



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

No.104

November 2018

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

We hope that you have enjoyed a splendid growing season, and your flowers, fruits and produce have all been delicious!

As we write, our dahlias have finally succumbed to the frost , after a fabulous showing throughout the autumn and it does now feel like winter is truly here, with the trees becoming increasingly bare every day now.

It's a great opportunity to start thinking about new plants and seeds to grow for the coming season. We are able to access discounted seeds from Thompson and Morgan, so please contact Trevor Mitchell if you'd like to now more.

Don't forget the annual meal too—details can be found on the back page.

We'd love to receive articles, photographs and recipes 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.

Our North West Air Ambulance donation this year amounts to £400. This was raised at our Coffee Morning and by the plant sale at the Annual Show. We also donated 10 pence per bag from the sale of every bag of compost at the Sales Hut.

Looking ahead: The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 6th February.

There will be the usual pie and peas supper and the bar will be open. We are hoping that plenty of members will come along. The AGM part of the evening should not take more than twenty minutes, so there will be plenty of time for eating and drinking ! Mary Alty will be giving us a quiz. Tickets will be available at the December meeting.

Last, but not least, yet another urgent appeal for an Assistant Treasurer. Surely there is someone amongst our 130 members who can spare some time to assist with the running of the club. Ian urgently needs help. Please contact him on 01200-424662.

Sandra.

Tree planting fun

Well now is the time when we're putting the garden to bed for winter and perhaps you're wondering what you're going to do with all that extra time on

your hands?!! Perhaps you might consider planting a few trees with the Ribble River Trust? Tree planting is an important part of flood management and last winter the trust planted 16,000 around the Ribble catchment area many of which were planted by volunteers. Many hands really do make lighter work so if you're interested in spending a day (or several) in winter helping in this important work or just want to know more then please email admin@ribblerivertrust.com expressing an interest. Be warned, you will get muddy !!



Image from www.ribbontrust.org.uk

Nepeta plants—free to good homes.

I have quite a few Nepeta plants that I have split and no longer need....Would they be of use to other members as I hate throwing anything away. They are sitting in large bags awaiting new homes

Please contact Jean via the email address below:

Regards,
Jean Smith

jean@peterbarn.co.uk

Hedges for nature .

Hedges provide important shelter and protection for wildlife, particularly nesting birds and hibernating insects. Hedges provide food in the form of leaves, nectar-rich flowers, berries, fruits, seeds and nuts and are also good hunting grounds for predators seeking insects and other invertebrates. They are a better choice of boundary for wildlife than fences or walls, especially if native trees and shrubs are used.

They also make natural windbreaks, creating sheltered areas in the garden, which is particularly important for butterflies as well as creating areas of shade, increasing the range of habitats within the garden. Informal hedges and trees are better than those that are regularly clipped; hawthorn, holly and privet will produce few or no flowers and berries if kept trim. Here's how to make a hedge for wildlife in your garden:

Choose your plants: Native hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, beech, hornbeam and holly make an ideal mixture of hedging plants and growing rambling plants such as wild rose, bramble and honeysuckle through them provides more shelter and food for wildlife.

Ivy is particularly beneficial for nesting birds and it flowers in the autumn when few other nectar sources are available to insects. Encourage prospective wildlife by growing it up into large trees.

Planting: The best time for planting is November to March, but never plant into waterlogged or frozen ground. Bare rooted plants are cheaper, but take care not to expose the roots for long when planting. Keep the base of plants free from weeds with a thick mulch or matting.

For a mixed native hedge try to include three plants of the same species per 1m (3 1/4ft) with one each of two other species.

Maintaining hedges: Hedges should not be pruned until late winter or early spring so that wildlife can take advantage of the insects and fruits provided during the winter months.

In the first spring, cut back shrubs to 45-60cm (18-25in) above the ground. This encourages bushy growth.

Top tips : To protect birds, wildlife hedges should not be trimmed in the nesting season from March to August. Try to cut sections of hedge at different times, so there is always an undisturbed place for wildlife.

Suggested plants: Rosa rubiginosa (Eglantine rose, sweet briar), Rosa canina (Dog rose), Prunus laurocerasus (Laurel, cherry laurel), Clematis vitalba (Traveller's joy, old man's beard), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn, may, quickthorn), Viburnum lantana (Wayfaring tree)

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-hedge-wildlife>

Top 10 jobs this month from the RHS Team

Winter is on its way

Leaves are falling rapidly, and wind and rain are on the increase. Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rains. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up.

- 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 around the trunks
- 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

You can still order and plant containerised trees and shrubs, and large semi-mature specimens for planting later in the winter, when bare-root plants are no longer available.

Protect newly planted trees, hedges and shrubs from wind and cold. A temporary netting windbreak is sufficient where there is no natural shelter. Straw, bracken, or something similar can be used to pack around deciduous plants and protect them from frost. A wooden frame with clear polythene stretched over it can do a similar job without blocking light from evergreens, but don't let the polythene touch the foliage, as condensation at these points could freeze, or cause rots.

This is also a good time to transplant trees and shrubs growing in unsuitable positions. However, if they are more than a couple of years old, you are unlikely to be able to remove an intact enough rootball to ensure the plant's survival in its new position, and you may be best advised to leave well alone.

Lesley visits Howick Hall Gardens and Arboretum

This summer I spent a week in Northumberland and visited the lovely gardens at Howick Hall situated between Alnwick and Craster.

The Hall and gardens were the ancestral home of the Grey family and yes this is where Earl Grey tea originated. It was blended for the 2nd Earl Grey especially to suit the water from the spring at Howick; bergamot was added to offset the taste of lime in the water.

The gardens were developed by the 5th Earl Grey and his wife and later their daughter Lady Mary Howick. Between them they established an informal and natural style of gardening which continues today, the garden motto is tidy but not manicured.

Like all gardens there is something for all seasons, spring visitors can enjoy thousands of snowdrops, daffodils and other bulbs plus the woodland garden and the wildflower meadows. The bog garden is considered to be at its best in high summer and it was certainly looking lovely when I visited at the end of July. One of the gardeners admitted that the borders had suffered in the heat wave in spite of being watered but they were still quite impressive. This year a new sensory garden opened developed in conjunction with the National Autistic Society. When I visited it had only been open for 6 weeks and whilst the planting was still new it showed imagination and thought.

The arboretum covers an area of over 65 acres and there are now about 12,500 trees and shrubs which are planted in 6 geographical areas, the arboretum also holds one of the largest collections of wild origin plants in the UK. The current Lord Howick is responsible for the establishment of the arboretum almost all of which has been grown from seed collected in the wild since 1985 and there is an interesting exhibition about the development of the arboretum and also the development of the gardens.

The gardens are very uncommercial no gift shop but one of the most elegant tea rooms I've visited (very good cake and coffee) and very friendly staff and volunteers who were all very involved with the gardens and keen to talk about them. Those with dogs will have to leave them at home I'm afraid as dogs are not allowed.



Notes from the Hut

It has been a good year for sales and we hope we have made a small profit to cover expenses and maintenance. A new fence is required between us and the allotment behind the huts. Ted is going to do the bulk of the work so we are very fortunate.

Remember that the hut team is here to help you with advice on planting , use of fertilizer and the selection of suitable compost. We have a good selection of aids from which to choose.

The good news is that Mary and Francis from the hut team, are going to share the storing of potatoes with me. The three of us can keep them in a frost free environment until Spring opening. We can now stock three varieties:

Arran Pilot—earlies

Charlotte—second earlies

Desiree—main crop/ second earlies

All at the unbeatable price of £1.50 per kilo.

Also available will be onion sets: White sturgeon

And shallots: Golden Gourmet

Both priced at £1.50/ 250 grams or 80p/ 125 grams.

As usual a range of beans and peas will be available:

Broad beans: Bunyard exhibition.

Climbing French beans—Cobra (round)

Climbing French beans—Hunter (flat)

Scarlet Runner beans—Firestorm (kidney)

All at £1 per pack.

Peas available :

Hurst Greenshaft (100 grams)

Kelvedon Wonder (100 grams)

Both at £1 per pack.

The potatoes and onions usually sell out quickly so please come early (first Sunday in March).



Finally, thank you for your support , this year, with your contributions to general produce and plants etc.

Please remember that we cannot maintain the price and quality of stock items without your purchasing help and support.

We would still like to see more helpers at the hut on a Sunday morning. It is only for up to 2 hours or whatever you can spare. Please contact any of the hut team if you'd like to give it a go...

I can still obtain top quality seeds from Thomson and Morgan suppliers. If you wish to obtain ,please contact me to order them on 01200 425234.
or at 8 Derwent Drive, Clitheroe, BB7 2PU.

Trevor Mitchell and the Sales Hut Team.

OUR HUT

"Rock bottom prices and down to earth advice"



Clitheroe Garden Club New Year Meal

Wednesday 30th January 2019, 6.00pm for 6.30pm at Clitheroe Golf Club

The full cost of the meal is £21.00 for 3 courses or £17.50 for 2 courses. 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 5th December to Mary Alty, 65 Riverside, Clitheroe, BB7 2NS or pay at the December meeting.

---Cut here and keep top section for your own information-----

Name Tel

Address.....

Starters

Homemade seasonal soup

Smoked haddock fishcake

Smoked salmon and prawn salad

Main courses

Chicken in brandy and mushroom sauce

Lamb Henry with mint and redcurrant jelly

Scottish salmon in prawn and white wine sauce

Desserts

Fruit crumble

Cheesecake

Ice-cream

Cheese and biscuits

Coffee and mints are included with all meals.

Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the February 2019 issue should be sent in by mid January to the above email.

