



Hon. President  
George Cowgill

# The Newsletter

## No. 90

### May 2015

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Well despite the rain, it is starting to feel like summer is just around the corner. The seeds that we ordered back in the winter are now growing strongly into seedlings, and as always we are excited about eating our first home grown tomatoes of the year, and whilst that may be a little way off, why not try the soup recipe ( page 5)after a morning spent tending your plot?

**The club really does need more people getting involved.** The Sales Hut is staffed every Sunday morning during the season and Sandra and the team are always delighted to see new faces— so please do get involved, or next season we will be without.

Alex (our show secretary) is also imploring people to come forward to assist at the show **on 22nd August**, and encouraging everyone to have a go and enter a class this year. **Last year some classes only had 2 or 3 entries**—so you could be a winner! It is great fun, and last year when our patty pan squash came second in the 'any other vegetable class', we were as pleased as punch!

**Please do send in articles, recipes and photos** for inclusion in the magazine, we'd love to see what grows well here in the Ribble Valley.

Happy gardening! **Kevin and Sophie**

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

## The Sales Hut

Business has been brisk at the Sales Hut and the display of spring flowers has been wonderful.

All the usual garden sundries are in stock plus a good assortment of plants. A big thank you to members who donate plants including their own raised seedlings, this really does help.

Do come along on Sunday mornings between 1000-1200 even if you only want a chat or some advice.

Many thanks to Trevor who has worked very hard on the ordering and keeping prices as low as possible.

Thanks are also due to the rest of the team who have been turning up regularly every Sunday morning to keep things running smoothly. They have all done a fantastic job including our two new lady volunteers—Chris Fawcett and Linda Hailstone.

We are now seriously in need of male volunteers if only to stop George saying that the hut has been taken over by woman!

There will be some disruption at the hut in August when builders will be working on replacing the shed which stores all the compost etc.

But the sales hut will be open for business as usual right through August so please do keep calling in.

**Sandra Evans, Chairlady.**

## Two Farewells

We have recently said 'Goodbye and Good Luck' to Lawrie and Norah as they seek their fortune in pastures new in the South West. They were both active in running of the Garden Club over many years and personally will be much missed. Lawrie, particularly, was the mainstay of the Sales Hut overseeing ordering and delivery of composts, fertilizers and garden requisites; the plant sales that he developed raised much funds for the Club. His role extended much further than this and he will be a difficult act to follow.

Carol Hill and her husband Geoff are moving to Cornwall to be nearer family. Carol, with Elizabeth, was Membership Secretary until Brenda Fenton took over last year. Carol was also a stalwart in selling raffle tickets and contributing to the Club's fund raising at the Coffee mornings for the North West Air Ambulance.

**Please do get in touch  
with a committee member  
if you have time to spare**

## as a volunteer to keep the club going (and growing).

### Open Gardens

On Sunday 12th July between 1400 –1700, three members will be opening their gardens for other members to visit.

They are Beverley and Tony Cooper of 28, Peel Park Avenue, Sandra And Mike Evans just around the corner at 23 Claremont Avenue,. Eleanor Friend of 32 Siddows Avenue will also be welcoming visitors.

We are making this very informal, there will be no entrance fee and we shall be serving soft drinks rather than the usual tea and cake.

The garden owners will be on hand to identify plants (where possible!) and there will be plenty of seats for sitting and chatting. Lets hope for lovely sunny weather...

### National Garden Scheme Open Gardens

The NGS open garden season is upon us and from now until September members of the public are able to visit a wide variety of private gardens and allotments which open in aid of charity. The gardens are very varied in nature and size ranging from average suburban size to those requiring

sit upon mowers, there are also several allotment sites and group openings. Local gardens new to the scheme this year are Ribbles-ton Library near Preston which is a community garden and Browsholme Hall. The closest NGS gardens to Clitheroe are Waddow Lodge in Waddington and Casa Largo in Whalley (pictured from ngs website). All the gardens in the scheme provide a lovely afternoon out and most importantly really good cakes! All money raised from the scheme goes to charity and last year 10 charities benefited from the £2.5million raised.

For more information on opening dates and times of gardens in the scheme go to the website [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) or see the yellow booklet -we have a few at the club hut.



## Update to membership details

First of all a correction to contact details of two committee members as shown on the current membership card.

The telephone number for Sandra Evans is 01200 422818

The telephone number for Mary Alty is 01200 422629

In recent years we have used email to keep members informed of events that may be of interest to them or to remind them about club activities and generally members seem to find it helpful. If you would like to be on the e mailing list please send your email address to me at

[lesleyontheplot@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyontheplot@gmail.com)

needless to say the information is not shared with any other parties.

## Annual Show – Saturday 22 August 2015

You should be receiving the Schedule for the Annual Show with this distribution of the Newsletter. The format has not changed significantly since last year but check out the changes to the Floral Art, the Photographic Titles and, of course, the Children's section where this year we give guidance on creating an artistic glass vase entry or a design for a T-shirt. Accrington and District Bonsai Society will be there too displaying some of their fine trees again. As usual Alex will be looking for volunteers on the day

(and set-up on Friday) - last year there were 26 of you who chipped in to make it a success. But don't forget we also need lots of entries too so get busy planting now!



## Air Ambulance Coffee Morning

We raised £377 for North West Air Ambulance at the coffee morning held on 18th April and attended by Val Cooper the Mayor of Clitheroe. Once again club members were very generous providing a large selection of plants and cakes to sell as well as tombola prizes and jewellery.

Iris Gregson made an amazing chocolate cake (pictured) for a guess the weight competition. A big thank you to everybody who supported the event and for all the donations.



## Spring herb soup with goat's cheese. (serves 4)

- 1 leek; roughly chopped and washed
- 1 medium onion, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 small bulb of fennel, roughly chopped
- A good knob of butter,
- 2 tsp flour
- 1.2 litres of vegetable stock
- 20g flat parsley, stalks and leaves separated
- 20g basil, stalks and leaves separated
- 20g chevril , stalk and leaves separated
- 150g soft goats cheese
- A few sprigs of basil or chevril to garnish.

In a pan with the lid on gently cook the leek, onion and fennel in the butter without colouring until soft. Add the flour , stir well then gradually add the vegetable stock. Bring to the boil, add the herb stalks and some salt and freshly ground black pepper and simmer gently for 30 minutes. Add the herb leaves and blend in a liquidiser until smooth then drain through a fine-meshed sieve. The goat's cheese can be spooned into the hot soup or blended in at the same time as the herbs. Float a spring of chevril or basil leaf on each bowl.

You can serve this soup hot or cold depending on the weather. You can vary the herbs but stay clear of strong, overpowering ones like coriander and tarragon as they will dominate the delicate balance of the herby flavours.



## Things to do in the garden in June from the helpful RHS people.

June 21 is the longest day of the year, and the extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. But this extra light and warmth also means weeds will sprout up from seemingly nowhere. Keep on top of them by hoeing regularly in dry conditions.

Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas

Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes

Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes

Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside

Mow lawns at least once a week

Plant out summer bedding Gaps in herbaceous borders are best filled with annual bedding at this stage in the season.

It is not too late to direct sow a few fast growing, late-flowering hardy annuals such as *Calendula*, *Godetia* and *Clarkia*.

Stake tall or floppy plants Spreading and trailing plants, can become tatty and patchy. Trimming them back after flow-

ering encourages fresh growth and new flowers.

Cut back dead bulb foliage if not done already. It is important to wait until the foliage dies down naturally, as cutting back too early can lead to blindness next year.

Cutting back clumps of spring-flowering perennials can encourage a fresh flush of foliage.

Cut back and deadhead Oriental poppies after flowering. Cutting them right back to ground level will stimulate growth of fresh new foliage, and perhaps even some new blooms. Mulching and feeding will help to support this new growth.

Perennials that are showing new shoots from the crown can still be propagated via basal stem cuttings.

Take cuttings from garden pinks (*Dianthus*). They can be pulled off the parent plant by pulling with thumb and forefinger while holding a suitable non-flowering shoot four pairs of leaves from the tip. Treat as softwood cuttings.

Prune many spring-flowering shrubs

Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch

## Mary's organic fertilizers.

As many of the members using the Sales Hut may know, Mary is a font of knowledge for growing all things organically, below she shares her thoughts on fertilizers.

**Blood, fish and bone meal:** This contains all the major nutrients, and the nitrogen content is released quickly.

**Bone meal :** A slow activating fert containing mainly phosphorous and a little nitrogen.

**Dried animal manure:** Contains only a trace of major nutrients , but a full range of trace elements– use in small quantities only.

**Dried blood :** A fast acting nitrogenous fert, to use when plants need a quick boost during summer.

**Fish meal:** contains nitrogen and phosphorous.

**Hoof and horn:** releases nitrogen slowly.

**Liquid animal manures:** contain a small amount of all major nutrients plus a full range of trace elements.

**Liquid sea weed:** a useful amount of nitrogen and potassium but only a trace of phosphorous. Supplies trace elements and growth hormones.

**Sea weed meal:** contains all major nutrients plus many minor ones and trace elements. A good all round fert best applied when the soil is warm.

**Wood ash:** supplies a useful amount of potassium and phosphorous. Use immediately before it gets rained on.

**Garden compost and animal manures** improve the soil structure and maintain soil fertility.



## Coach Trip to Gardeners' World Live.

At the NEC Birmingham, on Sunday 14th June.

£28 per person.

Leaving Clitheroe interchange by coach at 0800,

Returning from Birmingham at 1600.

Please include me in this outing. I will require ..... tickets.

I'm enclosing a cheque for £..... To cover the cost.

My cheque is made payable to Clitheroe Garden Club.

My full details are:

Full name (s) .....

Address.....

Postcode.....Phone number.....

Date .....

Please return to Mary Alty,

65 Riverside, Clitheroe, BB7 2NS

As soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

It'll be a grand day out! - see the last newsletter for information on what's on at the show.



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

