



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

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August 2014

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What a super summer...

Well hasn't it been a super summer so far ... if you are like us with fruit bushes growing on your allotment or in your garden , you'll be busy picking currants, gooseberries and berries ready to transform into a host of tasty treats to see you through **the wintertime**. We'd love to include your recipes for how you make the most of your crops, so please do get in touch.

Neighbours at our allotment have been busy lifting onions and starting to prepare beds for winter planting, its all looking very lush and productive.

We already have a bumper crop on our Victoria plum tree and are hoping it will be a good season for our apples and pears too.

What ever the fruit, vegetables, herbs or flowers you have enjoyed growing this season, there will be a class at the **Club Show on August 23rd** for you. So why not enter some of your carefully tended produce and see if you can walk away with a prize or two, or come along on the day to take a peek and be inspired by the winners?

It's great fun, and Alex and her team are working hard to make this year's show a super one.

Happy gardening! Kevin and Sophie

Please email items for the Newsletter to sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk.

The Sales Hut

It's hard to believe that the peak of the season has been and gone, **but don't forget we are still open** every Sunday until the end of September.

The hut has been manned this year by a small team of willing helpers, namely Ted Woodend, Frances Cullen, Mary Alty, Brenda Fenton and Marian Fisher. Please forgive me if I have forgotten anybody. Lawrie and George have been around to give out the orders and maintain discipline. There was a small rumble of discontent from the workforce about pension arrangements but it was quickly resolved when the club agreed to pay pensions at exactly the same pay scale as normal Sunday morning work.

Sales of plants and sundries have been maintained at quite high levels, and to those who grew specially for sale, a big thank you. Robin Tillotson came up trumps again with his bedding plants along with others who helped to fill the sales tables.

Next year we are hoping to have a new storage shed on site for composts etc. This will enable us to overwinter everything under-cover and maintain the integrity of the products.

Members will have noticed once again how well maintained the garden club site looked. We have Ted to thank for this.

To risk being a total bore, I must once again emphasize that the club can only remain prosperous if well supported by its members. Happily most members recognize this and have backed the club by turning up on Sunday morning for their gardening needs.

Thanks for your support.

Lawrie Ball, The Sales Hut.

Annual Show Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed to help with the Annual Show on Saturday 23 **August 2014 at St James' C of E Primary School**. The more people who are willing to chip-in half an hour of their time on Friday afternoon; Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon the lighter will be the load on our regulars. We need healthy strong men (or women) to move and set up tables – Friday/Saturday; people to man the front desk and sell raffle tickets and the tea/coffee refreshments on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to all who help out every year and those who have already offered their time but it is a very busy day and there is always room for more!

I'm also appealing for some assistance in organising the printing that needs to be completed for the show. If you have some free time in August, have some IT skills and would like to help, please get in touch on 01200 – 424662 if you can spare a little time to help.

Alex Berry – Show Secretary

Alex has said that it would be good to have 2 people organising **the show next year. The club's** success depends on volunteers and a shared job is an easier one. If you are interested in helping and want to know more about **what's involved please contact** me or any committee member.
Lesley Taylor, Chairlady.

Monthly meetings

Our last meeting of the season was a real hit with those who attended. Tom and Caroline Luke grow mainly alpine and herbaceous plants which they say is their hobby. They were very knowledgeable and imparted lots of useful information on growing and propagating plants. The finale of their talk was a free for all as they were stormed by the audience who were eager to buy the well grown plants which were very reasonable prices, with some of the more popular plants selling out. Fear not though if you check the NGS leaflet you will find that they will be having an open garden where you can buy **the plants you weren't able to** grab on the night. Enjoy the summer and don't forget to join us on the first Wednesday in September for our first talk of the winter season.

Autumn Meetings

It's hard to believe that by the time you read this the September meeting will be only a month

away. The first speaker, Chris Wilcock, promises to be interesting and thought provoking when he talks about the work of **Water Aid. I don't know a great deal** about the charity but I do know that we take the benefits of easy access to clean water for granted, some of those benefits may not be quite so obvious to us here in **East Lancashire and I'm sure** Chris will enlighten us.

Looking ahead (I'm sorry I know it's only August) the December meeting will be a little different when Angela and Phil Dunnett help us to make our own Christmas evergreen arrangements. Because they will be bringing the raw materials with them we will need to have some idea of numbers, I will send an email nearer **the time but in case you don't do** email please remember to let Frances Cullen or Lesley know if you would like to have a go at making your own wreath or spray.

John Zamorski, **Wed 1st Oct**

Beekeeping in England

Irene Ridge, **Wed 5th November**

Fungi, Friend or Foe?

Angela and Phil Dunnett, **Wed 3rd December**

Make your own Christmas Evergreen Arrangements.

Haslingden, Open Garden.

Jeffereson and Susan, 23 Dalesford, Haslingden, Rossendale, BB4 6QH are holding an open garden on 13 and 14 September, from 12 noon to 5pm.

The garden is a young but very interesting garden, on many levels and is English and Mediterranean in style. It features long borders and interesting features including: a Japanese garden, outdoor chess, gold mine , 4 ponds, steel sculptures and an art studio. There will also be a plant sale. The ladies from the Haslingden Ladies Choir will be singing as well.

The open garden is raising funds fro 3 charities, Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue, Air Ambulance NW, The Smile Train.

Entrance is £3 per person.

There will be a café serving tea and cakes. Strong shoes are recommended. No dogs are permitted entry to the garden.

To find location Google address or E-mail

Geoffrey.collinge@gmail.com

You may arrange your own visit or meet at Chester car park at 1 **O'clock on Sunday 14th September** to share cars.

Top 10 jobs this month from the RHS experts

1 Prune Wisteria

2 Don't delay summer pruning restricted fruits

3 Deadhead flowering plants regularly

4 Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater

5 Collect seed from favourite plants

6 Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready

7 Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries

8 Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners

9 Keep ponds and water features topped up

10 Feed the soil with green manure



Courgette Chutney recipe

The perfect recipe for using up that glut of courgettes that you didn't know what to do with! (or couldn't give away to family or friends)

This recipe is from the River Cottage cookbook under the title River Cottage Chutney it keeps for ages and is a good use of big courgettes. so here goes

1kg Marrow or overgrown courgettes diced
1kg tomatoes (ripe or unripe)
500g sultanas
500g soft brown sugar
500g apples (either cooking or not too sweet)
400ml white wine vinegar
500g Onions chopped
pinch of salt

for the spice bag

12 cloves
2 tsp coriander
fresh ginger couple of pieces.

first make up the spice bag by placing the ingredients in an old piece of tea towel or cotton and tying the top with string.

Place all the other ingredients prepared as stated in a large pan or preserving pan.

Bring to the boil to dissolve the sugar and once boiling reduce to a simmer

Continue to simmer till the vinegar is pretty much absorbed and the veg is tender approx -3 hours stirring occasionally

while the chutney is cooking warm some clean jars in a hot oven to sterilise

Once cooked, discard the spice bag and place the chutney in the jars and cover with lids

Leave to mature in a dark cool place for 2-3 months label and date once cooled

Enjoy - great with wedge of Lancashire cheese.



Mary's helpful ideas for gardening organically.

Horsetail tea:

If you have a horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) problem, **there's a bright side to it** because an infusion of the weed makes a good fungicide for controlling mildew on strawberries and other crops. Collect the horsetail, foliage, stems, rhizomes and all and for each 28g (1oz) pour on 1.1 (2 pt) hot, not boiling water, and stand for 24 hours. Strain off the resulting **'tea' and use undiluted.**

Garlic:

This is useful against fungal problems such as scab, mildew, bean rust and tomato blight, and can be used as a broad spectrum insecticide. This means it will kill beneficial insects as well as pests, so try to treat only the affected areas, where pests are doing the most damage. To produce garlic powder, simply crush and grind dried garlic bulbs. The powder can be used directly onto affected plants. Or to make a spray, add the powder to water and mix well. The amount of garlic powder needed depends on how strong the garlic is.

Stinging nettles:

Nettles are a good fertiliser and activator for the compost heap. They attract butterflies and other beneficial insects into the garden and can be used as an insecticide. Gather 224g (1/2 lb) young nettles and soak in a bucket of water for a week. Strain and use undiluted to control aphids on roses and to ward off celery leaf miner. Add your mushy nettles to your compost heap—double value!

Rhubarb:

The oxalic acid in rhubarb leaves is a safe control agent for aphids, particularly those on roses. Cut 450g (1 lb) of leaves, place in an old pan with 1.1 litres (2 pt) of water and boil for half an hour, topping up as necessary. When it has cooled, add one dessertspoon of soap flakes dissolved in 275ml (1/2 pt) of warm water. This acts as a wetting agent when added to the strained rhubarb liquid. Stir the mixture well and use undiluted as a spray.



In support of

WaterAid

On Friday September 5th
a **ballroom and sequence
dance** will be taking place
at **St. Michael & St. John's
Parish Centre**, Lowergate,
Clitheroe.

Doors open at 7:30pm.

Tickets are £8.50
and include a hot supper.

Music by Rex.

Tickets are available at
St. Michael and St. John's
Parish Centre, or please ring:
01200 423073 for further details

Ideas wanted for places to visit

Social Secretary Mary Alty has arranged several visits to gardens over the last 2 years which have proved very popular with club members. Most have been run as a car share to minimise costs although the coach trip to Marlborough Allotments last year was very successful and all seats were taken.

Do you have any ideas for visits which you think other club members might enjoy? Perhaps there are gardens which you might be happy to go to by coach? In the past coach trips organised by the club proved not to be popular with members but with the increased cost of fuel in recent years that situation may have changed. If you have any suggestions to make with regard to club visits please pass these on to Mary who more often than not can be found at the club hut on Sunday mornings but her telephone number is on your membership card.

At a recent committee meeting there was a long discussion about what we could do as a club during the summer months when there is break in monthly meetings. One suggestion -not mine but I do think **it's brilliant** – was to have an open gardens day or evening when club members could open their gardens to other members. All gardeners are interested in seeing what other gardeners do with their patch of earth; I often think that smaller gardens are more interesting as they require more imagination and inventiveness. We all know how **challenging Mother Nature is so the idea isn't to present perfect gardens as in the NGS way but just to show off what we've done and maybe share experiences with fellow gardeners. I think it's a lovely idea but** what do you think? Would you be willing to open up your garden to fellow club members? The committee would like to have some feedback from club members before they try to organise anything for next year.

Lesley Taylor, Chairlady.



Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the November issue should be sent in by mid Sept to the above email address.

