



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

No. 91

August 2015

In this issue:

1. Welcome
2. It's show time!
3. Club meetings
4. Gardeners
World and RHS
Harlow Carr
5. Courgette muf-
fins recipe.
6. Things to do in the
garden.
7. Open Gardens
8. Open Gardens
continued. .



At last the great British summer is here— and in Ribble Valley that means gardening this year in between the showers wearing shorts and a hat with your wellies!

We hope that all this super rain helps us grow a bumper crop and maybe an item or two that is worth entering in this year's show.

As always don't forget that the hut is open during the summer months, so do pop down for a bargain or three to fill any gaps you might have in your borders, and for a chat or some advice on growing techniques.

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, in our next edition we hope to include some recipes for autumn fruit and vegetables, so please do get in touch if you've any to share.

Happy gardening! **Kevin and Sophie**

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

Annual Show – Saturday 22 August 2015

IT'S SHOW TIME

This year's Annual Show is on Saturday 22 August NOT on the Bank Holiday Weekend as in previous years; hopefully this will mean those of you who have other commitments on a holiday weekend will be able to make it this year.

The weather this year has been nothing if not unpredictable and, as a gardener, I know you may not know until the last minute whether you have suitable quality entries so note that I shall be accepting last minute entries at the Sales Hut on Thursday 20 August from 6pm - 7pm. This worked well last year especially for those who cannot find my home address!

You should have already received the Schedule for the Annual Show with the last 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.

Those of you who were cup-winners last year should return your POLISHED cups ready for this year's presentation to the Sales Hut on Sunday mornings by 9 August please.

And finally a request for volunteers to help set up on the Friday afternoon; one hour (muscle required) and for a whole list of big and small jobs on the day from Stewarding in the morning; raffle ticket sales and teas in the afternoon to clearing up at the end of day. Last year more than 50 people contributed - many hands make light work..

Alex Berry, Show Secretary.

A few photos to inspire you...





Return of the Monthly meetings

After a horribly cold and dry spring I can't quite believe that I'm typing this sitting on my allotment in shorts and t shirt at 8o'clock on a lovely sunny evening. We may not have had the consistently sunny days that Wimbledon enjoyed but at least it's been warm since midsummers day . Harder still to believe that the monthly meetings will be resuming in a few weeks when Ken Green will give a talk entitled " Gardening for Wildlife". Having finally established a pond this year with tadpoles and eventually very small frogs I'll be interested to hear what else I can do to encourage and help local wildlife.

The meeting will be on 2nd September starting at 7.30pm and as usual the venue is Ribblesdale Wanderers Cricket Club, Brownlow Street.

October 7th—Tim Smith

Spring Bulbs.

November 4th—Michelle Martin

Expanding small gardens—The Chinese Way

December 2nd—Bob Sanderson

The Winter Garden

Hope to see you there

Lesley.



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).

Club visit to Gardeners World Exhibition NEC

About 30 club members enjoyed a visit on 14th June to see the Gardeners World Exhibition at the NEC Birmingham. The trip was organised by Mary Alty and as a group we enjoyed very favourable ticket prices plus the benefit of being driven from Clitheroe to Birmingham by coach.

The gardening exhibition was extensive with show gardens in the outdoor area plus the RHS floral pavilion and obviously numerous opportunities for retail therapy with plants, bulbs, seeds and general gardening paraphernalia for sale. For those quick off the mark there was the chance to hear talks from several presenters of the Gardeners World programme (tickets went quickly, especially for Monty) There was also a variety of other talks and demonstrations on a wide range of gardening topics.

The Gardeners World exhibition runs alongside the Good Food exhibition so when we had tired of the great outdoors we could retire to the kitchen and buy/taste lots of nice foods to accompany our home grown veg and even better lots of nice drinks to wash them all down.

All in all a good day made better by a fair bit of sunshine which always makes the Pimms taste better!

Thanks to Mary for organising the day.

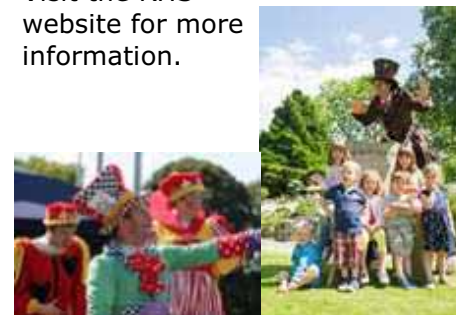
RHS Harlow Carr Summer Events.

There are some lovely Alice in Wonderland themed events on at Harlow Carr this summer, between 25 July–31 August

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, with Wonderland-inspired outdoor activities, trails and craft workshops – there's something new every week. Plus every Sunday (11am–4pm) you can relax with live music near Bettys Teahouse in the Garden – perfect for a lazy family afternoon
Garden trail- Daily, 9.30am–6pm
Someone has stolen the tarts belonging to the Queen of Hearts. Follow the White Rabbit's directions around Wonderland, collecting the stolen tarts on your way. Things might be curious, confusing or even complete nonsense - it's up to you to decide.

Tuesdays—Storytelling Sessions – 11am–3pm -Inspired by the magical adventures of Alice, our storyteller will be here every Tuesday to tell tales at the Madhatter's tea party table. Feel free to drop by throughout the day.

Visit the RHS website for more information.



Courgette and Tomato Muffins (makes 6 large))

150g self raising wholemeal flour

1/4 tsp baking powder

40g sunflower spread

1/2 tsp dried herbs de Provence

85g courgettes, coarsely grated

2 spring onions chopped very finely

40g half-fat strong mature cheddar cheese, finely grated

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1 large egg, beaten

125ml skimmed milk

6 small cherry tomatoes, halved.

Preheat the oven to 190c / fan 170c/ gas mark 5.

Line 6 cups of a muffin tin with paper muffin cases , set aside .

Combine the flour and baking powder in a bowl, lightly rub in sunflower spread until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Stir in dried herbs, courgettes, spring onions, cheese and a couple of grinds of black pepper. Add egg and milk stirring gently to mix well, don't over mix as this may result in heavy muffins.

Spoon mixture into the prepared muffin cups, dividing it evenly. Top each muffin with 2 tomato halves , cut side up , pressing them in lightly.

Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes or until risen , golden brown and firm to the touch. Transfer to a wire rack. Serve warm or cold.

Best eaten on the day of making, or store in an air tight container and eaten within 2 days Best reheated and served warm. Can be frozen for up to 1 month, defrost and serve warm.

Fran recommends these as a method for tackling your courgette glut!

Things to do in the garden in August from the helpful RHS people.

August is usually one of the hottest months of the year - making watering essential. Try to use grey water wherever possible, especially as water butts may be running low if it has been a dry summer. August is traditionally holiday-time, so you might need to enlist the help of friends and family to look after the garden while you are away. When you are at home, take the time to prune summer-flowering shrubs.

Top 10 jobs this month

1 Prune Wisteria

2 Don't delay summer pruning restricted fruits

3 Deadhead flowering plants regularly

4 Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater

5 Collect seed from favourite plants

6 Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready

7 Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries

8 Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners

9 Keep ponds and water features topped up

10 Feed the soil with green manures

Houseplants

Water houseplants freely when they are in growth.

Feed plants when necessary, usually once every one to two weeks with a liquid feed.

Cyclamen that have been resting over the summer can be started back into growth for winter blooms. Watering and careful replacement of the top layer of compost should be sufficient to 'wake' them.

Hyacinths, 'Paperwhite' daffodils, freesias, and *Lachenalia* corms can be planted in bowls now to achieve flowers for Christmas. Once they have put on 2.5cm (1in) growth, they can be taken into a cool room, only to be brought into a warm room in time to flower for the festive period. Bulbs sold as 'prepared' can be forced by plunging the planted bowls in a cold, dark place for a few months, then bringing them straight inside to flower.

Propagation

Pinks and carnations can be propagated by layering. Propagate irises by dividing the rhizomes if not done last month. Propagate perennials by dividing once they have finished flowering.

OPEN GARDENS - A GREAT SUCCESS



At a committee meeting in 2014, Chairperson Sandra said that some sort of social event ought to be organised for members, to be held in the Summer of 2015. At Beverley's suggestion it was agreed that members be asked to open their gardens for fellow members, friends and relatives to visit. As a consequence of hearing club member Chris Wilcock speak about the charity 'Water Aid' at the September 2014 meeting, it was decided that rather than charge for admission, visitors to the gardens be requested to make a donation to the charity. The event was fixed for Sunday 12th July.

In the event, four members agreed to open their gardens– Beverley & Tony Cooper (Beverley could hardly refuse having suggested the idea), Sandra & Mike Evans, Eleanor Friend and John & Margaret Gornall. As the date for the proposed event approached I suspect that more than one participant began to wonder what they had let themselves in for. The nonchalant "you will have to take us as you find us" was really only a cover for the many hours of planting, pruning, tidying and cleaning that went into the preparations prior to, and even on the morning of the day itself.

The day dawned – dull and overcast and with the threat of some scattered showers. As the opening time of 2 o'clock approached it was still cloudy, but by quarter past the clouds began to part and soon it turned into a lovely sunny afternoon. Although no counts were made, the hosts estimated that some 30 people visited the gardens. Without exception, all the visitors were appreciative of the four very different gardens and showed great interest in the plants. As usual, when husbands were asked "what is that", they responded, "you will have to ask my wife". The club and hosts are very grateful to those members who supported this event and also supported the charity by generous-

ly donating a total of £112.27 for this very worthwhile cause.

And no, the hosts were not left out; they visited one another's gardens later in the week. Will they do it again? The memories of all that hard work are still too close at the moment.

"A Garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever"!



Be inspired—next summer it could be your garden.....



Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the November issue should be sent in by mid September to the above email ad-

