



Hon. President  
George Cowgill

# The Newsletter

## No. 88

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## So autumn's here...

Well hasn't it been a fantastic growing year? As we write this, the leaves are falling on the castle field, and the signs are up advertising the annual town bonfire, autumn is in the air...

It's a super time of year, reflecting on growing successes over the past year, and having big bonfires of leaves and twigs all part of the tidy-up before winter truly arrives. There is a welcoming smell of wood smoke in the air, and shortly it'll be time once more to start feeding the birds in our garden, already the wren and robin are regular visitors, and the other evening a barn owl enjoyed the view from up on our chimney pots.

We are looking forward to perusing all the seed catalogues and planning what we might try for next year, with inspiration from some of the fabulous entries from this year's annual show.

We'd like to thank Noel and Charles and their team who do such a wonderful job of delivering the newsletter— keep on pedalling chaps!

Wishing you a wonderful winter and festive season to come.

Happy gardening! **Kevin and Sophie**

Please email items for the Newsletter to  
**sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk.**



## The Sales Hut

The onset of autumn and September saw very slack trade this year at the hut. Normally members stock up on compost and other items to see them through the winter, but this didn't seem to happen this year. No two years are ever alike and it is difficult to forecast trends and what the members want the hut to stock. Feedback would be appreciated so that the hut does continue to keep what members want.

Sales of plants and sundries were kept at a healthy level through the season, so the moral of one man's unwanted piece is always just what someone else is looking for. The balance sheet will show an average year at the hut but members will have to keep up their input as this can change if one takes one's eye off the ball.

If plans unfold members should see a new storage shed on site for 2015. Volunteers may be called upon to help with the removal and re-build of the new structure.

All-in-all a good weather year which I hope has re-invigorated members as they study their seed catalogues. Having mentioned seeds don't forget the 50% discount seed offer from Thompson & Morgan organized by Trevor Mitchell. Ring 01200 425234 for details, catalogues and order form.

Thanks to all who gave their time on Sunday mornings manning the hut especially to Marion Fisher who is standing down as cashier after many years of service. We owe her our thanks.

Have a good winter.

**Lawrie Ball, The Sales Hut.**

## Show Report

Firstly a sincere 'Thank you' to all those too numerous to mention (26 of you!) who helped make the show the club's highlight of the year. The unseasonable August had severely affected the number of entries so many classes did not have even three entries. In all there were 40 adult entrants but only 4 children

In addition to the entries of fruit, flowers, plants, vegetables, cookery, photography and handicrafts there was also an amazing display of bonsais by the Accrington Bonsai Society. Clitheroe's own Transition Town was also represented, displaying literature as well as their popular Apple Press which is available to borrow for a small contribution.

Clitheroe's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jim Shervey, his wife Jen and family, were among the many visitors. We did not count but estimate well in excess of 100 came. I hope those who attended enjoyed themselves – I was really too busy to notice!

As usual the show was held at St James' C of E Primary school in Clitheroe and this year the trophies were presented by the new head teacher, Mrs Fiona Pattison. Among the 30 cups and trophies awarded was the prestigious Banksian medal given to Jane Garner who gained the most points in the horticultural sections



of the show. This award from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is named after the botanist and plant hunter Sir Joseph Banks. The President's Award, in recognition of Services to the Club, was awarded to Marion Fisher - the unsung heroine of the West View Allotments Sales Hut. Proceeds from the Auction of Produce at the end of show raised funds of £34.10 for the school.

Entry to the show was free but the cost was offset by the sale of raffle tickets (net £128 - after prizes) and refreshments with the ever popular home-made cakes making over £115! Taking all costs (hire of hall, Judges expenses, prize money etc.) into account the Treasurer (aka my

spouse Ian) reports the net cost of show as £240; a bargain.

Next year's show date - 22/29 August 2015 to be confirmed.

**Alex Berry - Show Secretary**



## September Talk

At our first meeting of the season we had a fascinating talk on the work of WaterAid who do an incredible job of bringing clean water and sanitation to people in the third world. Chris Wilcock is obviously passionate about his work for this organisation and I think all who attended the talk went away with a new appreciation of the difficulties encountered by millions of people across the world, people who must walk miles every day to collect water from rivers and even muddy puddles because that is their only source of water. This work is done in the main by women and also young girls who miss out on their schooling to do it. How lucky we are to get safe clean water at the turn of a tap.

Along with his fee for the talk, profits from the raffle and the £40 Mary Alty raised selling the jam she had made as well as donations from members, we were able to give WaterAid a donation of £125.

Mary Alty received a letter on behalf of the club thanking us for our donation, and it outlined the impact that donations like ours will have on girls in rural community's like Nepal.

You can find out more about the work of wateraid and their campaigns from their websites:

[www.tobeagirl.org](http://www.tobeagirl.org) and  
[www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)

**The 3rd of December talk is by Angela and Phil Dunnett,**

**Make your own Christmas Evergreen Arrangements.**

## Jobs for November

Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds

Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging

Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year

Prune roses to prevent wind-rock

Plant out winter bedding

Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem

Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well

Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks

Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden

Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting

# Berries and cream jelly recipe

Francis recommends this recipe from Essentials Magazine as a perfect pudding for any time of the year, and especially at Christmas time as it looks very festive!

You will need:

135g pack of raspberry jelly,

100g of each raspberries and Blueberries,

600ml single cream, 100g icing sugar

1 tsp vanilla paste, and 5 leaves of gelatine, soaked in cold water.

Make up the jelly to 450ml. Put the raspberries and blueberries into a 2lb loaf tin and pour over the jelly. Pop in the freezer until set (about 1 hour).

Warm half the cream with the icing sugar and vanilla paste. Squeeze out the gelatine leaves and stir into the warm cream until dissolved. Mix the remaining cream and pour the mixture on top of the set jelly. Leave to set in the fridge until firm and wobbly to the touch (about 4 hours).

Dip the mould into a bowl of hot water for a few seconds to loosen, then hold a plate over the top and invert. Give it a firm shake and wait until the jelly 'plops' onto the plate. Carefully remove the tin and serve.



## More of Mary's helpful ideas for gardening organically.

### Elder Spray:

This kills small caterpillars and aphids and is useful as a fungicide for mildew and black spot on roses. The toxic agent is hydrocyanic acid, so use an old pan to prepare the spray. Gather 1lb of the leaves and young stems of elder, preferably in the spring when the sap is rising. Place in the pan and add 6 pt water. Boil for half an hour, topping up as necessary. Strain through old tights and use the liquid cold and undiluted. It will keep for three months if bottled tightly whilst still hot (don't forget to label the bottle). Twigs of elder, cut in the spring and placed at intervals, inverted V-wise, over early turnip rows are said to ward off attack by flea beetles.

### Human male urine:

Not for the squeamish, but used neat, this makes an effective winter wash for soft and top fruit. To treat gooseberry mildew, use 1 pt urine to 7 pt hot water into which 3oz washing soda and 1 oz soap flakes have been dissolved. Spray when cool.

### Bicarbonate of Soda:

Add 1/8 oz sodium bicarbonate to 1 3/4 pt water to treat mildew.

### Milk:

The dilution used by home gardeners is 1 part milk to 2 - 3 parts water. The solution is then sprayed on the plant's leaves every 10-14 days. It works best as a preventative.

## The Seed order.

Trevor Mitchell ( 425234) has the Thompson and Morgan Seed Catalogues available once more for members who would like to take advantage of up to 50% of the price of seeds, and healthy discounts on plants and sundries.

You can get some super bargains, (and of course bring any surplus down to the sales hut!).

Please contact Trevor to arrange to access the catalogue.

### All orders ( with payment) need to be with Trevor no later than 20th December.

You must include the common name (or description name) on your order form to assist with successful repatriation once the order has been delivered in early spring 2015.

# Clitheroe Garden Club New Year Meal

## Wednesday 28th January 2015, 6.00pm for 6.30pm at

### La Vespa 78-82 Whalley Road, Clitheroe

The full cost of the meal is £16.50. Next to each menu option please state the number of people making that choice. Please send your cheque, made out to Clitheroe Garden Club, by Wednesday 3rd December to Ian Berry, 2 Higher Standen Hey Farm, Whalley Road, Clitheroe, BB7 1PP or pay at the December meeting.

Name ..... Tel .....

Address.....

#### **Starters**

**Melon** with exotic fruits and a fruit coulis

**Salmone Affumicato** - Scottish smoked salmon with sliced red onions drizzled with extra virgin olive oil and fresh lemon.

**Calamari Fritti** - Deep fried baby squids accompanied with salad leaves and home-made tartare sauce.

**Funghi All' Aglio** - Fresh button mushrooms sautéed in garlic and white wine with a touch of fresh chilli.

**Zuppa Del Giorno** - Homemade soup served with homemade crusty bread.

**Polpette Al Ragù** - Homemade beef meatballs cooked with fresh peas and tomato sauce served with homemade bread.

#### **Main courses**

**Lasagna Al Forno**— Egg pasta in Bolognese and Béchamel sauce.

**Pollo Vesuvio**— Chicken breast, rolled and filled with asparagus and pancetta, and cooked with peppers, fresh chilli, tomato sauce and a touch of garlic.

**Salmon Aurora** - Scottish Salmon in garlic and white wine, topped with baby prawns with a touch of tomato and cream.

**Vitello Alla Siciliana** - Tender escalopes of veal pan fried with the famous Marsala wine from Sicily.

**Risotto Alle Verdure** - Risotto with fresh garden vegetables. **V**

#### **Desserts (Coffee included)**

**Homemade Tiramisu**      **Homemade Fruit Salad**      **Mixed Italian Ice cream**

# Help needed at St James' Eco - Garden

**Dear Gardeners**

Here at St James' C of E we have a wonderful eco-garden where the children grow plants and vegetables and get a chance to get muddy and see where food comes from. The children have the pleasure of planting and watching things grow. They learn about their environment and the needs of plants and animals in our environment. Unfortunately we do not use this space as much as we would like. This is mainly due to a lack of adults with gardening experience who could help the children get so much more out of this amazing space. We do have two retired volunteers who come and help keep the area tidy and nurtured. However we need some experts to help us get the most out of our space. We would ask that if any of you have any free time to come and help the children in the garden then we would be more than grateful. You don't have to come every week, even a one off hour would be great. You would work with the children and teachers sharing your love of gardening and expertise.

If any of you feel you would be able to help our school and would like more information please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

My e-mail address is **head@st-james.lancs.sch.uk**

Kind Regards

**Mrs Fiona Pattison**  
**Head teacher**  
**St James' C of E**

**Clitheroe**



**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 February issue should be sent in by early January to the above email address.***

