



Clitheroe Garden Club Newsletter



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Chairperson - Mrs D. Richards

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NEWSLETTER No.80

This is the last one that Iris and I will be sending you. I published the first one in November 1999 on a trial basis shortly after we took on the posts of Chairman and Secretary to the club. It was a single sheet, printed in black on both sides. Over the years it has grown with the help of many people and I am taking this opportunity to thank them. First my thanks to Iris for all the proof reading and newsletter distribution over the years. Sincere thanks also to all those who have tramped, cycled and driven delivering them over a wide area and saving the club money in postage. Thanks also go to all those who have contributed to the content of these newsletters.

Our best wishes to those who now take on this job and I hope they will continue to have the support that we have enjoyed.

I look forward to seeing whatever changes fresh enthusiasm may bring.

**Items for the next and subsequent newsletters to
info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk**



Bill Gregson

THE DECEMBER MEETING

David Allison from the [National Vegetable Society](http://www.nationalvegetablesociety.co.uk) gave our December Talk – Reflections on a Gardening Year. David had travelled 'across the border' from Ilkley and his advice was appropriate to growing here in the Ribble Valley. Turnout was good for such a dark, cold evening and a worthwhile effort for the keen vegetable gardener. There were plenty of colourful slides from January – December plus pictures of prize-winning displays and amazingly huge show-vegetables the envy of all gardeners present.

He left us a useful list of [Recommended Vegetable varieties for the Kitchen Garden](#) which is specifically aimed at the Northern gardener. For those of you who could not make it to the meeting and have access to the internet it is available on Clitheroe Garden Club's own website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk from the 'News' tab by clicking on the highlighted link.

Alex Berry

**The Sales Hut opens for the new season on
Sunday February 24th. See page 2**

The Sales Hut

Opening day Sunday 24th February.10am-12noon.

Stocks are now in of seed potatoes, onion sets, shallots, beans and peas etc. Weather permitting we will also have ready our early season plants of lupin, delphinium, parsley and primula types.

Please come along, especially new members.

If you would like to pay your annual subscriptions at the club hut this would be very helpful as it saves a lot of admin work later.

Wednesday Talks

As from the 6th March 2013 all Wednesday evening talks will commence at **7-30 pm.**

Next talk is on “The Living Soil” by Mr John Steedman. John will also be telling us how to make our own compost.

What does a gardener do in the cold, dark, damp days of winter?

Why, spends time developing the website for Clitheroe Garden Club! Like this:-



www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

We've had a website for a few months now but it has taken time to get information on there and to organise it to so everyone can find us. We hope it will get useful information to you and maybe generate new members too.

But what do current members want? The committee has put information there that we thought you would find useful, like *tips on vegetable varieties* and *newsletters*. We need to hear from you what you would like to see. If you're already comfortable to go on-line, have a look at what's there and email us with suggestions at info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

If you've never used the Internet and the above paragraph sounds like double-dutch then there are **free** introductory sessions available at Clitheroe Library on Tuesday mornings.

Librarian Alison runs a series of one hour sessions from 10am-11am or 11am-12noon.

Booking is essential (call 01200 428788) but no previous knowledge is necessary.

Other, very popular, sessions for Silver-Surfers are available on Thursday mornings, also at Clitheroe Library. When you've gained a little knowledge and confidence you can use the library's own computers for up 2 hours a day at no cost to you - all you need is library membership.

SUMMER SUN ?

The effect was immediate but we didn't know what it was. We had just walked into the hotel garden for an apéritif and were confronted by this mystery. We just had to sort it out. What could it be? Then Norah looked up. We were sitting underneath a 15 foot Brugmansia bush (tree really) and it was the fragrance raining down upon us that was providing the impact. We checked the date, yes it was December 16th. This garden demanded further attention. In a quick wander about clutching our glasses of Kir we encountered in flower, hibiscus, pomegranate, roses, calendula, jasmine and a variety of citrus trees laden with fruit. After the dreary, grey and miserable summer of 2012 we thought we had arrived in the garden of Eden. We had forgotten what a summer's day felt and smelled like. But it wasn't Eden however, it was Marrakech Morocco, and we were on a Christmas holiday and it was 22deg C. We'll have a bit more of this we said. But what we got was a lot more.

This is a country I would describe as being in the 2 1/2 world. The big cities like Tangier, Rabat and Casablanca are like most western cities, modern, glassy and pushy. But head south and you go back in time. If you want to find it, the old Berber world still exists. The old souks, medinas and Kasbahs are still there in the old southern towns. In some places it is easy to imagine the days of the French foreign legion trying to fend-off marauding Toureg warriors under a lip blistering sun. Morocco is big country terrain. Mountain ranges, with long flat plains connecting them. Dried up river beds waiting for the next rains. You can move from desert to lush oases just by crossing a mountain ridge.

But whatever the terrain, all the time one thing is apparent. There is always a crop growing. Whether wheat, citrus, bananas or walnuts, the farmer here, like everywhere else has adapted to his environment. I bore this in mind as I assessed the growing conditions for 2013 back on the allotment. I think I'll skip the citrus and walnuts and maybe consider what does well in cold mud. I know, perhaps I'll try peas, beans...cabbageeeeeesss.....

Hope for 2013

Lawrie Ball



In the Medina



52 days to Timbuktu

All Change at the Newsletter!

After many years of sterling service wielding red pen and printer cartridges, Bill Gregson is handing on his responsibilities.

In the short term, production of the Newsletter will be supervised by Norah Ball. So if you are burning to see something you have written in print and on the Club website, please send your contributions by email to info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk Contributions for the next issue should be submitted by mid-March please.

New Time!

Club Meetings start at 7.30pm from now on.

‘Heart Start’ – A Brilliant Night Out

It was teatime on Tuesday 14th Jan 2013 when I said to Andrew ‘I am not looking forward to this but it is something we should go to’ and so we ventured out without enthusiasm.

I could not have been more wrong! A team of four First Responders, laden with kit, piled into the room and from then on, Katie, Shaun, Peter and John took over the evening. They were enthusiastic, full of fun, knowledgeable and thorough. They used snatches of DVD, demonstrations and interactive teaching to get the message across. We were able to try out things but you didn't have to if you didn't want to.

What did we do? Well, using ‘Drs ABC’ as our memory aid we learned what to do if you found someone collapsed and not moving. We learned what checks to make and how and when to resuscitate. We tried out our skills on the equipment they had brought with them. We also learned what to do if someone is choking and how to treat serious bleeding.

We have both done First Aid courses before but the number of changes to the advice now given is quite significant. Another ‘plus’ was that at the end of the evening we were all given a credit card sized summary of the information that you could always carry with you.

The course is called ‘Heart Start’ and you learn ‘Emergency Life Support’ and the team are called ‘Community First Responders’.

Well, how come a garden club was doing this course? It arose from the Coffee Morning we did in April last year. To give us some publicity, I wrote a little piece for the Clitheroe Advertiser mentioning that we had raised over £400 for NW Air Ambulance. Shaun, one of the team, phoned and in the spirit of ‘one good turn.....etc’ offered the training. Initially the places (20 maximum) were taken up very slowly but I felt sure that when the news got around, more people would like the opportunity. SO I have booked them for another date.

TUESDAY 19th MARCH, 7-9pm at Ribblesdale Wanderers Cricket Club

‘Heart Start’

Emergency Life Support

Please e-mail Lesley Taylor on Lesley453@btinternet.com or Tel 01200 427308 to reserve your place on the course.

Dorothy

My friend and I attended the Life Saving Course given by Clitheroe first responders and I would just like to say it was excellent. We were shown how to deal with choking and bleeding and how to recognize a heart attack. Everyone who attended had the chance to practice cardio-pulmonary resuscitation on the dummies which were brought to the course. The first responders were excellent at explaining every procedure to us and very patient when some of us did not give mouth to mouth resuscitation correctly the first time. We did not in the least feel any embarrassment or pressure - they were lovely ! The course ran over the two hours and it truthfully went so quickly that we could have all carried on for another hour ! If you ever get the chance to attend one of these Life Saving Courses, do go along - I can assure you that it will be a very informative and interesting evening. Hopefully none of us will ever need to use the skills we were taught but it certainly gives one more confidence to do so ! Carol Bithell

Memberships 2013

Just a reminder for everyone that membership renewals are due soon, still only £8 for the year which is amazing value when you think that you are able to attend some really interesting talks and buy lots of beautiful well grown plants and all your garden sundries for very reasonable prices at the club sales hut.

If you could get your memberships in by the end of March it would be very much appreciated and would mean you won't miss out on any of our newsletters. Getting your payment in early and having the correct change would make things so much easier for us.

You will notice that the membership form has changed as we are asking for some extra information. If you need an extra membership form you can print one off from our new website www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Carol and Elizabeth



COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF NORTH WEST AIR AMBULANCE

In Clitheroe Mayor's Parlour
Saturday April 13th 2013
10.00 a.m. — 12 noon

Admission £1.00
inc. coffee & biscuit

Plants, Cakes, Vintage Jewellery,
Tombola.

Contributions for the stalls can be left at the club hut on Sunday Mornings after 24th February or contact a committee member.

Please take cakes and plants to the Mayor's Parlour on the morning of the 13th from 9.00 a.m.

A Big Thank You

Everyone in the Club appreciates the work of the Committee, I am sure of that, but probably most people don't realise just how much the Committee members value each other. The committee is quite large but all the members have a lot to do even though the jobs are all shared between us. The reason that most things run smoothly is because everyone does their best.

Two of the Committee are standing down from their roles and we thank them so much for what they have done.

Pam Entwistle has been the show organiser for four consecutive years and she has made 2012 her last year. Before each show, Pam has dealt with entry forms, fees and judges and a lot of printing appears from the club press and charts. All of the cups and awards have to be rounded up from the previous year. The reward is to see the hall at St. James School full of fruit, flowers, vegetables, beautiful craftwork and food. The other side of this is that lots of people have taken more interest in their hobby of gardening and have been spurred on to greater efforts in order to 'show' their produce. Now, she quite rightly wishes to hand this work on to another person to undertake and enjoy. We are delighted that Pam has agreed to stay on the Committee as a 'Member without portfolio'. We wish her well in this role and value the experience she can pass on to us. Thank you Pam!

Sandra Evans has been our Speaker Secretary and arranged speakers for four years. What does this involve? Well, first of all, finding speakers and contacting them. Then, arranging dates, discussing fees and travelling expenses and choosing from the topics they offer in order to give a balanced programme for Club members. Sandra is always at the Cricket Club way before anyone else to meet them and help them set up and the last to leave when the speaker is ready to set off. She has been brilliant at this job and we have all enjoyed a really interesting programme of speakers. Sandra is stepping down as Speaker Secretary and leaving the Committee. We shall miss her a great deal but realise that she has a lovely family who will really appreciate more of her time. Thank you Sandra!

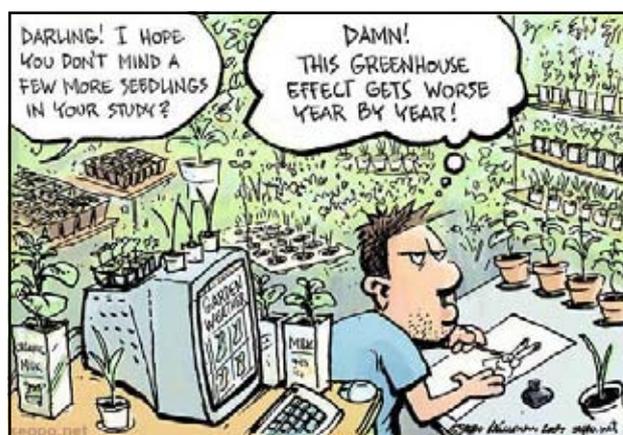
A Successful Evening at La Vespa

Wednesday 30th January was the night that 40 members of the Club arrived at the Italian Restaurant called La Vespa to celebrate with our guests, Bill and Iris, who are retiring after many years of service to the Club. We arrived very early, while the restaurant was still empty, and it looked so attractive with the black and yellow place settings. To say the food was equally attractive is an understatement, it was good quality, well cooked and well presented.

After the meal, Bill spoke briefly about the early days of the Club, and some of that talk is elsewhere in the Newsletter. Bill and Iris received an azalea plant as a souvenir of the evening and then we all concentrated on a quiz that was quite tricky, (some may say fiendish!), which Mary Alty had done for us.

Thank you to Mary for organising the event and to Ian Berry for dealing with the money. Many thanks also to the staff at La Vespa who were speedy, attentive and friendly and to everyone for coming. We must do it again sometime.

A big, very sincere thank you to all concerned. We had a fantastic evening. Bill & Iris



Iris & I were Guests of Honour at the club dinner at La Vespa on January 30th. Dorothy, our Chairperson asked if I would give a short history of the club at that function and then print it in this newsletter. Here it is if your eyesight is up to it!

Bill Gregson

Before I go further I must take the opportunity to thank the committee and club members for inviting us tonight as guests of the club. It is a great honour and a gesture that we much appreciate. Thank you very much.

I have been asked to say a few words about the history of the club for the benefit of those who have not been members as long as Iris and I. However there are members who have been in the club longer than we have and I hope they will correct me if I get anything wrong.

Clitheroe Garden club was founded in 1976 by a group of enthusiastic gardeners. It wasn't until sometime in the early 1980s that Iris and I joined the club. I am not going to attempt a chronological history because it would have meant going through endless documents in the old filing cabinet at the hut, if they are still there, and producing a history lesson that would have been as boring as my history lessons were when I was at school.

I will start by reading you the minutes of the very first committee meeting, which I reproduced in the newsletter exactly 12 years ago.

The first committee meeting was held at Ribblesdale School on 25th November 1976 at 7.30 p.m. and the following members were present.

Mr Gregory, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Mayor, And Mr Quinton..
Mr Quinton took the chair and welcomed everyone.

The first item on the agenda was the choosing of a name. Clitheroe Horticultural Society was suggested but it was agreed that the title should be CLITHEROE GARDEN CLUB and that 50p per year should be the membership fee charged. Mr Gregory suggested that temporary membership cards should be printed with the dates fixed for the next six months.

Dec 13th - Soil and fertilizers. Mr N. Thompson.

Jan 10th - Chrysanthemums. Mr Quinton to approach a speaker.

Feb 14th - Vegetables. Mr Clifford Moorhouse

Mar 14th - Soft Fruit and trees.

April 11th - Roses Mr K. Maiden.

May 9th - Pests and diseases.

Mr Gregory said he would arrange for membership cards to be printed.

Rules of the club was the next item to be discussed. The secretary said he had brought along the rules of Rimington & District Horticultural Society. Mr Sainsbury proposed that copies of these be made then handed out to members of the committee then they could be discussed at the next committee meeting. This was agreed by all and Mr Gregory offered to have copies ready for the December meeting.

Mr Sainsbury also offered to see if there was any money or trophies left over from the old Clitheroe Horticultural Society.

In the early days meetings were held at Ribblesdale School and this continued until the school was closed at night and night school moved elsewhere. At that point we were lucky enough to be welcomed by Ribblesdale Wanderers when Iris asked if we could rent their room for our meetings.

FIRST MEETING IN OUR NEW VENUE
NOVEMBER 2nd 2005
Over thirty members attended our first meeting at the cricket club off Brownlow Street. Our speaker on that occasion was John Foley, the youngest speaker to address the club. Already John is a recognised expert on Crocosmia, a fact that became evident very quickly. Although hurriedly arranged, the new meeting place was voted a great success by those who attended. It is hoped that now we have a very comfortable place to meet, numbers attending meetings will increase. (Your chairman warned our speaker that if he was boring, he would find his audience asleep.) That would have been impossible previously on hard school chairs

We didn't attend many meetings in our early days as members for they all seemed to be travelogues with little connection to horticulture. When eventually I was bold enough to ask why, I was told that members were not interested in talks on gardening. (Something to do with the Quality of speakers perhaps?)

The sales hut was well established when we joined the club and, like many, that was our reason for joining. In those days everything was run from the present smaller hut with an old tumbledown hen cabin as the storage place and weighing up place for bulk fertilisers, composts etc. Geoff Sainsbury was then the chairman, salesman, show secretary—well you name it—that as well!

If you wanted to speak to Geoff on a Sunday morning you took a deep breath, got your head down and plunged, groping your way through dust from the various fertilisers etc. to find him at the very far end of the hut weighing up. To then stand upright would deliver a headache to anyone over about five feet tall.

No general members seemed to know much about the financial state of the club but it was obvious that money was short when we were all asked in the mid 1990s to donate towards building a new hut. Enough money was found to buy timber to build our own hut - the bigger of the two we have at present. It was designed and built by a small team of members from scratch and I had the pleasure of being one of that team. Those of us who built it are still drawing our wages through the life membership we were given on completion. When complete we had a grand opening ceremony with the lady mayor cutting the ribbon which was tied to a couple of garden canes in front of the door.

In the early days two or three coach trips a year were the norm and we visited some very interesting places fairly cheaply. Evening trips to nurseries, organic gardens etc. were also popular, especially if they were rounded off with a pub supper.

The annual show when we joined the club was at St Mary's Church Lower Hall. The hall itself was fine but access was not easy on a Saturday with York Street parked up and a steep climb up to the hall carrying everything. In those days all classes had to be horticultural except for wine and jam - obviously only included to keep the ladies happy. Some 12 or 13 years ago we moved the show to its present venue at St James School. Initially we met with some opposition when we tried to add more non-horticultural classes. In 2004 we decided to send a show schedule out with each newsletter to encourage more members to take an interest in the show.

In our early days in the club, Annual General Meetings were not well attended and on one occasion it was re-run after only seven turned up. Attendance did eventually improve when about 13 years ago we introduced more light hearted things to follow serious business. The most popular of these were two cookery demonstrations and two wine tasting sessions. Everyone went home happy from the latter!

In the late 1990s our Chairman and general factotum, Geoff Sainsbury became terminally ill and died very shortly after resigning as chairman. At that time I was Honorary President of the club—a great honour for work already done but with no real work attached. However just before he died, our secretary, Geoff's wife Sissy called a meeting of committee with a request for me to attend. I left that meeting, not as President but as Chairman a job that kept me busy for the next ten years. George Cowgill was then appointed Honorary President. An honour he richly deserved with all the often unseen work he did for the club.

After my appointment I went to see Geoff. He had some difficulty speaking but the main thing he said to me was "You will look after the garden club, won't you Bill?" Of course I said "Yes". He passed away the next day.

Within a very short time the Club Treasurer, Mrs Green also died. At this point Iris was appointed Acting Treasurer and shortly after became Secretary.

In October 1999 we launched our first newsletter. Shortly after the AGM number 80 will be arriving through your letterbox - the last one from Iris and me. I give a very BIG THANK YOU to all those who have toiled in the shadows over many years to keep the newsletter going. These include Iris, my proof reader and organiser of deliveries, all those who have walked, cycled, or driven to get the newsletters out and all who have contributed to the content.

Throughout all our time working for the club we have had fantastic support from committee and other members. It has not always been easy to get people to take responsibility but it has never been a problem getting support and help. There are real examples of personal initiative from committee and others. Perhaps the best example could be seen regarding hut sales when Lawrie and George took it on themselves to grow plants for sale to boost the club funds.

Around the time of the Millenium the RHS circulated affiliated clubs with a request to try and encourage young people to take a greater part in horticultural matters. As a result we appointed a Junior committee member and introduced the CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE to the show where youngsters were encouraged to grow something novel with seeds and compost supplied by the club. The junior member of the committee served for two years and was never replaced.

In 2001 the committee decided that the club needed to look outward more to the community and so it was agreed that our already established, annual coffee morning in future would be held for a local charity.

Our Robin logo came about 8 years ago as a result of a competition to create a logo for the club. As it happens I won the competition and hasten to add that club members judged the entries and I had nothing to do with counting up the votes.

What I have given you is not a complete history of the garden club but my recollections of a rewarding time with the club.

I speak sincerely from first hand knowledge when I say that the only way to reap the full benefit from any organisation is to get involved fully in it. That benefit is not financial (in fact in real terms you often lose out a bit financially). The reward is much greater. It is seeing the organisation thrive and grow with its members enjoying what you have helped to provide.

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There was a healthy turnout to the club AGM which was held on 6th February at Ribblesdale Cricket Club although of course it would be nice to see more members attending.

Dorothy Richards (Chairperson) gave a report on the club activities over the last year; I didn't realize we had been so busy! She felt it had been a very good year for the club in terms of successful events and achievements of members and the committee. Dorothy thanked all the people who help to make the club a success and those people who have in the last few months volunteered to take on extra jobs.

Special thanks went to Sandra Evans, Pam Entwistle and Lawrie Ball, the sales hut team (George, Marion, Frances and Penny), the newsletter distribution team and Angela for organizing refreshments at the monthly meetings.

She also thanked Dennis (caretaker at the cricket club) for his help at all the events the club holds there.

Ian Berry (Treasurer) reported on the healthy state of the club finances and distributed copies of the balance sheet for the year. He thanked Mary Eglin for her help and the good handover of financial duties. Ian also reminded members about the new website which is now up and running.

Lesley Taylor (Secretary) reported on the activities of the committee since the last AGM. She thanked Bill Gregson our retiring editor in chief for all his hard work in the production of the newsletter and acknowledged the huge debt of gratitude that members owe him, Iris and their family for all their hard work over the years in ensuring the survival of the club and making it a success. She also thanked Norah Ball for taking over the editing and printing of the newsletter and Noel & Elaine Hodgson it's distribution.

The evening concluded with the showing of a film made by club member Marion Sycamore

Committee members 2013/14

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairperson and speakers secretary | Dorothy Richards |
| Treasurer | Ian Berry |
| Secretary | Lesley Taylor |
| Membership Secretaries | Elizabeth Rayton, Carol Hill |
| Club Sales Managers | Trevor Mitchell, Ted Woodend |
| Social Secretary | Mary Alty |
| General committee members | Pam Entwistle, Brenda Fenton |

My Sanctuary

As I look out to my garden

I feel a sense of pride

It really is a lovely room

Except it is outside.

A thank you to Lawrie Ball

The rest of the newsletter had gone to print before Lawrie announced his retirement from the committee which is why this appreciation may appear to be something of a postscript.

Lawrie has been a committee member since December 2006 but before that he was an enthusiastic club volunteer especially at the hut and his continued hard work there has played a major part in establishing the hut as the lively and interesting place it is now. The current healthy state of the club finances is in no small part due to his hard work at the hut and in particular his initiatives in plant production which has meant club members have been able to purchase high quality plants at very good prices.

Lawrie also produced plants for sale at club events such as the charity coffee morning and the summer social which raises funds for the annual show.

Lawrie would be the first to admit that he couldn't have produced the huge number of plants without the help of his wife Norah and George Cowgill who both deserve medals for standing in an unheated greenhouse in February and March pricking out hundreds of seedlings.

Although he isn't going to be producing hundreds of plants as in previous years Lawrie is still going to play a part in the running of the hut and Trevor and Ted apparently regard themselves as his apprentices albeit the oldest ones in England -Trevor's words.

Thank you Lawrie for all your hard work for the club it's been much appreciated.