



Hon. President  
George Cowgill

# The Newsletter

## No. 98

### May 2017

#### In this issue:

1. Welcome
2. From our chairlady./Coffee Morning
3. The Show
4. Jobs for the month ahead
5. Membership form
- 6- 7. The Sales Hut / Pony Express
8. Chand Rock Gardens.



Welcome to the early summer 2017 edition of the Garden Club Newsletter.

We hope that you are all enjoying the delights of the weather so far this growing season, and are starting to make good progress in your gardens, greenhouses and allotment plots.

Delivered alongside this edition of the newsletter is the show booklet and entry forms for our **Garden Club Show—that is being held on Saturday August 26th**—and is being organised by the fabulous Noel and Elaine Hodgson.

Please do have a go and enter a few classes this year, and help us to make it a show to remember! Noel and Elaine are looking for volunteers to help with the success of the day, contact them if you can help in anyway.

We wish you a successful summer in the garden, and on your plot growing and enjoying the wondrous bounties of the season ahead.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

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 brilliant news—we have a new secretary ! Many thanks to Chris Fawcett for volunteering. She's already doing a grand job and we are very happy to have her on the team.

We still desperately need a treasurer to work with Ian this year and take over from him in February 2018. Please help us out we really want to keep our Garden Club going.

Ian is very happy to talk to people about what the treasurer role encompasses and mentor them to be confident in the role.

Please do get in touch if you will help.

**Sandra.**

## **Air Ambulance Coffee Morning Report**

Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> dawned to gloomy skies over Clitheroe but our Coffee Morning brought a little sunshine to the shoppers and visitors in the town centre. We erected our gazebo outside the United Reformed Church and offered a huge collection of cakes and plants which attracted many visitors. It seems everyone was very hungry too, as the cakes were whipped up in no time at all!! The plant sale was a great success and the customers were very grateful to have local gardening experts on hand to tell them where each plant would thrive and how to look after it. And the Spring showers drove

soggy shoppers into the church hall for a hot drink and a biscuit and it was lovely seeing everyone taking time for a catch up and a gossip (mostly about gardens, of course!) Sarah & Lesley made a super-duo on the Tombola and all the prizes were won by the end of the day; and what magnificent prizes they were too – many thanks to everyone who contributed. The morning was a great success and we raised well over £400 for North West Air Ambulance. It is such a worthy charity to support and the visitors to the stand often commented on how much they appreciate the service; Sarah had noticed that the air ambulance had attended three incidents in the area around Clitheroe in the week running up to the coffee morning so we are really pleased to be able to support them.

Many thanks to all volunteers involved in the success of the day.

Image from: <http://www.bowlandpenninemrt.org.uk/gallery.htm>



# Annual Show— new classes for 2017

The annual show has been confirmed at St James on

**August 26th 2017**

There are a number of new classes for this year including :

## Eggs

3 large brown hen eggs

3 large white

3 bantam eggs any colour

contents of one hen egg

contents of one bantam egg

## Photography subjects

Childrens - My best friend.

Adults - Local landmarks,

Garden visitors

Contrasts

You will have received the show booklet, and entrance details along with this edition of the newsletter.

Please do take a look through the classes and have a go at entering a couple of them this year— let's make it a great show jam packed with fabulous exhibits!

Noel and Elaine Hodgson have taken on the mantle of running and organising this year's show so please do get involved.

Noel and Elaine are looking for volunteers to get involved in all aspects of the show, from helping to set up on the day before to assisting on the day itself. - Many hands make light work as the saying goes.

Please get in touch with them if you are able to offer help.



# What to do in June from the RHS folks.

## Sowing and planting

### Fruit

Plant out alpine strawberry seedlings sown in early spring.

Sow outdoor melons in a heated propagator.

### Vegetables

Sow French beans, runner beans, squash, cucumbers and pumpkin seeds directly into prepared beds outside. Be alert to late frosts (for which a covering of horticultural fleece should provide sufficient protection).

Sow sweet corn outside in blocks, at least 45cm (18in) spacing, with two seeds per hole. The strongest seedling can be selected later.

Sow cauliflowers and purple sprouting broccoli for harvesting next winter.

Try sowing some unusual vegetables such as kohlrabi (like a large white above-ground turnip), scorzonera and salsify.

Witloof chicory can be sown this month, to have some ready for forcing next winter. Sow in drills directly outside.

After all risk of frost has passed, plant out tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins that were previously sown under cover.

Other young plants can be planted out once conditions are suitable, and once they've been hardened off (acclimatised to the colder outdoor conditions) for 10 to 14 days.

Brussels sprouts for next winter should now be ready for transplanting after early or mid-spring sowing.

Plant out artichokes that were previously sown under cover.

Self-blanching celery can also be planted out towards the end of the month.

Ridge cucumbers can be sown indoors now, for planting out in early June..

## Clitheroe Garden Club Membership 2017/18

You can join at any time of the year but membership runs from 1st March until 28th February. If you are renewing membership it would be a great help if you would do this before the end of March. Please complete this membership form and return it to the membership secretary at one of our meetings, at the club hut or by post enclosing a stamped addressed envelope measuring at least 4x6 inches to :-

**Brenda Fenton , 31 Queen Street, Clitheroe, BB7 2LU**

Are you applying for a single or joint membership? (One fee covers all members living in the same household including children)

Full Name(s)

Address

Post Code

Telephone number

Date

Mobile Phone

Email address

Please note information will not be disclosed to third parties and will be used only in case of cancellation of meetings / last minute events.

I am a **returning member/ new member/ life member** (please delete as appropriate) and I enclose my membership fee for 2017-18 of £8.00

Would you be happy to receive your newsletter via email, bearing in mind that this would reduce costs for the club? YES/NO

Would you be interested in helping your club as a committee member? YES/NO

Would you be interested in helping your club at meetings? YES/NO

**info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk    www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk**

Form received by .....Membership list updated by.....

## Notes from the Hut

Developments at the 'Garden Club Hut' can clearly be seen (see next page for photo)—complete refurbishment of the two existing huts which were in a neglected state. Old timbers are being replaced, levelling and supporting the structure, painting in a 6 year protective paint in a colour which blends in well are also included.

New higher security fencing is planned in addition to new pathways and repairs to existing ones. Finally, we are having our own water supply installed.

An important addition to the hut team is the appointment of Ted Woodend as sole Sales Hut Manager (- after only 4 attempts to persuade him!) . This is a difficult and time consuming job and he will get my/ our total support. He will be responsible for all aspects of security and I look forward to a period of combined effort for the support of the club.

I hope that you have noticed the special prices for our top quality sales items. The prices cannot be beaten anywhere in Lancashire—even by Aldi and Lidl. The reason for this offer is to repay members, in a small way, for the excellent support given to the club last year.

All prices are close to cost, or in some cases, below cost e.g. Jack's Magic Compost. We can only maintain these prices if members continue to support us by providing seedling and green plants at any stage of development.

We thank you for all your support and the pleasant atmosphere we experience due to friendly exchanges. Our volunteers can offer advice and help in many ways, but please remember, Ted can only help you one at a time.

We still require helpers for Sunday mornings 10am to 12 noon. This is clearly a difficult time having to share with church and family days out etc. However, occasional help would be really appreciated. Just come along and offer your help.

If anyone has any cause for complaint or praise, do not wait for the AGM in February, instead tell us now so that we may be able to react.

Finally, the bad news, owing to the poor take-up of potatoes (less than 50% over the last 3 years), we have agreed not to present them for sale next year.

The waste is not sustainable and represents a big financial loss. We apologise if this inconveniences you but actual choice and price cannot be competed with compared with the market etc. We can only buy in 25kg sacks and these have to be kept frost free over the winter months after delivery (which cannot be deferred). According to sales we will not be disappointing many customers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Sales Hut one Sunday very soon.

**Trevor Mitchell and the Sales Hut Team.**



## **THE PONY EXPRESS (delivery of newsletters)**

We usually send out around 160 newsletters, 8 by post and the rest by foot and bicycle., but we **now need more volunteers** to help with deliveries please. You don't have to be a cyclist—everyone is very welcome to help.

Please get in touch with us and we can add you onto the roster. It's a great way to get some (gentle ?) exercise and support the Garden Club at the same time.

Without our Pony Express Volunteers, newsletters would have to go out by post, costs hundreds of pounds each year.

Kind regards

**Elaine and Noel Hodgson.**

**[noelandelaine@live.com](mailto:noelandelaine@live.com)**

## Chand Rock Garden

One of the highlights of my recent trip to India was a visit to Nek Chands Rock Garden in Chandigarh the capital of Punjab. Chandigarh was built as the new capital in the 1950's after the old capital of Lahore became part of Pakistan following partition. The architecture is very much of its time, it is quite unlike any other Indian city I've visited but its residents all seem unanimous in their pride in the town and it's certainly a very pleasant place to walk around.

Nek Chand worked for the Public Works department and had no formal training as an artist. He started the garden in 1957 when he began collecting rocks, domestic and industrial waste to create sculptures representing Indian village life which were then placed in a series of courtyards. The garden was constructed on land which was intended as a forest buffer zone and his work was not only secret but illegal. When the authorities discovered the garden it covered an area of 12 acres and its demolition was only prevented by the public support Nek managed to raise for his project. The government actually provided him with over 30 labourers to help with the work and the garden now covers over 35 acres, visitors walk through a series of courtyards, water features and amphitheatres all reached through small doorways which oblige the visitor to duck their heads in respect to the gods. There are echoes of Gaudi in some of the courtyards and overall the garden can only be described as surreal. Although there is a lot of concrete there are also a lot of trees in and surrounding the gardens and I thought it a lovely place to wander through.

## Lesley.



**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 August 2017 issue should be sent in by late June to the above email.***

