



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The Newsletter

No. 108

March 2020

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Welcome to the spring 2020 edition of the Garden Club Newsletter.

The relatively warm, wet weather and the flooding again of Whalley in February seems likely to be what we'll look back on for this winter.

In this edition of the newsletter: news on the annual club trip arranged by the wonderful Mary Alty. This year's destination is Scampston Hall with its interesting walled gardens which looks amazing.

Despite the awful weather we've had it will soon be time for the **next meeting on 4th March** and the **Sales Hut to open on Sunday 8th March**. My annual question of "Humax or Jack's Magic?" has been answered by a contribution from Janet Smith but might this year be replaced with the question: "Surely I have to buy Peat-Free this time?". Plenty of food for thought...

Thinking wistfully of both sunshine and good food you may already be thinking ahead to the annual show when filling in your calendar and deciding what to grow. **The show will be on Saturday 8th August at Edisford**. Entries and volunteers to get involved are both, as ever, very welcome. The show brochure will its hoped be sent out with the next newsletter.

Please send any articles or photos for the newsletter to me at kmiles856@icloud.com:

Happy gardening!

A note from our Chairlady, Sandra.

Chair's Report – AGM

We were delighted with the good attendance at the Annual General Meeting. As usual we made short work of the business part of the evening and this was followed by the popular pie and peas supper.

In my report I gave a brief account of the events of 2019 and then spoke about the current volunteer situation. Many of you will remember that during 2019 there was some doubt about Clitheroe Garden Club being able to continue due to lack of volunteers. However, two people have saved the day. Tracey Lawton has taken over as our new Chair and Sarah Withers will take Ian Berry's place as Treasurer. We are extremely grateful to both of them and wish them well.

At the last committee meeting Tracey said that clubs like ours are part of our National Heritage. I agree and would add that the volunteers who run them are superheroes. This definitely applies to the fantastic team who run this club and we must say an enormous thank you to every one of them.

Special thanks to Ian Berry our outgoing Treasurer. He has put a huge amount of time and hard work into the job and he has done

it extremely efficiently. We have been very lucky to have him. Also thank you to his wife, Alex for all she has done to help Ian and in running the website.

Towards the end of the meeting Laura Chadwick raised the question of peat-free compost being available at the Sales Hut. Trevor Mitchell, our Sales Hut buyer informed us that it is always in stock and he will order more as and when needed.

Geoff Cockroft suggested that a list of all items on sale at the hut might be useful. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea.

Thank you from Sandra

This was my last AGM as Chair and at the end of the meeting I was presented with a gorgeous bouquet of flowers and an excellent bottle of wine. It was a wonderful surprise and I want to say thank you to everyone for the support, kindness and friendship I have received during my time as Chair.

It's been a privilege to serve a very special club.

Sandra

Annual Show—

Photography classes for 2020

The annual show will take place at Edisford Primary School on.....

8th August 2020

Photography titles for this year's show are announced as:

- Mini-beasts
- Glorious Garden
- Sand and Sea
- Water

For the bakers: this year's "special cake" is announced as:

***** "**SCONES**" ***** (ANY RECIPE)

Noel and Elaine Hodgson are once again running and organising this year's show and will be looking for volunteers to get involved in all aspects of the show, from helping to set up on the day before as well as assisting on the day itself. - Many hands make light work.

Show booklet, and entrance details to follow with the next edition of the newsletter.

A "Thank You" to Ian Berry

At this time of year the work of Ian Berry always comes to the surface and reveals the extent of his work done, for our club, over the preceding year. His presentation of information in the form of tables and graphs is an art form in itself and gives a clear picture that has helped me plan and project for the next 30 weeks that the sales hut is open.

He has also spent quite some time in visiting the bank with takings etc and keeping us up to date with all payments. Ian has done this with particular efficiency along with many other jobs for the club which are essential too, With thanks.

Trevor Mitchell (on behalf of many)

Humax or Jack's Magic?

After visiting the Sales Hut and asking which of these two composts to buy for my dahlias I decided to carry out my own trial with 2 yellow dahlias in identical pots. I found the flowers were similar in number and size and so I decided to wait and see by checking the corms when I took them in for winter. I could find no difference except more small roots on with Humax. Next season I shall buy on price.

Janet Smith

Scampton Hall and Gardens
Malton, North Yorks, YO17 8NG.

Friday 3rd July 2020

Please include me in this outing.

I will requireplaces.

Cost is £21.50 for entrance and coach.

I'm enclosing a cheque for Payable to
Clitheroe Garden Club to cover the cost.

My details are:

Full names

Address

.....

Postcode:Tel no:

Date:

Please tick to indicate preferred pick up location:

Clitheroe Interchange at 8:30am

Or Whalley Bus Station at 8:15am

Please return to Mary Alty , 65 Riverside, Clitheroe, BB7
2NS, by 31st May.

Our Trip this year is to Scampston Hall and Walled Garden at Malton Yorkshire.



Scampston Hall is a Grade II listed country house in North Yorkshire with a serpentine park designed by Charles Bridgeman and Capability Brown. It is one of the finest examples of a regency country house.



The walled garden is a beautiful contemporary garden quite unlike any other set within the 18th Century walls of the original kitchen garden of the Hall. The Café serves lunches and cream teas using local produce. Cost is £21.50 which includes coach, entrance and a guided tour of the Hall.



Notes from the Hut

Deliveries Incoming

Potatoes, onions and seeds are expected in the next two weeks or so and they will be kept frost free by willing members until opening time in March. If anyone requires potatoes earlier we may be able to satisfy requests if approached directly.

The Hut opens for sales on Sunday 8th March.

Compost: Peat Free or not Peat Free

Since we are a garden club perhaps we should be promoting the use of peat-free-compost rather than the much loved peat based compost. However there is a matter of personal choice and cost to the individual. The RHS are strongly going in the direction of peat-free-compost to set us a good example.

For the last 3 years we have kept a limited volume of peat-free compost but it has been ignored in the main by the majority of members. Perhaps we have not advertised the product sufficiently. This is not very easy when we are only open 2 hours per week for about 30 weeks per year. We are selling peat-free compost below cost to promote sales and this means that the peat-compost is subsidising the more planet friendly product. However since the sales hut showed a profit I intend to keep these prices consistent with the permission of the Club Committee of course.

I can assure you that our SYLVA grow peat-free compost that is also endorsed by the RHS is of the best quality and the best value for its type.

Help with Work to the Fence Appreciated

We are aiming to make a second entry for product deliveries by taking out another fence panel to make forklift manoeuvring easier. This will of course be done without compromising safety and security. Our choices of design are few but no doubt a decent joiner will help us plan at the right price. Any advice or offers of labour will be appreciated.

Trevor Mitchell

Should I Buy Peat Free Compost?

The importance of lowland peat bogs as providing unique habitat for flora and fauna and as a natural asset which absorbs and stores carbon is well known however due to unsustainable exploitation UK peat bogs are no longer storing carbon but emitting it! The Committee on Climate Change (the Quango set up to advise the government on climate change) published it's advice on land use in January 2020 that includes reduction of emissions from lowland peat bogs as part of the measures essential to enable the UK to meet its net-zero by 2050 target.

The report notes: "In 2011, the Government introduced a voluntary phase out of peat for horticultural use in England (by 2020 for the amateur market and by 2030 for the professional market). However, this voluntary approach has not produced the desired decline in sales despite the availability of peat-free alternatives for compost and bedding." The report recommends a ban on the sales of peat for horticultural use and its import before 2023 for the UK to meet the Government's emissions reduction target.

Two Thirds of the peat we use for horticultural purposes is actually being imported from Ireland! The RHS has stopped selling peat-based compost from its own shops and has guidance on using alternatives. As peat-free alternatives are made from different mixes of different materials the advice from the RHS is to be prepared to pay a bit extra for a quality product and to read the instructions carefully including as to which fertilisers to use with the product owing to its different chemistry.

Peat-Free will behave differently to peat-based. RHS research recommends that in learning to use Peat-Free that gardeners don't rely on the appearance of the surface of the soil to judge whether watering is required but also to lift pots to judge by weight and to push a finger in below the surface level to judge water content by feel.

I have not bought peat-free compost before myself but switching to it now looks long overdue and with it being sold by the club at below cost price there is an added incentive to begin learning to use it.

Kevin Miles

Clitheroe Garden Club Membership 2020/21

You can join at any time of the year but membership runs from 1st March until 28th February. If you are renewing membership it would be a great help if you would do this before the end of March. Please complete this membership form and return it to the membership secretary at one of our meetings, at the club hut or by post enclosing a stamped addressed envelope measuring at least 4x6 inches to :-

Brenda Fenton, 31 Queen Street, Clitheroe, BB7 2LU

Are you applying for a single or joint membership? (One fee covers all members living in the same household including children)

Full Name(s)

Address

Post Code

Telephone number

Date

Mobile Phone

Email address

Please note information will not be disclosed to third parties and will be used only in case of cancellation of meetings / last minute events.

I am a **returning member/ new member/ life member** (please delete as appropriate) and I enclose my membership fee for 2020 –21 of £8.00

Would you be happy to receive your newsletter via email, bearing in mind that this would reduce costs for the club? YES/NO

Would you be interested in helping your club as a committee member? YES/NO

Would you be interested in helping your club at meetings? YES/NO

info@clitheroegardenclub.co.uk www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Club Website: www.clitheroegardenclub.co.uk

Email address: kmiles856@icloud.com

Items for the May 2020 issue should be sent in by mid April please to the above email.

