



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

No. 86

May 2014

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Welcome to another growing season

Well hasn't it been a wet and cold spring so far? Any hopes of getting ahead of the tasks in the garden and up at our allotment have faded somewhat with the downpours.

It has meant that the electric propagator has been getting plenty of use, and when combined with **some 'Jack's Magic' compost from the sales hut** and our seeds from the Thompson And Morgan order means that at present there is **barely a window sill in the house that isn't being used to bring on plants of one form or another.**

We hope that you too are progressing well with your planting and growing for the season ahead, and may choose like us to enter a few classes in **the annual garden club show in August. It's great fun, and Alex and her team are already working hard to make this year's show a super one. Please give it a try— and if you want any advice on how to grow the seeds that you've bought, just pop to the sales hut for some excellent (free) advice.**

Happy gardening! Kevin and Sophie

Items for the Newsletter should be emailed to sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk.



The Sales Hut

The Sales Hut is now open on Sundays between 1000—12 noon

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.

We are also selling local honey which can be a real help to local hay fever sufferers during the season too, as well as tasting great!

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.

See you at the hut,

Lawrie Ball and the hut team.



August Annual Show – Progress Report

This is my first year in charge of the Annual Show and believe it or not plans are already well advanced for this year. The date for your diary is Saturday 23 August 2014 and the venue, as usual, is **St James', C of E Primary School**. The judges are lined-up and prizes will be awarded by the new **Head at St James' school: Mrs F M Pattison**. The schedule for this year should be distributed at the same time as this newsletter. The format is similar to previous years – but, check out the changes, particularly those to the **children's classes**. **Nearer the time** I will be looking for volunteers to set up and/or dismantle the tables; man the door and the refreshments (half-hourly on a **rota**). **It's a daunting enterprise** but each year the membership pulls together and somehow it all turns out fine on the day (whatever the weather).

Alex Berry Show Secretary



Bottle Top Waterer



Recently I baby sat trays of seedlings for my good friend and ex boss, the infamous Bill Barker. He dropped the seedlings off along with a large pop bottle that had a screw on gadget connected to the top, called a Bottle Top Waterer! What a fantastic gadget! It's simply a rose that screws onto the top of a large plastic pop bottle. Watering all the seedlings became so easy. Such a gentle, fine spray drops onto the young tender plants, there's no chance of flattening them or splashing water all over the window ledge. How did I ever manage without one? Bill only had the one "waterer" as it had been a free gift attached to a gardening magazine. So, being extremely envious I conveniently forgot to give it back, however it wasn't long before he came looking for it! Since then my friend Lesley managed to find some in "Lakeland" and now I have a

whole pack of them! If you can't get to a Lakeland branch they can easily be found on the internet. Well worth it!
Laura Chadwick.

NGS Local Gardens

A couple of local gardens are open this summer as part of the NGS programme- why not pop along for some inspiration?

Varley Farm, Anna Lane, Forest Becks, Bolton-by-Bowland, Clitheroe, BB7 4NZ

1½-acre garden that's been developing from 2004. Varley Farm is 700ft above sea level with views across the Forest of Bowland and Pendle. Herbaceous lawned cottage garden, flagged herb garden and walled gravel garden, steps to orchard and organic kitchen garden. Stream and pond area planted in 2009 still maturing with a grassed walk through natural meadow and wild flower meadow

Open: Sat 19, Sun 20 July (11-4.30)

Great Mitton Hall, Mitton Road, Mitton, nr Clitheroe, BB7 9PQ

Overlooked by C12 Allhallows Church, with stunning views to the river and Pendle Hill the ter-

raced gardens with herbaceous borders, lawn, topiary and raised lily pond, sympathetically surround the medieval hall (not open)

Open: Sat 5, Sun 6 July (1-5)

Thoughts from the hut

An occasional column to share the knowledge of those who run the hut as no matter how many books about gardening you have on the shelf nothings beats a little local knowledge. Gardeners are a generous bunch and if they know something that will help a fellow grower they'll pass it on.

Did you know that gardeners of old would (allegedly) judge when the soil was warm enough to sow seeds by sitting on it with bare-faced cheeks? I'm not suggesting that you try this on West View allotments but those of you new to gardening in East Lancashire need to remember that we do have our very own climate which most national gardening writers are unaware of. Sometimes it's worth waiting for the weather to warm up a bit as plants don't like being cold and wet anymore than we do.

These are some of the jobs that the hut staff will be planning to do in April and May. Ted says he

will have planted all his perennials and will be preparing the ground ready for planting dahlias. Lawrie will be sowing peas in April once the ground is warm enough, if the soil is too cold the peas rot rather than grow, he makes a 2nd sowing of peas in May and recommends sowing thickly if you want enough to freeze. At the beginning of May he will be making indoor sowings of French and runner beans ready for planting out at the end of May. Although most people will have sown some brassicas there is still time to sow some more. There was some debate about sowing of beetroot and parsnips is it better to sow in trays and transplant or sow direct in the soil? Frances sows direct with great success but points out that the important thing with parsnips is to use fresh seed and not ones that you bought last year. And what shall I be doing in May? Well as usual going giddy with the courgettes and growing far more plants than I need. If you too find yourself with 17 courgette plants in May why not bring a few along to the hut as someone else bound to



5th May Speaker

Tom Luke, 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.

Community Planting Project

Some members of the Garden Club have volunteered to plant up a piece of land between the junction at Henthorn Road and Edisford Road. The site has been cleared of brambles and rubble by R V B C who have offered to deliver some topsoil. If you would like to be involved in our project please leave your name

and contact details with a committee member.

Thanks, Mary Alty.

Seed swap/ get growing at the library 17th May

Once again the library is planning to host a seed and plant swap event, at the time of writing the date has yet to be confirmed but will probably be 17th May. These events have proved very popular and successful in the past and I like to think that the club has encouraged people into gardening as well as raising awareness of the club and encouraging new members. If you would like to be involved on the day please contact me by email or telephone (01200427308).

It's a really nice sociable event, very friendly and if anybody does ask difficult gardening questions there are an awful lot of books to refer to!

Lesley.



Dale House Garden Visit

Nearly 30 club members enjoyed a visit to Dale House Garden in Goosnargh on 13th April. The garden is the work of owners Tom and Caroline Luke who inherited a garden of cinders and little else when they moved into the house 25 years ago, the cinders came courtesy of the nearby railway. Tom and Caroline are knowledgeable but very down to earth gardeners – Tom's greenhouse for cuttings would impress any of the West View allotmenters in it's construction and imaginative use of materials! We were all surprised to learn that it was unheated as it felt so warm but found it owed it's temperature to the use of bubble wrap and polystyrene insulation.

At this time of year the garden is fence to fence colour with what seems to be thousands of bulbs in bloom but there are also lots of perennials trees and shrubs. Tom also has some unusual plant species courtesy of his son who works at Kew Gardens and is able to take plants destined for the compost

heap. There is a large pond too with carp that don't seem to mind the presence of the crocodile (head only).

The day was dry but with a not so sneaky wind so we were grateful for the tea and scones at the end of the visit. No day out is complete without a retail opportunity and there was a good variety of quality plants for sale at very reasonable prices. Tom and Caroline open their garden several times a year as part of the NGS scheme, this year they are opening in April and June; Tom will also be our guest speaker at the May meeting.



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 www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Form received byMembership list updated by.....



ART in the GARDEN

17th and 18th May 2014

11am to 5pm



www.cowarkpottery.co.uk/
artinthegarden (Map online)



Spring Bank House, Whitewell Road,
Cow Ark, BB7 3DG

Find us: 0.7 miles from Browsholme Hall, 1.5 miles from Inn at Whitewell, 6 miles from Clitheroe, 7 miles from Longridge.



E3 adults, under 14 free

Explore over 4 acres of stunning woodland garden with over 30 artists in this beautiful setting

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Joanne Eddon | Vintage kimonos & silk scarves |
| Jane Bell | Patchwork and quilting |
| Sylvia Glover | Domestic ceramics and tableware |
| Pam Potter | Contemporary paintings |
| Ceris Jones | Figurative /landscape art |
| Jan Lord | Ceramic animal sculpture |
| Zylpha Thompson | Handmade fabric bags |
| Samantha Taylor | Unique wire and glass jewellery |
| Joan Bideau | Ceramic figurines/decorative |
| Ken Smith | Wooden bird carvings /bowls |
| Brenda Fee | Porcelaine tableware & art |
| Sally Anne Lambert | Cards, prints and stationary |
| David McKiddie | Lancashire oil paintings |
| Bill Barker | Native wood turned bowls |
| Jenny Eaton | Figurative ceramic sculpture |
| Pat Ellacott | Painting creatures great & small |
| Janet Park Stefan | Batik artist |
| Stephen Valentine | Ceramic sculpture and bowls |
| Heather Gillespie | Unique glass -blown and etched |
| Amy Daniels | Ceramic sculpture garden/home |
| Margaret Evans Fisher | Landscapes mixed media |
| Cassandra Batterby | Local pastel landscapes |
| John Rotherham | Animal portraits in pastel |
| Jo Whitehead | Decorative fused glass |
| Jane Mitchell | Hand drawn silk scarves/dresses |
| Stuart Mason | Oil portrait and animal paintings |
| Philippe Handford | Garden art and sculpture |
| Mal Williams | Art from antique cutlery |
| Diane Rowlinson | Iridescent fused glassware |
| John Owen | Wood turner native and exotic |
| Helen McGinn | Local town and landscape in oil |
| Lyn Pyatt | Etching/collagraph prints painting |
| Alan Rhodes | Master stonemason and carver |

www.facebook.com/artinthegarden

www.cowarkpottery.co.uk/artinthegarden

Refreshments and Plants for sale



Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the August issue should be sent in by mid June to the above email address.

