



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

No. 103

**September
2018**

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

Gosh! What a summer it has been, with the terrific sunshine and heat, it seems a long time since spring and welly boots and hats! - However as we write this, on Bank Holiday Sunday, Clitheroe is being caressed once more with that soft Ribble Valley rain, refreshing every part and plant...

We have been enjoying a bumper crop of cherry tomatoes for weeks now, picked daily from our greenhouse, eaten with almost every meal, and we hope that this summer despite the heat, you too have been able to enjoy the fruits of your garden labour.

We've had a super show this year, and our thanks must go to Noel, Elaine, Gordon and the team, and Trevor and the team at the Hut for keeping us all in essential gardening items. Many thanks to you all for all the time and effort you give to keeping our garden club alive. We are always looking for more volunteers, so please do ask the committee if you have some time to help.

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.

The Annual Show

We had another wonderful Annual Show on the 11th August, and I'm sure that everyone who visited enjoyed themselves. The sun shone and there was an impressive and colourful display in the hall at St. James' School.

My very sincere thanks must go to Elaine and Noel Hodgson and to Gordon Woodward for all their hard work in organising the event, and to all the many other volunteers who came to help out and keep things running smoothly. All in all it was a superb team effort. Finally a very big thank you to all the exhibitors for playing their part and congratulations to all the prize winners.

Sandra.

Autumn meeting dates.

Don't forget our monthly meetings have now resumed:

. 5th September - Judy Popley -
Flower Power Fairs

3rd October - Andrew and Pippa
Chapman -
A Year on our Organic Small-
holding

7th November - Steve Halliwell -
Gresgarth Hall Gardens Through the
Year

5th December - Peter Foley -
Winter Gardens

January 2019- NO MEETING

6th February - AGM



Annual Show—

Garden Club Annual Show 2018

11th August 2018

Despite a difficult year weather wise the show was quite well supported with as many entries as last year but a few less entrants in some classes, we missed Thistle Manor's input, the egg class was abandoned as the judge was taken ill and we only had one entrant, and we shall not offer this class again. Children's classes once again were poorly supported with only our faithful Joshua entering.

The art classes attracted more entries – members are clearly a creative bunch!

St James School still proves to be a good venue.

We are grateful to the sponsors who once again helped to defray expenses, and to the judges for their expertise. The auction of produce raised £60.00 for the school. Many thanks to all who supported the show and gave their time and effort.

We are looking forward to next year's show as the organising committee are happy to run the show again in 2019, we will take notice of feedback before fixing a date. We are also looking for volunteers who are interested in motivating children's entries.

Noel and Elaine Hodgson and Gordon Woodward



Harvesting Onions

It's getting to that time of year on the allotment when I start to look nervously over at my neighbours' plots to see what stage they're at in harvesting their onions. It's always a difficult call – do I leave them until their tops have died back naturally or help them on their way by bending them over? Do I pull them and leave them on the ground to die off and risk a week of wet Lancashire weather or take them directly inside? Do I string them and hang them in bunches or lay them out in rows?

I've been growing onions successfully now for more years than I care to remember but can't say I've ever got the drying and storage right and even in good years am lucky if I've still got usable onions by January. Of course, like all good gardeners I blame the weather. We have the misfortune to live in one of the dampest, wettest and most humid places in Britain where an unbroken week of dry, sunny weather is a rarity, especially in August when my onions are usually ready. I listen with envy to friends who live in drier places as they recount their onion success stories and suffer patiently their well-meaning advice, resisting the impulse to sigh and say, "But you don't know what it's like to live in Lancashire".

So I thought I'd ask a few of my fellow gardeners (who do live here) about their preferred methods for successfully drying and storing their onions.

Most people favoured variations on the "lift them, leave them out for a few days and then take them in" theme. Some people laid them outside on improvised racks which allowed for better air circulation. Those who left them on the ground turned them regularly. Once the tops had begun to die off they took them indoors (sheds or greenhouses) and, depending on the space available, either laid them out separately on racks or hung them in bunches.

One fellow allotmenteer told me of a method passed on to him by a prize-winning onion grower which involves lifting and leaving for a few days in the usual way. Once the onions are taken in however, he cuts the tops off and turns the bulbs upside down onto metal grids he's improvised in his greenhouse. This way, he says, he has usable onions well into spring. Having access neither to greenhouse nor metal grids it's not a method I can try but it certainly seems to make sense and for him has obviously proved successful.

So ever optimistic I'll try again this year – hoping that the week I decide to lift them is a dry one, that I'll find enough space in my shed to accommodate them and that when eventually I bring them home I'll find a cool and dry enough place in my centrally-heated house to store them.

Anyone with any better ideas or tips – it'd be great to hear from you. That is – so long as you live in Lancashire!

**Chris
Fawcett**



Newby Hall Visit—29th June.

We visited Newby on June 29th one of the very hot days before any rain, via Grassington as Blubberhouses was still closed, so the journey itself was enjoyable.

Newby Hall is an 18th century house, near Ripon, Yorkshire. A grade 1 listed building, the family home of Mr and Mrs Richard Compton, it is one of Adam's finest houses.

During WW2 it was one of seven country house selected to house the Royal Family should they have needed to be evacuated from the capital. Newby Hall epitomises the Georgian age of elegance. The superb contents include wall coverings of Gobelin tapestries which look as new today and some of Chippendales' finest furniture. One room (from which we were barred!) was an exquisite ladies boudoir decorated in light blue with French furnishings. So many beautifully decorated walls and ceilings it was a real pleasure to look around.

I happened to have an old guide book and used it to follow the suggested tour around the garden. It was interesting to see how some things had changed but it was mostly accurate and gave some interesting information about the development of the garden.

The long herbaceous borders, some of the longest in the country are separated by a broad grass walk. They form an impressive view connecting the house at the top down to the river, and the borders were utterly resplendent when we visited!. Off this main axis are different gardens of formal design filled with plants to give interest over the seasons, including a rose, autumn and water garden. Through out the gardens we spotted delightful little statues. Walking up the slope and around the side of the house there was a pleasant terraced area overlooking countryside. It was a bit troubling to see stone flags being jet washed when the plants would have enjoyed some extra water !

Fortunately there were places to sit in the much needed shade and one of these had swags of rambling roses tied to thick rope. A great idea to copy once a rope supplier is found!

Also at Newby Hall are a miniature railway, a children's adventure playground, a moated fort, and water play features—the perfect day out for all ages!

Many thanks to Mary Alty for organising another super trip.



Notes from the Hut

Generally news is good. We have had a reasonably good selling year up to the last few weeks—no doubt partially due to weather, holidays and other events. We are still amply stocked but will not be having further deliveries until next year when needs will be more apparent. A recurring problem is the lack of volunteers for Sunday morning sales time between 10 and 12 noon. Additionally there is the “prior setting up time” and “putting away time” . To reiterate: we need more Sunday morning sellers and general helpers and a rota will be available to reduce the (few) same people doing all the work for the benefit of members. Remember ALL the sellers are unpaid volunteers!

There will be no potatoes for sale next year (and maybe no onions) as we no longer have a frost free facility (i.e. my garage) as I have moved house. In the event of no other offers of this facility we are unable to offer these items for sale next year. **If anybody may be able to offer space in their garage for storage please contact us.** Seeds (peas, beans etc) will of course still be available. Please remember that the sales hut facility is a service to members offering top quality product at the best prices. Help with loading purchases is normally available.

If you have any comments to make (good or bad) concerning the sales hut please let me or any committee member now. Your comments will be treated in confidence. The Annual General Meeting is due to take place in February 2019 when you may also share any to inform future plans.

Please don't forget the Sales Hut will close for the year on Sunday 24th September so please come down to make your final purchases for 2018!

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

The guide of things you **could** do in the garden this September

- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Pick autumn raspberries
- Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals
- Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them
- Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway
- Keep up with watering of new plants, using rain or grey water if possible
- Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering
- Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so that they are ready for use in the autumn
- Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting
- Plant spring flowering bulbs

Trees and Shrubs:

Planting and moving: If the weather is already autumnal, you can now plant and move shrubs and trees without having to worry excessively about their survival and establishment. Shrubs planted now will get off to a flying start next spring, as they will have had all winter to settle in

Pruning and training: Prune late-summer flowering shrubs such as Philadelphus (mock orange blossom) and give evergreen hedges a final trim to make sure they are in shape for winter.

Climbing roses can be pruned once they have finished flowering; sideshoots from the main branches can be cut back to a couple of buds. Any dead, diseased or spindly growth should be cut out and new young shoots tied in to the supports, from the base. If there is an old, thick and woody, unproductive stem, it can be removed from the base to stimulate more vigorous growth.

Propagation: Take semi-ripe cuttings of evergreen shrubs such as Cistus, Ceanothus and Viburnum. Take hardwood cuttings of roses, choosing well-ripened, healthy shoots.

Planning ahead: Collect tree and shrub seeds for sowing next spring, such as Colutea (bladder senna), Laburnum, Morus (mulberry) and Sorbus (rowan). Order mature or large plants now for planting in October or once the rains have moistened the soil.

Spare tools wanted...

Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity that sends tools to people in need across the world. They are a registered charity—number 1104903.

Their mission is to collect unwanted tools, refurbish them, sort them into trade kits and send them across the world for livelihood creation. They send around 20 containers filled with over 300 tonnes of tools every year.

Some of the things that they collect include:

Agricultural tools: Fork, spade, hoe, garden rake, hand fork and trowel, lopper, secateurs and hand shears **Builders' tools:** Spade, shovel, 3ft spirit level, Axe, crowbar, fork, sledge hammer, bow saw, bolsters, chisels, all types of hammers and trowels, pin and lines, tape measures hacksaws and blades etc **Carpenters' tools:** Bevel, braces, clamps, hand drills and bits, all types of files and hammers, Stanley knife, all types of planes and saws, pliers, rules, all types of saws and screwdrivers, squares etc **Electricians' tools:** Allen keys, hand drills and bits, all types of pliers and hacksaws, screwdrivers, spanners, soldering iron, voltmeter etc **Motor mechanics' tools:** Allen keys, cold chisels, breast drill and bits, all types of hammers and pliers, punches, metric socket set and spanners, adjustable spanners, cantilever toolbox, tyre pressure gauge etc **Plumbers' tools:** Basin or tap wrench, wire brush, breast drill and bits, various grips and saws, screwdriver, oil can etc **Garage workshop:** Hydraulic jack, axle stands, battery charger, ramps and large engineers vice etc **Power tools:** Hand and bench drill, sander, planer, jigsaw, circular, band and chop saw, lathe, cultivator, rotavator etc **Children's** scholar packs and educational books **Sewing machines:** manual, electric and treadle **Knitting machines:** machine wool and needles **Haberdashery:** needles, cottons, large material pieces/rolls, buttons, zips etc **Fully working IT equipment:** Desktop computers and laptops running a minimum of Windows Vista, tablets, networking switch routers and cables

Brian Smith is the local collection point and can be contacted on 01254 233 699 to arrange collection of items.

The charity is based in Ipswich and more information can be found on their website www.twam.co.uk

Please do have a look and see if you have any items that might help others .

Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the December 2018 issue should be sent in by late October to the above email.

