



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

No. 92

November
2015

In this issue:

1. Welcome
2. Show report
3. Club meetings /
Raspberry Vinegar Recipe
4. John the Bee
Keeper
5. Beekeeping
cont'd/ Help needed.
6. Breezy Knees garden
7. Jobs for the month
8. Annual New Year
Meal



So we are now in this wonderful season of autumn—and what a super reason for a great bonfire (after first checking for hedgehogs), to clear up the old cuttings and dead wood from the summer season.

After another great annual show, Alex is standing down as show secretary so in order for the show to continue we need 2 new volunteer coordinators, and Frances is also retiring as speakers secretary will you get involved in running our club? Please get in touch with a committee member if you'd like to get involved, either at the show, meetings or hut and in other club activities.

Don't forget that there is the usual opportunity to buy yourself an early Christmas gift through the offers we have with Thompson and Morgan—Tony has all the details—don't miss out, seeds, plants and sundries!

Please do send in articles, recipes and photos for inclusion in the newsletter, we'd love to see what grows well here in the Ribble Valley, in our next edition we hope to include some recipes for winter vegetables, so please do get in touch if you've any to share.

Happy gardening, and if it's not too early a wonderful festive season to you and those you hold dear !

Kevin and Sophie

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

The Annual Show Report.

The gardeners of Ribble Valley produced a fine display for the Club's Annual Show in August. The vegetable entries were more sparse than usual because of the poor summer weather but luckily they were compensated for by high quality entries from the residents of Thistle Manor who entered for the first time this year. There was also the usual excellent display of Bonsais by the Accrington Bonsai Society and a small display from Water Aid the Charity who gave a talk to the Club last season.

We continue to hold the show at St James' C of E Primary school. Clitheroe Town's Mayor, Sue Knox, presented the prizes. The Banksian medal winner was Eddie Moorcroft and the President's Award for services to the club was awarded to Frances Cullen, Speaker's secretary and a regular helper at the Sales Hut.

This was my last year running the show. **The Committee is therefore looking for people to take over for 2016.** I am available to help, of course, mindful of the assistance which my own predecessor, Trevor Mitchell, has given me for the last two shows. Thanks too to all those who helped in many ways to make this year's show a success. You know who you are!

(Photos descriptions)

1 Accrington and District Bonsai Society's fine display

2 Eddie Moorcroft receiving the prestigious Banksian Medal from the Mayor

3 A young Prize-winner!

Alex



Monthly meetings

A quick reminder

December Meeting

Don't forget the meeting on December 2nd when Bob Sanderson will talk about "The Winter Garden". Bob has over 40 years experience in gardening and together with his wife Cath runs Caths Garden Plants at The Walled Garden, Heaves in the South Lakes. They have been consistent medal winners at Tatton, Harrogate and Chelsea so this is a great opportunity to listen to an experienced plantsman. This will be the last speakers meeting until March 2016.

No January speaker.

AGM 3rd February

The committee think that we should be able to have a bit of fun at the AGM and so has arranged a quiz and pie'n'peas evening for 3rd February. Tickets for food (there will be a veggie option) will be £2.50 and if you would like to join in then please contact any committee member for tickets between now and 24th January. I know there are a lot of sleeps between now and then but this will be the last newsletter before the AGM hence the very advanced warning.

Obviously the AGM is open to all members regardless of whether you want to have food, it is anticipated that we will have the AGM first and then food and a quiz. As is usual at the AGM the bar will be open.

Fantastic savings on Thompson and Morgan seeds

New members (and maybe some not so new) may not be aware that as a club we are able to order seeds from Thompson and Morgan at an amazing discount of up to 50% of the catalogue price. Plants and sundry items are also available at discount. For order forms and catalogues please contact Trevor Mitchell (tel 425234). Order forms need to be returned to Trevor by 15th December, please put plant names as well as catalogue numbers on the order forms –it makes it easier to unite orders and orderers.

Hope to see you there

Lesley.

Noel and Elaine's Recipe for Raspberry Vinegar

1lb raspberries. to 1 pt vinegar. Leave standing 10 to 14 days, stirring every day. Strain, to 1pt of liquid add 1 lb of sugar boil 20 mins until clear. Bottle.

Delicious with Yorkshire pudding and gravy, good on pan-cakes too.



John The Bee Keeper's seasonal jottings.

Now winter is nearly here, this is the time we all start planning for next year and it is always going to be better than this year. I am not talking about gardening, but my hobby of beekeeping. Just as in gardening, the workload is reducing now and we all start to think about the things we need to do during the winter to make a successful coming year.

The beekeeping year actually starts in September. This is the time the beekeeper needs to ensure the honeybees he looks after are supplied with enough food to get them through the winter months. They will not be able to collect nectar or pollen from November to January and have to rely on the surplus they have stored in the honeycomb and if we steal too much for us to eat, they will not survive so we must not be greedy.

This year has seen some very stop/start weather all around the country and the latest reports from nearly every County are that there is very little honey surplus this year because of this. I know that is certainly the case for me because my crop is only around 40% of what I usually get. I have made sure I have left enough for my bees to eat during the cold months.

Honeybees do not hibernate in the winter as do wasp and bumblebee queens. It is unlikely that you will find a hibernating bumblebee queen but not unusual to come across a hibernating queen wasp. They will find a dry spot out of draughts in your shed or greenhouse and attach themselves by the jaws to a piece of wood or cardboard. If you pick them up they appear dried up and dead but if you hold them in your hand for a few moments, they begin to move and may sting you so be aware of this.

The honeybee colony in the hive box forms a cluster which expands and contracts depending on the temperature outside the hive. In very cold weather the cluster will be very tight and on warmer days this will open up and the bees will consume the stores in the honeycombs closest to them. During the season the cluster moves across the hive following the food and this is something the beekeeper must watch for because if the colony becomes isolated from the food and they are chilled, their blood sugar levels drop and they do not have the energy to get to the food and can starve even although the food is only a few inches away. The pattern of our winters nowadays has meant that the bees have been active for perhaps a week when the weather has been mild, the queen has begun to lay a few eggs and the weather has gone bitterly cold again. The natural instinct for the bees is to cluster tightly around the brood nest area with the queen to maintain the temperature for the babies and after a few days of

this they will have used up all the stores close to them and then perish. Honeybees always share everything so they generally all die around the same time.

The forage for bees comes to an end during October. Our honeybees only ever used to have the late flowering ivy as the last crop but nowadays they also have the Himalayan Balsam. This invasive plant which has become the scourge of our river banks has been a blessing for insects, especially bees and wasps. If you get the chance to look at some you will see the bees coming out looking like their backs are white. This is the huge amount of pollen being deposited on them by the plant while the bee is sucking up the nectar. When they get back to the hive they can also clean off the pollen to pack away in the cells to help feed the new babies in the spring.

I will come back to you all in the spring and explain the workings of the colony during the course of the year. In the meantime, there is still time to get planting loads of crocuses to give the honeybees and bumblebees a good rich source of protein to start their year off.

John Zamorski.

Speakers Secretary and Show Organisers needed...

Our garden club is ran solely by volunteers kindly giving up some of their time to help our club keep on running, and supporting the range of events and activities that we hold over the course of each year, including our monthly meetings and annual show.

At our February AGM, Frances Hocken will be retiring as Speaker Secretary. She has done a fantastic job and provided us with many excellent speakers. We owe her a big vote of thanks, especially as she also does sterling work at the Sales Hut on Sunday mornings.

Is there anyone who would like to take over as Speakers Secretary? Frances has already booked speakers for the whole of 2016, and would be willing to give help and advice on the ins and outs of the job.

We also need two Show Organisers. Alex Berry has been doing this job on her own for the last two years which is a major achievement, and we are extremely grateful. She has advised that we can make it less onerous by having a team of three. Chris Fawcett has already volunteered for part of the job and Alex will be on hand to give advice and support where necessary. But we need two more people. We would be really grateful to hear from anyone who can help us out so that we can keep Clitheroe Garden Club running smoothly.

Please contact Sandra on 01200 422818 if you would like to get involved.

Breezy Knees Garden Recommendation from Beverley and Tony Cooper.

If any member is planning a trip to Yorkshire in 2016, we would recommend a visit to Breezy Knees Gardens, Commons Lane, Warthill, York, YO19 5XS.

They are open every day from May 21st to September 30th, 10:30am to 5:00pm, admission £5.50, (no concessions and no dogs). Visitors from Lancashire will just have to put up with the magnificent White Rose fountain shown in the photograph (over). You will need at least half a day to take in everything there is to see.

We visited last June and were bowled over by the colourful displays. It is a relatively new garden formed from farmland. When we asked the reason for the name we were told "If you had been here in the January before we planted the shelter belts, you would not need to ask that."

Covering several acres, so put your comfy shoes on, there are a number of separate gardens each with a different theme. Vibrant borders, sculptures (including a giant pair of wellies), sparkling fountains and a myriad of blossom awaits you. With over 6,000 different varieties of plants to discover, there's always lots to see, with the extensive borders that form the heart of the gardens giving a succession of flowers all the way through from May to the end of September. Complementing these are a series of

seasonal highlights, starting in May and June with the tranquillity of the Pond and Shade Garden, special collections of irises and peonies and both the Rock and Shade Gardens, with their mass of early summer blooms. By mid-summer the annual meadow is at its best, the Cottage Garden brimming with colour and the Rose Garden full of fragrance. And last, but certainly not least, both the special September Garden and the Conifer Garden, with its majestic grasses, will be at their peak as the season draws to a close.

The nursery has a very wide range of perennials, unusually including most of the species seen growing in the gardens. Admission to the nursery and café is free, but could you resist the gardens while you are there?

For more details, visit www.breezyknees.co.uk
Beverley and Tony Cooper

(images from the Breezy Knees Website)





Top Jobs for November from the RHS folks.

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

1. Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
 2. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
 3. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
 4. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
 5. Plant out winter bedding
 6. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
 7. Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well
 8. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands.
 9. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
 10. Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting
 11. Lily bulbs can still be planted in pots this month. They can either be brought inside next spring to 'force' them into an early display,
Plant tulip bulbs this month. Some tulips persist year to year, some perform less well and are treated as bedding, and replaced every year.
- Now is the last chance to plant out winter bedding. You could try wallflowers, forget-me-nots, Bellis, Primula, Viola (winter pansies) and other spring bedding plants, planting them into well- prepared ground, or pots of suitable compost.

Clitheroe Garden Club New Year Meal
Wednesday 20th January 2016, 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 16th December to Ian Berry, 2 Higher Standen Hey Farm, Whalley Road, Clitheroe, BB7 1PP or pay at the December meeting.

Name Tel

Address.....

Starters

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 homemade 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

Filetto di Spigola al forno – Baked sea bass fillet in olive oil, lemon and garlic.

Pollo Al Funghi Porcini– Chicken breast cooked with wild mushrooms, spring onions and sage in a white wine and cream sauce.

Tagliatelle Bolognese—Spaghetti in traditional meat sauce

Risotto Della Valtellina – Risotto with Chicken, wild mushrooms, saffron and cream

Desserts (Coffee included)

Homemade Tiramisu

Homemade Fruit Salad

Mixed Italian Ice cream

Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the January 2016 issue should be sent in by mid December to the above email

