



Hon. President  
George Cowgill

# The Newsletter

## No 106

### May 2019

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Welcome to the early summer 2019 edition of the Garden Club Newsletter.

We hope that you enjoy this edition, with features including some of the local gardens opening this year for the National Open Gardens Scheme.

There is also a reminder about this year's show and it's new location.

Mary Alty has also been busy organising some super trips for us to Mount Grace Priory in Northalerton and to Kellet Street Allotments in Rochdale—so please have a look at these and book up quickly if you'd like to come along.

We've also got articles on frogs and slugs and a lovely recipe from Laura Chadwick for a spicy, healthy vegetable soup - perfect to warm you up after a wet morning in the garden.

As always, we really do need volunteers to get involved in the running of the club—so please do get involved if you can—your club needs you.

We'd love to receive articles 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.**

## Clitheroe Country Market opportunity.

Clitheroe Country Markets are looking for enthusiastic bakers, crafters and gardeners to join their Country Market Cooperative.

If you would like to earn some extra cash by selling your cakes, bakes, plants or crafts every Tuesday morning or even just come along to help, contact Ruth on 01200 425823. See their website for more information [www.clitheroecountrymarket.com](http://www.clitheroecountrymarket.com)

## Annual Show— Change of venue August 10th 2018

Owing to change of parking arrangements at St James, parking there would be inadequate. **The show will now be held at Edisford School where there is good access and ample parking.**

We hope to arrange access times as previously on Friday and Saturday, as always all help will be gratefully appreciated with the setting up on Friday through to clearing away on Saturday.

Hoping for a successful gardening year and lots of entries.

**Noel and Elaine .**

## Amphibians: encouraging into your garden (from the RHS)

Amphibians, frogs, toads and newts, can be beneficial garden creatures which will predate on a wide range of invertebrates. They can be encouraged by providing a pond where tadpoles can develop. At least one side of the pool should gradually slope up to dry land. Adult frogs and toads can be encouraged by providing log piles and other damp habitats in which they can shelter.

### Which amphibians are found in gardens?

Britain has two native frogs, two toads, and three species of newts. Of these, the common frog and common toad are likely to be found in gardens throughout Britain

The common or smooth newt and the palmate newt are also widely distributed

Some garden ponds may have the scarce and protected great crested newt, while some gardens, especially in south east England, may have non-native green marsh frogs

The natterjack toad and the pool frog are unlikely to occur in gardens

These animals feed on a wide range of insects, spiders and other small invertebrate animals, including some garden pests.



Although the adults and juveniles do most of their feeding on land, all of these amphibians must have still water, such as a pond, in which they will mate and lay eggs

The eggs hatch into tadpoles that initially feed on algae. Later they feed on

insects that have fallen in the water and are also predatory on other pond life. The tadpoles gradually develop legs and, in the case of frogs and toads, lose their tails, and become small frogs, toads or newts

### How to help amphibians

These beneficial garden creatures can be helped by providing a pond where the tadpoles can develop.

At least one side of the pool should gradually slope up to dry land, this enables the young amphibians to leave the water once the tadpole stage is over

If the pond has steep sides a ramp covered in chicken wire in one corner can help

Small amphibians can be predated by birds and other predators, growing plants around the pool will provide some cover

When in the pond, frogs and toads need a point above the water on which to rest and breathe. In the summer a water lily pad may suffice but a more permanent solution is to position a few rocks or logs half in and half out of the water if there are no suitable areas of shallow water

### How to attract amphibians to the garden

Newts are probably the most aquatic of British amphibians. Attract them by allowing grass to grow over the pond edge into the water and introducing non-invasive submerged aquatic plants. Newts use narrow-leaved water plants on which to lay their eggs, placing each egg between a folded leaf.

In the autumn, amphibians seek sheltered places away from ponds where they hibernate until the following spring.

Log piles provide good shelters. Frogs, toads and newts will also find suitable places in hedge bottoms, compost heaps and under stones

They will also hibernate in the bottom of ponds

Allow new ponds to become colonised naturally by amphibians that are likely to be already present in the area, rather than transferring spawn or tadpoles

### Problems

Transferring spawn or tadpoles from other ponds runs the risk of spreading diseases, such as red leg disease of frogs, or introducing invasive pond weeds that can quickly choke the pond with vegetation

To avoid disturbing amphibians, especially in the hibernation period, ponds should not be cleaned out unless this is really necessary

Have you seen any sick or dead amphibians or other wildlife in your garden?

Register and report it on the [Garden Wildlife Health website](#)



Text and images from the RHS.

## National Open Garden Scheme— nearby gardens

There are a number of fabulous gardens open locally over the summer as part of the NGS scheme. More details may be found at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

Here are a couple of local ideas for inspiration:

**Mill Barn**, Goosefoot Close Samlesbury, Preston, Lancashire PR5 0SS

Open 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd June. £5 for adults.

This unique and quirky, sculpture dotted garden offers a series of delights with surprises round every corner. Start on the banks of the bubbling River Darwin, through the underground grotto, to the suspended foot bridge across which the playfully sinister, fairytale tower can be seen. Then there's the semi-ruined, 'missile housing' folly, 'Faslane' (its name inspired by the submarine shaped septic tank hidden beneath it), after which it's on past lily pond, lawns and naturally planted flowerbeds to the Secret Garden. From there walk up the curved, enclosed path and along the stilted 'hyperspace bypass' walkway. At the top of this the covered sitootery offers a chance to pause for a moment or two. The gentle pathways of the wooded hillside now beckon. Visit the contemplative Japanese Tea House atop the entrance to the Secret Garden, before following the woodland paths back to the river where the house's conservatory and river viewing platform await.



**Stahill Exotic Garden**, 19 Stahill Street, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 4QE

Open 31st August and 1st September. £4 for adults.

Behind a row of terraced houses lies a hidden gem. A lush exotic style garden containing palms, tree ferns, bananas, and many other unusual plants. A mixture of paving and bark chipping paths takes you on a journey round the tropical garden, encountering a pond, pygmy goats, chickens and an aviary along the way.



## Laura's Spicy Allotment Soup

2 large onions or leeks

2 potatoes

2 celery stalks

2 carrots

1 Red Pepper

1 Courgette

4 oz Thin Beans

4 oz Broad Beans

4 oz Peas

2 pints Vegetable Stock

2 tbsp sunflower Oil

2 tsp dried basil

Pinch mixed herbs

1 tsp chilli powder or chopped fresh chilli

2 tsp marmite

2 tsp Tomato Sauce



### Method

Chop all the vegetables into small pieces

Fry the Onions, Celery and Carrots gently in the oil for 10 mins

Add the potatoes, pepper, stock, herbs, marmite and tomato sauce

Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 mins.

Add the courgette, peas and beans and simmer for a further 15min

Remove half a pint of the soup and thoroughly blend and add back to the soup

Mix well and serve with crusty bread Enjoy!

## Visit to Kellet Street Allotments, Rochdale, Thursday 25th July.

The Growth Project. £12.

Includes coach and entry to gardens and allotments.

Meet at Clitheroe Interchange at 1200.

Please take a packed lunch.



The Growth Project is set on over an acre and including organic veg varieties, wildlife pond, insect hotels, formal flower and wild-flower borders, and potager. Visit the Elizabethan straw bale house, stroll down the pergola walk and under the handcrafted arches to the wild flower meadow and orchard. Veg, flowers, preserves and gifts on sale  
Horticultural advice given... Tea and coffee available.

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Please include me in this outing. I will require ..... Places.

I'm enclosing my cheque for £..... payable to Clitheroe Garden Club to cover the cost.

My details are:

Full name(s)

.....

Address

.....

Post code.....Telephone number

.....

Date .....

Please return to Mary Alty at 65 Riverside, Clitheroe, BB7 2NS as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For more info on the project, please visit : <https://www.rochdalemind.org.uk/how-we-can-help/support-for-adults/growth-project/>

<https://www.ngs.org.uk/?bf-garden=33364>

## Chris's guide to slugs...

As a gardener there can be few things more disheartening than finding a row of precious baby plants reduced to useless stubs by slugs and snails. Over the years I've tried all sorts of remedies – beer traps, egg-shells, Vaseline round the edge of pots (yucky!) – with limited success and in the end have had to resort to using pellets much to the astonishment of a work-colleague who'd always assumed as an erstwhile organic gardener I was also wild-life friendly. It was in vain that I insisted I only used the “organic” pellets – supposed to be harmless to pets and wild-life. I use the term “organic” loosely because I've noticed recently that manufacturers seem to have dropped that particular description even though they continue to be approved for organic use.

According to the various web-sites I've looked at, these pellets are less harmful to animals and birds because the slugs crawl away to die and are therefore less likely to be eaten. They're also meant to be more effective when moist – good in our Ribble Valley climate. Their main ingredient is organic (ferric phosphate) in the sense it occurs in nature but because they also contain other ingredients (chelators) there is still concern that they may have an adverse effect on earthworms and soil health in general.

However, as from 2020 the government has banned the use of pellets containing metaldehyde -or the ordinary ones to you and me. At the Sales Hut we stock both sorts though not many of our members seem to be aware of the fact – and yes – I'm afraid the eco ones are more expensive. However, since we sell at cost they're still a lot cheaper than any you can buy in the shops.

I've always found them just as effective but last year tried sheep's wool pellets as an alternative. By then the weather had become so dry that there were few slugs about so it was hard to gauge their effectiveness though the smell of warm sheep that wafted from them on a hot day brought back memories of many happy summers walking the Lakeland fells.

Whatever we choose to use, the general advice is to use sparingly and in accordance with manufacturer's instructions – 5 g per square metre with between 4 to 6 treatments maximum per crop. Once healthy plants are established they can often withstand a slug attack unaided so there's no need to keep repeating. Perhaps as well it's worth reminding ourselves that whilst many gardeners see slugs and snails as the enemy they play an important part in the eco-system providing food for birds and animals like hedgehogs and toads. Slugs also apparently eat dog poo – think on!

If you have a time-honoured method for dealing with slugs and snails it would be good to hear from you. I draw the line however at one friend – who also happened to be a pacifist vegetarian – who used to cut slugs up with a pair of sharp scissors and feed them to the tadpoles in her pond in the hope they'd acquire a taste for them once they'd become frogs. I never did find out if it worked and I'm far too squeamish to go down that particular road. Most of the information here came from [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk) and [www.organicgardening.org.uk](http://www.organicgardening.org.uk) Other websites are available.

**Chris Fawcett**

**Visit to Mount Grace Priory, Staddlebridge,  
Northallerton, DL63 3JG.**

**Friday 14th June**

£18 Inc. coach and entry to house, priory and gardens.

Meet at Whalley Bus Station at 0900 or

Clitheroe Interchange at 0915

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Please include me in this outing. I will require ..... Places.

I'm enclosing my cheque for £..... payable to Clitheroe Garden Club to cover the cost.

My details are:

Full name(s)

.....

Address

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Post code.....Telephone number .....

Date .....

Please return to Mary Alty at 65 Riverside, Clitheroe, BB7 2NS as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

See the last edition of the newsletter for more information on the priory, or visit <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/mount-grace-priory/>

Email [info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk](mailto:info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk)



**Club Website: [www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk](http://www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk)**

**Email address: [sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sophiejmiles@hotmail.co.uk)**

***Items for the September 2019 issue should be sent in by late August to the above email.***

