



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

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Are you ready?

The Banksian Medal and Certificate have just arrived so it is time to get ready for Saturday 24th August and Show Time!! Feed your plants. Water them so they are in peak condition. If your friends and neighbours are gardeners get them to enter the show as well. Anyone living in or near this area is welcome to enter.



Schedules and entry forms are available from the Club Sales Hut in West View on Sunday mornings, 10am – 12 noon, and also from the website. All entries, with the correct fee, can be handed in at the Sales Hut on Sunday mornings until 18th August. At the very latest, they must be with Show Secretary, Trevor Mitchell (Tel: 01200 425234) by 7.00pm on Thursday 22nd August.

This is Trevor's first time as Show Secretary so please come along as a competitor, a helper or a spectator to make the event a resounding success. If you are new to the Club you will be amazed by how much there is to see. As well as flowers, plants and vegetables there are beautiful textiles, cakes, jams, photographs and paintings and lots of classes for children. If you are interested in Bonsai there will be an expert there to advise you. To add to the interest there is an auction of produce at the end. The proceeds from this go towards **activities for children at St. James' School.**

The School will be open from 3.00pm on Friday 23rd August to set up tables and make the hall ready; helpers will be needed for about an hour or so. Transport of tables to the School and their return immediately after the Show has been arranged.

On Show day, if running a cafe is your thing, we need help to serve refreshments to the public from 2.00 -4.30pm. If you could make a cake to cut up and sell that would be brilliant. Some stewards to accompany the judges may still be needed.

All offers of help with setting up, stewarding, running the cafe or clearing away after the Show, to Trevor please!

Judging commences at 10am; all exhibitors must be out of the Hall by that time.

IMPORTANT – make sure all trophies awarded last year are back

with Trevor, clean and sparkling NOW!

It is like a military operation – but fun. See you there,

Dorothy

Bonsai Demonstration

At this year's Garden Club Show we will be having an exhibition by Accrington and District Bonsai Society. They will also be doing a **demonstration. Don't forget that this year for the first time** there will be a class for bonsai. We look forward to seeing your entries for this category.

Carol Hill

Visit to Holden Clough Nursery

It was a beautiful evening for our visit to Holden Clough Nursery with the sun shining on us for a change. **If you haven't visited this nursery for a while** you will be in for a shock, it has been brought into the 21st century with a car park and tea rooms as well as a lecture room. The array of plants is superb, and with all the perennials grown on this quite exposed site, they are sure to be hardy in our gardens.

We started the evening with a walk around the plants for sale and then moved into the tea room for drinks and cakes, which were very enjoyable. John told us about his journey to become the BBC Young Gardener of the Year and went on to tell us a little of the history of the nursery

which was started in the 1920s, then taken over by his father Peter in 1978. John and his girlfriend Kate took over in 2009. He is known for his collection of crocosmias; at the age of only 14 he had over 150 varieties, becoming known as 'The Prince of Crocosmias'.

One of the more pernicious weeds he has had to deal with on the nursery is 'mares tail' whose roots can go down 30ft. (No wonder I am struggling to get rid of mine.) He recommends a weed killer called Curtail, and I shall certainly give this a try. Another recommendation was for Vitax Q4 fertiliser which he uses just once a year in March. (*Editor: Vitax Q4 is available at the Sales Hut.*)

This was an excellent visit. Thank you to Mary Alty for arranging it.

Carol Hill

Note from the Chair:

More members now seem happy to respond to emails. At the time of going to press with the previous Newsletter, we had not got all the details of the Holden Clough visit. Word of mouth and emails resulted in 34 people attending. That is more than the nursery was expecting. Several people were also disappointed that no spaces were left.

Calling All Jam Makers

Lots of quality, screw-top jam jars now available at the Sales Hut. Hurry to get your supplies while stocks last!

Alex Berry

Kathleen Sharples

As this Newsletter went to press, we heard the sad news of Kathleen's death on July 20th. She had been a staunch supporter of the Club for many years, particularly serving as Membership Secretary. Many members will recall meeting her when paying their subs at the Club Hut and Wednesday meetings.

The Sales Hut

The Committee has received this letter from Trevor Mitchell.

26 June 2013

Dear Chair/Committee

Since my personal time has needed re-planning I am no longer able to give the time I would wish to garden hut matters. Therefore I must resign as Hut Manager with effect from now.

I will of course remain an active member helping at the hut whenever I can, and I will continue to undertake the ordering of supplies and help with the production of a helpers rota should this be desired. I have found that hut duties and show secretary planning, and temporarily changed circumstances are a little too much.

I will remain a member of the committee if required.

Yours faithfully

Trevor

Note from the Chair:

Trevor remains on the Committee as the Show Secretary. Meanwhile, Lawrie Ball has offered to run the Hut again for the time being. He will also resume stock control and

ordering. Many thanks to recent volunteers who have been so welcome at the Hut along with Mary and Frances our regular (very valuable) helpers.

Marlborough Allotments

Not far from the Trafford Centre, these were established in 1905 in Flixton - a place now swallowed up by the expansion of Manchester. Enclosed by houses save for a narrow access down which our bus squееееееzed, plots are not fenced.

Bowing to pressure of the waiting list, most plots have been subdivided now. Smaller plots brought rules! EITHER a shed (painted Forest Green) OR a greenhouse may be erected. Hmmm! Plots must have a flower border frontage between 3 and 6 feet deep. Hmmm again - very pretty, but each to his own!



If you want one - wild or formal?



Some folk pondered over the veg....



others over the shop.....



and why *was* the dwarfing rootstock in the communal orchard not?



After a bit of relaxation in the wonderful Brookfield garden nearby





(these two aren't members by the way) it was time to reflect on a



motto
over a cooling drink
before the journey
home!



Norah Ball

Summer at last!

Every year, round about February, I look at the garden and wonder how all those empty spaces will ever be filled again. Well, this year, I was still thinking that in April! If you are not a gardener then you probably wonder what I am writing about but the desolation and the dread that everything has died over the winter, is very real to me. This year I got a good, long, dose of it.

I suddenly became ten years younger in mid-April because, four weeks late, the Candelabra Primula nosed through the ground. They were tiny, too small to lift and pot

up, but at least they were there. Busy elsewhere in the garden, I didn't look at that bed again for a week or so and then I remembered that the plants would need lifting and dividing. Armed with trowel and spade I set off but they were now as big as cabbages, far too big to move.

That was surprise number one. I suppose the plants were trying to catch up.

Several years ago I planted this bed with purple candelabra Primula, and then, a couple of years later, I added two yellow ones. This year, for the very first time, I have the results of cross breeding. The purple flowers are still at the back and the yellow at the front but in the middle there is the most wonderful collection of pink and orange primula, loads of them! One book calls the colour 'golden orange'.



The yellow and orange flowers are called Primula bulleyana and the purple plant is Primula bulleyana subspecies beesiana

This was surprise number two. I never thought I would own my own hybrids. Now, at that big garden in Yorkshire, they call them Harlow Carr Hybrids and at Exbury, in Hampshire, where they have bred lots of Azalias, they call them, **Exbury Hybrids. I didn't think Dorothy's** hybrids sounded quite right so I will use our house name and call them Greenacre Hybrids.

I suppose I should choose the one with the most exotic colour and isolate it and then divide it as it grows, to propagate that colour alone. I think that is how plant breeders would have worked years ago. Now, with micro-propagation, it can all be done more quickly.

If the photo of the primula encourages you to grow them then go **ahead. Slugs don't touch them, mine** have never been set upon by aphids and they seed around profusely, especially if you surround them with horticultural grit. (Seeds germinate well on horticultural grit or gravel). They need a moist situation and flower for longer in some shade. You would be set up with new plants to pass on to friends, the Sales Hut or sell for charity.

Mary Alty is a Primula enthusiast as well and if you get along to the Sales Hut on a Sunday morning you may find some young plants that she has grown from seed. These are ready to plant out and will flower next year and then you will be hooked!

On a happy note, the beds, borders and veg plot are all brimming with plants, shoulder to shoulder. Wonderful!

Dorothy

Green manure

Green manure suppresses weeds, controls erosion and adds structure to the soil.

It can be sown whenever the ground is to be left bare for more than six weeks, then dug in when the crop is green, but before it flowers.

Fast growing Mustard is a useful crop to sow, especially after potatoes, because it controls soil borne pests and diseases. The Caliente variety is claimed to be especially efficient. Mustard is a brassica however so needs careful rotation.

Alfalfa (lucerne) and Red Clover are both nitrogen-fixing and can be cut back two or three times when established to increase yields of organic matter. Another nitrogen fixer, and of great value when over-wintered are Field Beans. These like heavy soils and can be cut once and allowed to re-grow to produce a second flush of foliage before digging in.

Winter Rye is also good for over-wintering since it grows large amounts of fibrous roots to prevent important nutrients being washed away. It is very tough though and takes several weeks to break down.

Phacelia can be sown from May to September and is easy to dig in. It is

a good idea to leave some of its pretty blue flowers to attract beneficial insects and then to collect the seed, which is expensive to buy.

Most Green Manures can be sown from April to August for digging in the same year or from September to over-winter for digging in the following Spring.

Mary Alty

An Interesting Bunch: The Autumn Meetings

I am looking forward to meeting everyone again at the Ribblesdale Wanderers Cricket Club. Wednesday, 4th September at 7.30pm is the time of our first Autumn meeting. If you **can't find your membership card** after the Summer break here is a reminder of what is in store.

Wednesday, 4th September

The Joy of Bonsai – Ray Couldwell

Wednesday, 2nd October

Modern Roses – Tony Bracegirdle

Wednesday, 6th November

The Private Plants and Gardens of Cheshire

Wednesday, 4th December

Being Creative with Evergreens – Phil Dunnett

The first meeting after the Summer is always a bit of a shock to the system but get yourself into gear and get along there. For the first time ever we have a Bonsai Class and a demonstration in our Annual Show

so the talk will be a good follow up and may lead to a new hobby for some of us.

See you there, at 7.30pm

Dorothy

Newsletters

The Committee has decided to reduce the number of Newsletters from six to four each year, the timing designed to highlight **major events in the Club's calendar.**

Hopefully, they will appear:

Beginning of August

Beginning of November

End of February/ beginning of March

Beginning of May

With more contact by email and word of mouth (demonstrated for the Holden Clough visit), and by use of the website, the time taken and costs incurred in producing the newsletter will be reduced.

Dorothy

Note from the Editor:

There has been some favourable feedback about the revised newsletter format, BUT this enthusiasm has not borne fruit by way of budding authors!

Where are all the little gems? With **well over 100 members, I can't believe** that only committee members can sow and fertilise the pages!

Come on you lot - next time it would be great to see some new authors!

What does your Newsletter mean to YOU?

At the last AGM, Norah agreed to review how the Newsletter was being produced. Were there changes that might make the whole process a bit easier and quicker for a more permanent editor/printer to take over? The first part of the exercise is complete and production is now running smoothly.

The Committee is still hoping someone will offer to edit and print the newsletter on a more permanent basis - OTHERWISE THE NEXT EDITION MAY BE THE LAST YOU WILL RECEIVE! Committee members already have many tasks to do so they cannot take it on. Also, it is not a good idea to centre everything on a small group of people otherwise, when they move on, the hole they leave behind is very large.

I have asked Norah to add a bit more information below.

Dorothy

Note from the Editor:

The job is not rocket science, nor does it require a PhD in 'Technology'. It does need a fair grasp of spelling and grammar (NEVER trust computer spell check). If you want to improve your computer skills and have enthusiasm to 'have a go' you are half way there! Publishing the Newsletter is an enjoyable task - it could be ideal for you!

I now update issues of the Newsletters using a standard programme on the computer (Microsoft Publisher). However, there is no reason why someone should not start again with a different system or design they prefer. As the Club computer can print on a bigger sheet of paper, (A3), a bit of juggling is needed to organise that, but doing it quickly is just a matter of practice.

As an indication of time taken on the Newsletter, now I have a design to insert information into I can produce an issue from scratch and ready to deliver **in 3 days. (It isn't full time!)** This includes juggling to fit the documents I have been sent by various people, printing, folding, stapling, trimming.

Please get in touch by email or speak to any Committee member.



Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk
Email address: info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk
Items for the November issue should be sent in by 15th October to the above email address.

