



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

No. 102

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Welcome to the early summer 2018 edition of the Garden Club Newsletter.

We hope that you are all enjoying the delights of the weather so far this growing season, and are starting to make good progress in your gardens, greenhouses and allotment plots, our tomatoes are growing at a speed of knots!

Delivered alongside this edition of the newsletter is the show booklet and entry forms for our **Garden Club Show—that is being held on Saturday August 11th**—and is being organised by the fabulous Noel and Elaine Hodgson.

Please don't forget to return your trophies to the hut in time for this year's show.

Please do have a go and enter a few classes this year. Noel and Elaine are looking for volunteers to help with the success of the day, please contact them if you can help in anyway.

We wish you a successful summer in the garden, and on your plot growing and enjoying the wondrous bounties of the season ahead.

We'd love to receive articles for the newsletter, so please do get in touch at the address below:

Happy gardening!

Kevin and Sophie

Items for the Newsletter should be emailed to

sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk.

A note from our Chairlady, Sandra.

Sandra and Mike kindly hosted this year's coffee morning at their home and charming garden, the sun was shining and it was a lovely day with lovely tulips and many fantastic hostas, below is Sandra's account of the day.

Coffee Morning at 23 Claremount Avenue.

I hope everyone who came to this year's coffee morning enjoyed it as much as I did. Many thanks to all those who attended and helped to raised £285 for the North West Air Ambulance.

It was a very relaxed affair with just coffee, delicious cakes and a raffle .

The weather was very sunny so visitors were able to wander round the garden. I'm afraid there wasn't much in flower but I can blame that on the late spring.

Special thanks to Angela and Alan who worked so hard at my kitchen sink, also to my husband Mike whose Hostas (32 of them!) were looking wonderful. The slugs haven't found them yet...

We shall raise more money for the charity at our annual show in August where we shall have a plant stall.

Also we are donating 10p from the sale of every bag of compost sold at the Sales Hut to the North West Air Ambulance this season.

Let's hope we can raise a good amount to support this incredible charity that carries out over 2,000 missions each year across our region.

For more info on the NWAA please visit :

www.nwaa.net

I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our meetings or at the Sales Hut.

Sandra.



Hosta Marilyn Monroe—one of Mike's favourites.

Allotment plot up for grabs....

Ribblesdale Wanderers Cricket Club (where we hold our monthly talks) have a plot of land which they are offering to any member of the Garden Club for use as an allotment.

For further information contact Mark at Ribblesdale Wanderers Cricket Club.

Annual Show—

The annual show has been confirmed at St James on

August 11th 2018

Please do take a look through the classes and have a go at entering a couple of them this year— let's make it another great show jam packed with fabulous exhibits!

Noel and Elaine Hodgson are once again running and organising this year's show so please do get involved

Volunteers needed for setting up on the Friday 10th and helping on the day.

Extra this year we need car park marshals a hi-viz opportunity! Uniforms provided!

Thanks to all for great support last year, we are hoping for another terrific show - that means lots of entries please.

The show catalogue is being delivered along side this newsletter, so please get in touch with Noel and Elaine if you required any further information.

They and their team have done a great job of attracting sponsors once again, so a big thank you to all involved!



Plant How gardeners can help pollinators

(Tips from the RHS)

Due to the rich diversity of plants growing in Britain's gardens, these outside spaces, and the gardeners who tend them, are critical to support a wide range of pollinators. There are often more pollinators in our nation's gardens than in surrounding agricultural land.

There is though always space for more pollinators in our gardens. Here's how you can do more to support pollinators in your garden, outside space or community.

Nectar and pollen rich plants are crucial to support our pollinators; fill gardens and other ornamental plantings with a range of plants from the RHS Plants for Pollinators lists.

Avoid using pesticides wherever possible, never spray open flowers and always read and follow label instructions. Preventing and reducing pests and diseases by good cultivation, cultivar selection, garden hygiene and using biological control should always be the first line of control. If pesticides are used consider using short persistent organic products. Accepting the presence of some pests can provide larval food for pollinators, for example aphids are food for some hoverfly larvae.

Provide nest sites for bees; either make your own or you can purchase nests for solitary bees. Some solitary bees nest in the ground, either in bare soil or short turf. They will find their own nest sites, so tolerate the small mounds of soil deposited by the female bees when they excavate their nest tunnels. Purpose built bumblebee nest boxes often go unused. Instead bumblebees often prefer to nest in holes in the ground, for example under hedges with plants along the base. One species, the tree bumblebee often uses bird nest boxes.

Provide water for pollinators. Bees and other pollinators sometimes need to drink; having a shallow margin of a pond or a shallow dish filled with stones or marbles filled with water will provide a safe source of water.

Become a beekeeper: Details of county beekeepers associations and training courses can be found at The British Beekeepers Association.



Lesley's Nature Spot

Dawn Chorus Walk

To mark International Dawn Chorus Day Phil Dykes led a walk from Dunsop Bridge through Whitendale during which we listened to birdsong and sometimes even saw the birds responsible for producing the songs. We were blessed with a perfect spring morning and enjoyed Bowland at its very best, the wild primroses were fabulous and we finished the walk full of information about the birds we had heard.

To mark the relaunch of the sculpture trail in Brungerley Park on 29th May Phil will be leading a bat walk. For details of this and other guided walks and events on the day contact RVBC Arts Development on 01200 425566

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are a good friend to the gardener thriving as they do on slugs and other creepy crawlies BUT their numbers are declining rapidly and there are now less than one million in the UK

Recently I heard Pam Ayres talking about the plight of these delightful little creatures and she reminded us of the hazards hedgehogs face in the world not least from gardeners. So here are some of them

Fenced gardens; please make holes in the bottom of your fences, hedgehogs are wide ranging animals and need to be able to get out to hunt for food as well as meet other hedgehogs and make baby hedgehogs.

Bonfires; piles of wood and clippings make a nice shelter for a hedgehog so assemble bonfires when you're going to burn them to avoid roasting a sleeping hedgehog.

But do leave a pile of twigs and clippings in a corner of the garden possibly as a shelter but it will also provide a good source of beetles and other foods for Mrs Tiggywinkle.

Strimmers are a cause of many horrible injuries to hedgehogs, please use with care and check long grass before you start strimming.

Hedgehogs can swim but if they can't get out of a pond they will drown, so if your pond has steep sides put some chicken wire over the edge so the hedgehog can climb out if its fallen in trying to get a drink. If you're building a new pond then make a shallow end.

And speaking of water please leave shallow saucers of water out especially in hot weather.

Thank you on behalf of all hedgehogs

Lesley

(Mrs Tiggy- Winkle)



Notes from the Hut

The first few weeks of the season have been quite hectic with good sales in all departments, despite the intermittent rain and extremely cold winds. The 'hut team' have braved the elements to serve patient customers and at times have been pushed to give speedy service. We thank members for their patience and consideration. Some of our newer products require understanding before use to obtain the best results, particularly universol blue and groworganic poultry fertilizer . Information and advice is always at hand.

Sales of potatoes, onions and shallots have been a total sell out and many seeds too. Perhaps more will be available next year!

It would be of help to me if members would give me their preference for particular strains of these items. We cannot hold a wide range of such products because of minimum order packages.

Still more volunteers are required to help with sales at the sales hut. Please tell any committee member if you can give up the occasional Sunday morning 1000—1200 to help—it really is good fun.

Finally, thank you to members for bringing in living plants for sale for the benefit of the club funds and grateful customers.

We look forward to seeing you at the hut soon,

Trevor Mitchell and the Sales Hut Team.

OUR HUT

"Rock bottom prices and down to earth advice"



Top 10 jobs this month from the RHS Team

- 1 Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
- 2 Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- 3 Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- 4 Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
- 5 Regularly hoe off weeds
- 6 Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- 7 Mow lawns weekly
- 8 Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- 9 Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
- 10 Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs

General maintenance

Apply a liquid fertiliser to spring bulbs after they have flowered, to encourage good flowering next year, and help prevent daffodil blindness.

Allow the foliage of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs to die down naturally.

Lift clumps of forget-me-not once the display wanes, and before too many seeds are released. They can become invasive if left unchecked.

Put supports in place for herbaceous plants before they are too tall, or for those - like peonies - that produce heavy blooms.

Harden off plants raised from seed and cuttings by leaving them outside for gradually increasing periods of time. Start with only the warmest part of the day, and build up to overnight exposure. Doing this for 10-14 days before planting them outdoors permanently (whenever the risk of frost has passed), will reduce any check to their growth while establishing in their final position.

Thin out direct sowings of hardy annuals and vegetables such as radishes. This is best done in two or three stages at fortnightly intervals. Final spacing should be between 10-20cm (4-8in), using the upper limit for tall or spreading plants, and the lower limit for smaller plants. Prick out indoor sowings when they are large enough to handle without damage.

Sweet peas need training and tying in to their supports to encourage them to climb and make a good display.

Pinch out the leading shoots on plants such as Chrysanthemum and Helianthus to encourage bushy plants. However, if tall thin sprays are preferred, they can be left un-pinched, perhaps removing a few buds (known as 'disbudding') to encourage larger blooms.

Liquid feed plants in containers every two to four weeks.

Data Protection—Important

Under the terms of the **General Data Protection Regulations** which come into force on 25th May 2018 all organisations which hold data on people **must obtain their permission to do so.**

The only data which Clitheroe Garden Club holds on members is there to enable effective communication. It includes names, contact details and whether you have volunteered to help the club in any capacity. We would never hold data on sensitive matters nor would ever share information with a third party unless you specifically requested us to do so. It is visible only to officers of the club. You have the right to ask for the data held on you to be deleted at any time. *Please bear in mind however that should you do so you would receive no further information from the club including newsletters.*

In order that Clitheroe Garden Club has a record of your permission to hold data on you would you please complete the form below and return it to Brenda Fenton, Membership Secretary, 31 Queen St., Clitheroe BB7 2LU or any committee member (contact details on your membership card) by 25 May or as soon as is practicable thereafter.

I/we give permission for Clitheroe Garden Club to hold data on me/us

Name(s) *(Please sign and print)*

Address _____

Tel: _____

e-mail: _____

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Thank you. We apologise for the beaurocratic tone of this message, the fact that you have to fill in another form and the short time-scale but the issue has only just come to our notice and we feel we must comply with the law.



Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the August 2017 issue should be sent in by late June to the above email.

