



# The Newsletter

**No. 85**

**February 2014**

## In this issue:

1. The new committee.
2. The Sales Hut.
3. Speakers List.
4. Speakers List continued and Coffee Morning.
5. Jobs for the month ahead and Art in the Garden.
6. Seville Marmalade recipe.
7. Membership form.
8. Gardening talks at Ribbles-



## The new committee

In spite of awful weather there was a healthy turnout for the AGM on 5th February. Dorothy Richards (retiring chairperson) reported on a busy and successful year for the club. She thanked the committee and all those members who had helped in the running club and the many and varied events. She hoped that in the future facilities at the club hut would be improved. Ian Berry (treasurer) reported that the club remained in a healthy state mainly due to income generated by the sales hut.

The committee for 2014/15 is: Lesley Taylor (Chair), Ian Berry (Treasurer), Angela Newman (Secretary), Mary Alty (Social Secretary), Frances Cullen (Speakers Secretary), Brenda Fenton (Membership Secretary), Alex Berry (Show Secretary), Beverley Cooper and John Gornall (General members). Thank you to all those who volunteered or were volunteered!

The evening concluded with a presentation by Dorothy and Andrew Richards about some of the lovely gardens in Lancashire which are part of the National Garden Scheme.

Happy gardening! **Kevin and Sophie**

Items for the Newsletter should be emailed to [sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk).

## The Sales Hut

Opening day is 23/2/14

At the time of writing I don't have prices for 2014 to hand but am not expecting any frightening increases. Available from opening day will be the usual seed potatoes, beans, peas and onion sets etc. Don't forget that our prices for these commodities are a fraction of what you would pay at a garden centre.

As usual some early hardy plants will be for sale, so, if you want primulas, lupins and delphiniums do come along in the first few weeks as they usually sell out quickly.

As in the past members are invited to put their input into raising plants for sale. Most welcome would be well grown tomatoes and bedding plants for sale in summer. Costs of seeds, pots and compost would be covered by the club to those willing to have a go. Advice is free. I appeal to all members to use the club hut for their gardening requirements as it is revenue from hut sales that finances the weekly talks and annual show.

Finally, fingers crossed for another decent summer. I think we

all profited last year with good ripe summer crops which in their turn passed on good winter storage characteristics.

See you at the hut,

**Lawrie Ball and the hut team.**



## Speakers for 2014

**Raymond Smith, Wed 5 /3**

### From Muck and Music to Stones and Roses

Raymond is a lively and humorous speaker who has converted the family farm into a fabulous garden. As well as being extremely knowledgeable about plants, he has written four musicals, is a church organist and has given many thousands of pounds to various charities by giving talks and opening his garden for the NGS. His many pictures will tell his story.

**Elaine Taylor, Wed 2/4**

## English Gardens thro' the Ages

Elaine has a vast knowledge of plants, is a skilled photographer and has recently made Garden History her hobby. This talk on the subject will make your summer outings to famous gardens much more interesting as you will know what to look for.

**Tom Luke, Wed 7/5**

## Bargain Plants for Borders and Window Boxes. (Bring your wallet!)

Tom has worked in the horticulture trade for many years, has a polytunnel in his lovely garden and other polytunnels on extra land. He grows hundreds of plants from seed and cuttings and is bringing lots for us to look at. He will explain how to look after them and sells them at very realistic prices. He has open days for the NGS and is recommended by a Clitheroe Garden Club member who has been there with a private group and taken advantage of his plant sales

**Chris Wilcock, Wed 3/9**

## WaterAid

Chris has been raising money for this charity for some years. He explains that it is a British Inter-

national charity that is transforming the lives of some of the poorest people in the world through the provision of clean water and sanitation. Chris is a Clitheroe Garden Club member and he says there is a very definite link between clean water, sanitation and the use of land.

**John Zamorski, Wed 1/10**

## Beekeeping in England

John is one of our Club members and also the Chairman of Blackburn and East Lancs. Beekeepers Association. Many of us will have tasted the product of his hives and he will be keen to tell us more about a hobby that has now become vitally important, not only for honey, but for food production in general.

**Irene Ridge, Wed 5/11**

## Fungi, Friend or Foe?

Irene was a lecturer in Botany with the Open University. She is so keen on her subject that she spends much time in Autumn, foraging and carries out experiments on fungi at home. Some fungi are so strange that they don't seem like plants at all but we are happy to buy mushrooms in supermarkets and don't think

twice about putting that fungus on our dinner plates.

**Angela and Phil Dunnett,**

**Wed 3/12**

## Make your own Christmas Arrangements from Evergreens.

This is a practical session. Please bring some evergreens from home, enough to share a little with other people. (Think about conifer of different shades, laurel, spotted laurel, ivy, cotoneaster etc.) Angela will bring basic wreaths and containers which we can buy from her, decorate them ourselves and then, may be, purchase extra ribbons or seasonal ornaments from her. She will do several demonstrations first, to give us ideas and then help out as we go along.

I do hope you enjoy the talks in 2014. If you are in doubt about coming then do give it a try – you may learn something new and you will certainly find a warm welcome and friendly atmosphere.

Dorothy



## Air Ambulance Coffee Morning

On April 26th we will be holding our annual fund raising coffee morning to raise funds for the north west air ambulance service. Please come along and help us raise vital funds for this service. The coffee morning will commence at 1000—12 noon at the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Council's Office on Church Street in Clitheroe. There will be the usual array of stalls including, plants, cakes, tombola and vintage jewellery.

Entrance is £1 including coffee and biscuit.

Please take donations (excluding cakes ) to the sales hut or to the March or April meetings.

Mary Alty is coordinating the vintage Jewellery stall, so please her know if you have any gems!



## Jobs for March .....

The helpful folk at the RHS recommend that these are some of the jobs we should be undertaking over the next couple of months .....

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and birds and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There is plenty to do indoors this month, all in preparation for the season ahead. Outdoors the garden is coming to life again, and its time to prune shrubs such as Wisteria.

### Suggestions for March :

Planting shallots, onions sets and early potatoes.

Protecting new spring shoots from slugs (easier said than done!).

Planting summer flowering bulbs.

Lifting and dividing perennials.

Top dressing containers with fresh compost.

Mowing the lawn (dry days only).

Cutting back Cornus and Salix.

Keeping on top of emerging weeds.

Feeding fish and using pond fountains.

Opening the greenhouse on warm days.

The website [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk) is a wealth of knowledge.

## Art in the Garden May 17th and 18th 2014

My parents, Philip and Joan Lord, opened Spring Bank House garden under the NGS several times over the decades. We have taken the plunge and decided to open the garden again this year.

Being a ceramic sculptor I have decided to combine my love of gardening with an art event over a weekend in May. In our first year we are opening around 4 of the 6 acre garden. There will be around 25 artists in marquees around the garden exhibiting and selling their work. There will be refreshments available and plants for sale

The woodland garden has a valley with a stream running through and a large collection of rhododendrons, magnolias and specialist trees. There are also herbaceous borders and lawns to keep on top of. Although not a manicured perfect garden it does have a beautiful spring array of colour and an interesting collection of plants. Some may know

of it from previous openings.

More details can be found at my website [www.cowarkpottery.co.uk/art-in-the-garden](http://www.cowarkpottery.co.uk/art-in-the-garden) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/artinthegarden](http://www.facebook.com/artinthegarden) .

We are busy building paths, spreading compost, clearing herbaceous borders and selecting artists...no time for the veg plot yet!

**Jan Lord, Spring Bank House,  
Cow Ark, BB7 3DG.**

## Seville Orange Marmalade

Home-made Seville orange marmalade with its sharp bitter taste over the sweetness of the sugar is delicious at breakfast or any other time of the day, but the Seville oranges are only available in January or February. To make 6-7 standard jam jars of the marmalade you will need:

1kg of Seville oranges, 2 kg of sugar, 1 lemon, and 1.5l water.

Measure the water into a large pan. Cut the oranges and the lemon into halves and squeeze them; add the juice to the pan. Put the pips and any bits of fruit clinging to the squeezer, on to a small square of muslin and tie it with string so that it can be

trailed in the liquid in the pan. The orange peel is cut into quarters and then each quarter is cut into thinnish shreds. Add the cut peel to the liquid in the pan, raise it to the boil and allow it to simmer for one and a half hours or until the peel is completely soft. Remove the muslin bag, allow it to cool and squeeze it over the pan, the liquid contains much of the pectin and helps the marmalade to set. At this point add the sugar to the pan, stir well to ensure that it is all dissolved, then bring the liquid back to a fast boil for 15 minutes. If it tends to froth add a ½ teaspoonful of butter to the pan. After the 15 minutes spoon a little of the marmalade on to a chilled saucer; put the saucer in the freezer compartment of the fridge for a few seconds then test by pushing the mixture with your finger: If it wrinkles, this is the sign that the marmalade will set; if not boil for a further 10 minutes and test again, repeating until it does wrinkle when tested.

Finally allow the marmalade to stand for 20minutes, and pour it into the jars and cover immediately. Store in a cool dark place, for a week or so, then hurry up and make some toast to try some! **Andrew Richards**

## Clitheroe Garden Club Membership 2014/15

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 2014/15 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](mailto:info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk)      [www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk](http://www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk)

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

## Gardening Talks at Ribblesdale Nurseries with Phil

### A series of talks designed to encourage and inspire...

All talks are held on Tuesday Evenings 7pm for 7.30pm prompt start, and cost £2 including refreshments.

Talks are by ticket only, and they are available via the following:

[www.ribblesdalenurseries.co.uk](http://www.ribblesdalenurseries.co.uk), phone 01772 863081 or from the nursery— Newsham Hall Lane, Woodplumpton, Preston, PR4 OAS.

March 4th—How and what to prune when

March 25th—Compost, secrets of success

April 1st—How best to plant seeds (workshop)

April 15th—Soft fruits for small gardens

May 6th- Going Potty!!

May 20th—Beautiful Baskets

June 3rd—Gardening the natural way

June 17th—Designing your border

July 1st—The value of vertical gardens

July 15th— Summer stunners

August 15th—Encouraging wildlife



**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 issue should be sent in by mid March to the above email address.***

