their shoes.

**I feel it is my duty to tell you, in this annual report, that we have a serious lack of volunteers. It is a crisis. This time next year it could be a very serious crisis indeed.**

**Please do get involved.**

There was much discussion led from the members as to the need to hold such large balances in Club funds. The Club should exist for the benefit of the members. Ideas included decreasing the profits on sales hut trading; a free AGM supper; a moratorium on Membership fees; more donations to our favoured Charities; installation of water/electricity at the Sales Hut; paying the club helpers. Also criticism of the stock levels at the trading hut. In the past when the membership was polled requesting votes as to the direction the Club should take the response was negligible. Nonetheless the Committee still welcomes any suggestions from the members.

Pie 'n' Peas and a quick horticultural quiz rounded off the evening.

**Sandra.**

## Annual Show—new classes for 2017

The annual show has been confirmed at St James on August 26th 2017

New for 2017 show Eggs  
 3 large brown hen eggs  
 3 large white “ “  
 3 bantam eggs any colour  
 contents of one hen egg  
 contents of one bantam egg

Let's hope bird flu has flown by then.



Photography subjects

Childrens - My best friend.  
 Adults - Local landmarks,  
 Garden visitors  
 Contrasts



So get clucking and clicking we want lots of entries.

**There will be more in the next newsletter about the show .**



## THE PONY EXPRESS (delivery of newsletters)

We usually send out around 160 newsletters, 8 by post the rest by foot and bicycle. Our dedicated team of deliverers save the club around £210 per year and many miles are cycled. Well done and a big thank you to the team.

Kind regards  
 Elaine and Noel Hodgson.

## The Sales Hut.

### Re-opening for the 2017 season on 5th March 2017.

### Come along and get some great quality and priced items...

A new gardening season is about to begin and we hope that members will give support and help at the sales hut which we enjoyed last season. It really did lead to very pleasing and successful year which I hope will be reflected in the balance sheet. New stocks of potatoes onion sets (red and white) shallots and seeds will be available on the first day of opening.

Seed potatoes will be:

Aaron pilot( early),

Ulster (early),

Charlotte (second early) ,

no maincrop this year due to the lack of the demand in the past.

The usual beans climbers : runner and wharf as well as Hurst Green Shaft peas will also be available.

All will be at the usual low prices for the top quality produce.

**But please do bring your own bags.**

Remember the friendly helpful to hut team put in their time and effort to benefit all of us. However your generous support is the most important factor for the success of the sales hut in the coming season.

**Trevor Mitchell**



## Coffee Morning for the North West Air Ambulance.

We will be holding our annual coffee morning on **Saturday 13th May** to raise funds for the North West Air Ambulance at the United Reform Church on Moor Lane.

### From Frances Hocken

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the members of Clitheroe Garden Club who have helped me through the very difficult period of travelling to Blackpool Victoria Hospital during Geoff's time there.

They gave their time and support which helped tremendously, also the cards and letters expressing their kind thoughts of Geoff was lovely.

Many thanks.

**Frances Hocken**

### Treasurer's Report for 2016

For those who couldn't make it to the AGM I thought that it would be helpful to list the key messages; and give everyone an opportunity to feed back suggestions where appropriate.

We made an overall loss for the year as a result of work at the Trading Hut. This is not a concern as profits from the hut were around £2,500, much in line with normal trading years. A small group of people put in immense effort to achieve this. Thanks to all involved.

The only issue is that our reserves at the Bank and Building Society are still high at around £18,000 despite membership subscription remaining unchanged for over 6 years.

Is this a problem? Well, the club is here to benefit members and not financial institutions. We already subsidise some club activities and we're looking at options for refurbishment and making our prices for compost &c even lower than they were last year.

I'm sure that people will have ideas of their own about how we might use our financial resources for maximum overall benefit. The committee would love to hear your ideas (*sorry, no champagne suppers!*).

**Ian Berry.**

## Lesley's international garden tour.

As many of you know, Lesley has stepped down as club secretary and is currently enjoying traveling and discovering Sri Lanka and soon to move on to travelling in India. She's very kindly shared some thoughts on some of the gardens that she has visited so far on her adventures...

I have just spent a lovely 3 weeks travelling around Sri Lanka which is just a few degrees north of the equator and consequently a little warmer than Clitheroe at this time of year. Having said that it is suffering the effects of climate change and we experienced unseasonable monsoon type rain for about 10 days which when we were in the Highlands made us feel that we were really only a few degrees north of Keswick. For the most part the tea plantations were only glimpsed through gaps in the mist that rolled up from the valleys but a few miles further on and several hundred feet lower we were back in temperatures of 30 degrees.

One of the highlights of the holiday was a visit to the botanical gardens at Kandy, they started life in 1371 as the queen's pleasure garden. The park was reopened as a botanical garden in 1821, 6 years after the fall of the last Kandyan king. The gardens are extensive and I spent the best part of a day there, my favourites were the bamboo, cycad and palm collections which are all in the same part of the park and are gorgeous.



There are some amazing trees in the large arboretum which also hosts a very noisy colony of 24,000 flying foxes. For many people I suppose the highlight would have to be the orchid house which does boast some extremely beautiful specimens --high praise from somebody who is no great fan.

Lastly and most importantly for those of you contemplating a visit there is a nice cafe which not only serves tea and sandwiches but also does a mean curry!



**Lesley.**

Photos from Sri Lanka Tourism

## Speakers meetings 2017

Our Speaker's Secretary Beverley Cooper has lined up some super speakers for the coming year, if you haven't been to a meeting before, why not come along, you will be very welcome.

**Wednesday March 1st** - George Desmond, Pelargoniums.

**Wednesday April 5th** - Mrs Catherine Penny, Plant Heritage;- What? Why? How?

**Wednesday May 3rd** - John Foley (Holden Clough Nursery) - Spring into Summer with Success.

**Saturday 26th August** – **ANNUAL SHOW**

**Wednesday 6th September** - Steve Halliwell, What can the Machair be?

**Wednesday 4th October** – Maggie Mees, Holehird, a Lakeland Garden for All Seasons

**Wednesday 1st November** – John Ball, (Lancashire Wildlife Trust), A History of Wildflowers in Lancashire

**Wednesday 6th December.** Ruth Thurnhill, Glimpses of Garden History at Browsholme Hall

### 2018

**January** - No meeting.

**Wednesday 7th February** - AGM

**All meetings are at Ribblesdale Wanderers Cricket Club,  
Brownlow St. Clitheroe, BB7 1HQ, at 7.30pm.**

**Club Website: [www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk](http://www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk)**  
**Email address: [sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk)**  
**Items for the May 2017 issue should be sent  
in by late March to the above email.**

