



Hon. President  
George Cowgill

The

# Newsletter

## No.110

### February 2021

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Welcome to the last-of-winter edition of your Garden Club Newsletter.

I hope you are enjoying the improvement in the weather as we've seen the back of the biting cold winds of "Beast from the East Part II".

Mr Johnson's announcement is due on 22 February, however as all the indications are that the current national lockdown restrictions are likely to be lifted slowly and carefully and will effect our activities for some time to come.

I hope you'll be encouraged by this issue of the club newsletter, and the club's response to the restrictions and, if like me, you hadn't come across the Tender Shoots Garden Club Network, a little inspired.

The cold weather has given me more time to work on my resolution to better plan my gardening for the year. As a less experienced gardener I find the Top 10 Jobs for the Month information useful so I've included all the Spring months which I'll hope you'll find useful or will at least give you a smile as it reminds you of the gardening year to come.

Happy gardening!

**Kevin**

Items for the Newsletter should be emailed to

**[clitheroegcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:clitheroegcnewsletter@gmail.com)**

## **A note from our Chair, Tracey.**

Since our last newsletter before Christmas government restrictions have increased, first, for Christmas itself and then to the current level of national lockdown currently set to continue until 31st March.

Speakers have been re-booked but some have already had to be cancelled again. The Annual Show, social calendar and coach trips remain suspended for the time-being.

### **Committee meetings:**

The committee continues to meet by video online and has decided not to call an Annual General Meeting (which requires at least 30 members to attend) until it is both safe and legal for members to do so in person.

### **Club Activities: Year Ahead**

Subject to covid-restrictions the speakers booked for dates from April 2021 remain in place. Garden Centres are amongst those businesses permitted to trade during national lock-down. and the Sales Hut will re-open on Sunday 7th March.

### **Membership Fees Paid in 2020 Carried Over to 2021**

The Committee has decided that club members who have paid their club fees for 2020/21 will receive free membership in 2021/22. If you were unable to pay last year you only need pay for this year.

### **2021 Membership Cards**

Issuing Membership cards is still important (especially in these covid times) as a way of ensuring the database of members details is kept up-to-date and the Sales Hut is not used by non-members.

Whether you need to pay your membership fee or not, please still complete the membership application form (see back pages) so we can keep the club's membership records up-to-date.

### **Please Help! Running the Club**

For a variety of reasons there are a number of committee members who will be unable to continue their roles which are essential to keep the club running. Please consider offering your time and/or skills to help. Your local gardening club needs you!

**Tracey Lawton.**

## Thank You Mary!

A big "thank you" on behalf of all members is given to Mary Alty who as Social Secretary of the Committee has arranged the popular annual coach trips and annual dinners for members . We hope to see Mary at the Sales Hut and at members meetings again soon.

## Sales Hut Improvements

With the need for social distancing the Committee has decided to purchase a gazebo to provide substantial additional covered space outside the Sales Hut when open on Sundays. Noel Hodgson has also kindly built a new noticeboard.

## John Gornall

Sadly John Gornall passed away on 21 November at age 87, which news has been on our website but which missed our last newsletter. John was known as a lovely unassuming man who will be sadly missed.

## Members Meeting Dates & Speakers

In light of the current lock-down and the uncertainty regarding when it will be legal and safe to hold normal club meetings the Committee has decided to be pro-active and enable meetings to go ahead by video on-line. To enable this the Committee has decided to purchase a Zoom licence so that we can host online club meetings attended by up to 100 "users".

We therefore hope to host some speakers by Zoom and enable members to meet up virtually until we are able to meet-up properly again.

Unfortunately the speaker booked for March has said that they would be unable to provide a talk via Zoom so that talk is cancelled for the time being but we are pleased to say that Mr Jack Gott has indicated he would be prepared to try delivering his talk by Zoom and Mr Anthony Norman is looking into whether he would be able to present a talk on Zoom also.

Hopefully it shall be safe and legal for the meetings arranged for September onwards to go ahead normally, but, if not members will be able to meet up online and take part online by video.

1st April: Jack Gott: **A Rainbow of Dahlias (Zoom)**

6th May: Anthony Norman: **Growing Alpines (Zoom?)**



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1st September - **The Trees of Holehird**, Brenda Leese of Lakeland Horticultural Society

6th October - **Once Seen, Never Forgotten**, Don Witton

3rd November - **The History of Oak Trees Nursery**, Philip Cook

1st December - **Christmas from the Garden**, Jacqueline Iddon

# Sales Hut— Re-opening 7th March



The Sales Hut—re-opening 7th March

The hut will be open as planned at 10:00-12:00 on 7th March, so here's hoping for a nice dry day with a good helping of sunshine.

Trevor has been cossetting the seed potatoes over winter and they will be available to buy on opening day along with pea & bean seeds and onion sets. There were quite a few conversations at the hut last year about ways in which the club could reduce its use of plastic, we have experimented with compostable plastic bags but they started breaking down in quite a short time (as they are meant to) & proved unsuitable for storing products in the hut. But **if members are planning on buying potatoes & onions it would help if they bring their own bags or some other suitable container for them.**

As with last year we will be conducting business at the hut outside as much as possible and encouraging social distancing. I'm aware that some members will still be wary of mixing with other people even if they have had the Covid vaccination and I am happy to arrange for collection from the hut outside of regular opening hours or to deliver supplies to those still reluctant or unable to come to the hut.

Please contact me on 01200 427308 to arrange.



**Lesley Taylor**

## Sales Hut 2021

**Prices: held, lowered  
and more for your  
money!**

**"Rock bottom prices  
and down to earth  
advice"**

## OUR HUT

This year all the usual fertilisers and general gardening aids will, of course, be available and at much the same prices as last year. You may want to take note of the following bargains being offered at the Sales Hut this year..... Please give us your usual good support

**Trevor Mitchell**

### **SYLVAGROW PEAT FREE COMPOST - BELOW COST PRICE!**

To promote the use of peat-free compost Sylva Grow (RHS approved) compost will be offered at the price of £5 per 50 litre (Yes 50 not 15) bag. This is below cost! Please try it and help in our effort to protect the natural environment for ourselves and future generations.



### **Potatoes**

Prices held at the same price as last year.



Early - "Foremost"

Second Early -  
"Charlotte"

### **Onions**

Same prices as last year but more weight



White Onions:  
Sturon

### **Beans / Peas**

Same price as 2020  
but ..**DOUBLE**  
the weight!

Peas: Hurst  
Greenshaft and  
Kelvedon Wonder

French Climbing:  
Blue Lake and  
Cobra

Runner: Fire-  
storm

Broad beans:  
Bunyards Exhibi-  
tion



## TOP 10 JOBS FOR MARCH FROM THE RHS

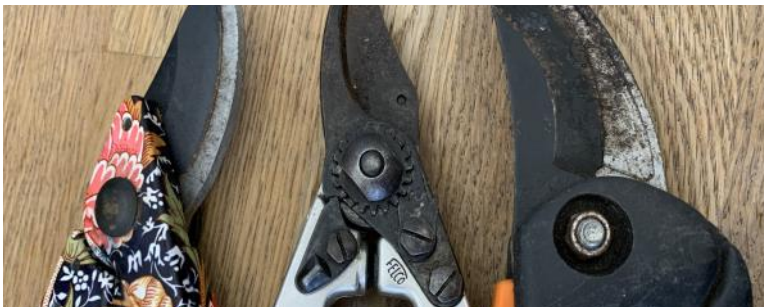
Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks!

It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

### Top 10 Jobs for March

1. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
7. Cut back *Cornus* (dogwood) and *Salix* (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
8. Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early / perennial weeds resume growth - deal with them before they get out of hand
9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
10. Prune bush and climbing roses

*Cornus* and *Salix* that have been established at least a year or two can be hard pruned whilst dormant or just as new growth appears and will respond with vigorous, colourful regrowth for winter. Feed in spring to support this. Hard pruning can be done annually but less vigorous varieties e.g. *Cornus Sanguinea* "Mid-winter fire" can/should be pruned less often.



## TOP 10 JOBS FOR APRIL FROM THE RHS

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...

### Top 10 Jobs for April

1. **Keep weeds under control**
2. **Protect fruit blossom from late frosts**
3. **Tie in climbing and rambling roses**
4. **Sow trays of half-hardy flowers (e.g. Lobelia, Tagetes, Petunia) under-cover or in heated propagator**
5. **If soil is warming, sow hardy annuals (inc. sweet peas), wild flower seeds and herbs outdoors**
6. **Increase water given to house plants and start feeding citrus plants**
7. **Feed hungry shrubs and roses**
8. **Sow new lawns or repair bare patches**
9. **Prune fig trees**
10. **Divide bamboos and waterlilies**

**Rhizomatous waterlilies** can be divided every four to five years depending on the vigour of the plant. To maintain vigour, divide waterlilies when they are overgrown and congested, with few flowers or when the roots have out-grown the container. Leaves pushed out of the water, rather than lying flat on the surface, can be another sign that it is time to divide.

1. **Lift the plant in late spring or early summer**
2. **Remove small rhizomes (about 15cm (6in) in size and each with a young shoot) from the thick main crown using a sharp knife**
3. **Pot up the rhizomes into a loamy soil (mixes are sold at aquatic centres) and firm well**
4. **Insert the new offshoot into aquatic baskets just under the soil surface, with the fibrous roots spread out below, and top the soil with a layer of washed pea shingle**

Divide **bamboo** in mid-spring is relatively simple achieved by splitting clumps apart with a mattock or axe, or by lifting smaller clumps and cutting them in half with a saw.

## TOP 10 JOBS FOR MAY FROM THE RHS

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on regional weather variations, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to get back into the lawn mowing regime, as the lawn will be loving the warmer temperatures this month brings.

### Top 10 Jobs for May

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

#### ***What Are Lily Beetle Grubs?***

Lily beetle and its larvae are leaf-eating insects of lilies and fritillaries. Adult beetles sometimes found elsewhere but it is only on lilies and fritillaries that eggs are laid and grubs develop. Aside from spoiling the plants' appearance, attacks in early summer can result in undersized bulbs developing, which may not flower next year. Plants may be stripped of all foliage.

Lily beetle has become widespread in Britain and Ireland since the early 1990s.

#### Gardeners should look out for:

Adult beetles which are 8mm long and have bright red wing cases and thorax. The head and legs are black

Clusters of orange-red, sausage-shaped eggs on the undersides of leaves

Larvae which reach 6-8mm long and are rotund, reddish brown with black heads. They are usually completely hidden under their own wet black excrement (insect excrement is known as frass)

Young larvae graze away the underside of leaves, resulting in white or brown dried up patches. The older larvae eat entire leaves, starting at the tips and working back to the stem, they will also feed on petals, stem and seed pods

Adult beetles make rounded holes in the leaves and will also feed on petals and seed pods



# Recipe for Kale Crisps

## Ingredients

About 100g of kale – tough stalks removed.

½ tbsp olive oil (or spray oil if you're slimming)

Any flavouring you fancy – salt/paprika/turmeric/ground coriander etc

*I'm not really a fan of kale but always think I should eat it because it'll do me good. So when I bought a large bag on impulse it lurked in the fridge for nearly a week while I worked myself up to doing something with it. I was on the point of cutting out the middle man and putting it straight on the compost when my daughter suggested making kale crisps. What a transformation! I've never known a vegetable make such a startling transition from something distinctly unappetising to something I can't get enough of. So here for the uninitiated is the recipe to try.....*

## Method

1. Heat the oven to 150°C / 130°C fan / Gas 2
2. Line a couple of baking sheets with parchment (not essential if you haven't got any)
3. Rinse and dry the kale as best you can - the drier the better. I use two tea-towels.
4. Place in a large bowl and break up into smaller pieces if necessary.
5. Drizzle over the olive oil and sprinkle on the flavouring.
6. Mix well.
7. Spread onto the baking trays not touching if possible.
8. Bake for about 20 minutes until crisp but still mainly green.
9. Remove from oven. Allow to cool and enjoy.

*Best eaten fresh but can be re-heated to crisp up if needed. But if you're anything like me they'll be gone in 10 minutes. Not sure what the nutritional value will be though after all that drying out but frankly - don't care!*

**Christine Fawcett**

# Tender Shoots Garden Club Network



The Club has been contacted by Barleston Village Garden Club (BVGC). BVGC was only set up in February 2020. After their first meeting lockdown came into effect and planned activities stopped, however meetings of members continued online using the (now very well known) ZOOM app / program with non-members welcomed. BVGC has been very active in using online meetings and have taken this one step farther (spurred by some local clubs closing altogether) and set up the Tender Shoots Garden Club Network (TSGCN), intending to enable independent garden clubs to band together online, have joint meetings and for members to share ideas. People not yet members of any garden club are also welcome to join in in the hope that they will join their local independent garden club as soon as they are able to do so.

TSGCN has a Facebook page. By now, within my own family at least, even those very adverse to going online or setting up a Facebook account have dipped their toe in the digital water, and used the internet to connect with loved ones and friends they've been unable to visit. There are a number of ZOOM talks by TSGN that you can attend "virtually" which I've reproduced below and if you've not tried before these might be a good first outing... These talks are free and if you don't already have access to it, the ZOOM app that enables you to attend a meeting is, like Facebook, free of charge.

## **NEXT DATES (7.15pm for 7.30 start unless stated otherwise):**

Mar 3rd Wed - Kevin Reynolds - "Love & War, How we created our garden birds"

Mar 10th Wed - Marcus Chiltern Jones - "The Making of RHS Bridgewater Garden: Plans & Progress"

Mar 11th Thu - Dr. Andrew Ward, Norwell Nurseries - "Brilliant Borages"

Mar 17th Wed - Quiz night

TBC - Mar 19th Fri - Gardeners World (Expected 1st episode). A casual chat (with a drink in hand) amongst TSGCN friends after the program

**If you are interested in any of the online talks offered by the Tender Shoots Garden Club Network above then send a message by/with your email for Zoom login details to [tsgcn@outlook.com](mailto:tsgcn@outlook.com)**

**Kevin Miles**

# Clitheroe Garden Club 2021/22

## Membership Application

You can join at any time of the year but as the membership year runs from 1st March 2021 (and the Sales Hut reopens 7th March) and continues until 28th February make the most of it and support the club by returning your completed form and payment (if appropriate) a.s.a.p. particularly when renewing membership.

**It is important that we can be confident that the central membership records are up to date to ensure that messages reach members and to assist in planning events and stocking the sales hut.**

Please complete this form including your personal details (overleaf) and return it F.A.O. the membership secretary at one of our meetings, at the Sales Hut or by post (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope measuring at least 4x6 inches for your membership card) to the membership secretary:-

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

**Alternatively**, if you paid a membership fee for membership in the March 20—Feb 21 year so you are exempt from payment this year and none of your details have changed and you're staying at home then please feel free to email the membership secretary and specify that you'd like to collect your membership card later in the year at the Sales Hut or at a meeting using the following email address:

**[clitheroegcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:clitheroegcmembers@gmail.com)**

***Please also take a moment or two to consider if you would .....***

- Help your club by taking a specific role on the committee? We urgently need a new Social Secretary (arranging events such as the annual coach trip or meal) and Speakers Secretary (finding and booking speakers for club meetings).
- Help as a committee member without a specific role but contributing to, and voting on decisions about the club's activities.
- Help out at club meetings.
- Help at the Sales Hut? **Phone, email or just ask at the Hut or a Meeting**

# Clitheroe Garden Club

## Membership Application Form 2021/22

Please complete all sections below in full so we can ensure our records are up-to-date:

Your information will not be disclosed to third parties and will be used to contact you when necessary regarding club business e.g. cancellation of meetings / last minute events / if you've expressed interest in helping out to offer you more information.

1. I am a **returning member/ new member/ life member** (delete as appropriate)
2. **I enclose my membership fee for 2021/22 of £8.00** (Cheques payable to "Clitheroe Garden Club" or by cash at the Sales Hut or at a club meeting **OR I paid a membership fee for 2020/21** (delete as appropriate)
3. I/We are applying for **single / joint membership** (One fee covers *all members living in the same household including children*—please include the names of all those who wish to be members below)

Full Name(s)

Address

Post Code

Telephone number

Date

Mobile Phone

Email address(es)

Form received by .....

Membership list updated by.....



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

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

