



Hon. President
George Cowgill

The

Newsletter

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Welcome to this autumnal issue of your Garden Club Newsletter. Time to look back on the summer that was, look ahead through the winter to come and warm sunshine to come again.

Firstly, an apology from me that this newsletter won't reach you during October. Between my own return to the office and a series of unforeseen events I'm later than I intended but I hope that you will still enjoy what's to follow.

We have the **CGC annual dinner this 12th January** to look forward to once more, (**menu details and booking form on the back page**) as well as the return of a full program of speakers meetings next spring.

At the Sales Hut a project to replant the lawn area with pollinator specific plants is well underway and next year's seeds and potatoes are on order with a wider range for sale to members.

2021 marks an historic milestone for your club with the final move away from peat-based compost. Like the change from incandescent to LED lighting, I am now happily using the alternative without a thought for its environmentally damaging predecessor.

Happy gardening!

Kevin Please send items for the Newsletter to

clitheroegcnewsletter@gmail.com

An article from our chairman about one of his gardening hobbies.

Bonsai !!!

What is Bonsai? Bonsai literally is Japanese for 'tree in a pot'. Bonsai uses cultivation techniques like pruning, root reduction, potting, defoliation, and grafting to produce small trees that mimic the shape and style of mature, full-size trees.

Trees are either grown from seed, bought as garden centre young plants or collected in a more mature state from hedges, gardens or forests. Bonsai does not require genetically dwarfed trees but rather depends on growing normal trees from regular stock and seeds. Any tree can be 'Bonsai-ed' but I prefer UK native species since they are easier to look after. For example I have some olive tree bonsai but they need more UV light than Clitheroe skies provide so tend to suffer as bonsai.



Hawthorn—approx. 25yrs old from an old hedge



3 sycamore collected from cracks in paving

Why are bonsai trees so small? Bonsai trees are real trees, but they are just grown in small pots. The reason that they do not grow as large as other trees do is because of the way that bonsai trees are cared for. By keeping the tree in a small container and pruning it regularly, the tree is unable to grow past a small size. Just as pruning shrubs or fruit trees promotes new buds so does the branch (and root) pruning of bonsai.

Leaving the tree in a small pot may make it seem that the tree doesn't have room to grow. This is true but it's not a bad thing. A good bonsai caretaker will know how to trim the tree and its roots to make sure that the bonsai fits comfortably within its pot. This is how bonsai trees stay so much smaller than trees that grow outdoors.

BONSAI

Doesn't it harm the tree to keep it in a small pot? Some questions and answers.....

Does Being Small Harm the Tree?

As long as you are taking good, proper care of your bonsai tree, you are in no way harming the tree. Simply making sure that the tree stays small isn't doing any damage to the tree. A well-cared for bonsai tree might even live longer in a pot than another tree might live in the ground.

Any kind of harm to bonsai trees would have to come with neglecting care and maintenance. Forgetting to water it, or give it proper fertilizer or sunlight would be neglecting the tree. Pruning doesn't cause any harm, and it is used for many different kinds of plants, not just bonsai trees.



A recently collected elm— a bonsai beginning its training



A common privet made into a bonsai! Not mine !

No healthy bonsai is being harmed. If the bonsai were not getting the proper care and nutrition that it needed, it would not survive. Bonsai trees are not lacking in any necessary sustenance. The reason that they are able to stay so small is due to the way that they are maintained, and is not the result of depriving the bonsai of any water, space, or sunlight that would help it grow.

If anyone would like any more information on this topic I would be happy to show you my garden and guide beginners into this excellent hobby. It doesn't have to take decades to have pleasing results!

Gordon Preston

From the Sales Hut Team



Sales Hut 2021: A successful year during difficult circumstances thanks to volunteers new and old.

The club hut opened at the beginning of March with a long queue of people who clearly couldn't wait to get gardening but after a few very busy weeks things settled down and we had steady trading throughout the season.

As happened last year we had a problem obtaining supplies of compost which seemed to be due to national demand exceeding supply and was quite outside the control of Trevor or myself. It meant that we had to be a bit more inventive in our gardening and I found myself thinking what would my Grandad have used on his allotment in the post war years before garden centres & bags of compost made their appearance.

We have had some new volunteers at the hut this year which has been lovely and meant that



Possibly well dressed gardeners queuing one Sunday Morning to buy seeds and plants.

we were able to keep the hut open in spite of Boris telling people that they could go on holiday and the effects of Covid on our daily lives. **A big thank you to everyone involved in helping keep the Sales Hut open** whether by volunteering at the hut or by providing produce for sale at very low prices.




All in all it feels that it has been a successful year at the hut and we're all looking forward to next year.

Lesley Taylor

Seeds for Sale 2022



Seeds etc have been ordered for next year when we open on the first Sunday in March. Last year everything was sold out after 2 to 3 weeks so please come early! Thanks to everyone for your help this year and **Merry Christmas** to all!

	Potatoes		
	Earlies	Casablanca	All £1.50 /Kg or £0.80 per 1/2 Kg
		Foremost	
	Second Earlies	Charlotte	
		Maris Piper	
Main	Cara		
	Beans and Peas		
	Climbing French	Cobra	All £1.00 per packet
		Hunter	
	Runners	Painted Lady	
		Lady Di	
Scarlett Emperor			
Peas	Hurst Greenshaft		
	Onions and Shallots		
	White (globe)	Sturon	All £2 per 500g or £1 per 250g
	Red (by request!)	Red Karman	
	Shallots	Golden Gourmet Plus	

P.S. this year people kept talking about Pete but I don't have a clue who he is!

Trevor Mitchell



(Peat) Free at Last!

Our decision to sell only peat free compost at the Sales Hut appears generally to have gone down well with the membership. Sales were steady and those who've tried it appear satisfied with results. As always our members have risen to the challenge and are trying new and innovative ways to use the new media. In case anyone's forgotten why it might be worth trying alternatives to peat here's a few reminders:

Why peat bogs matter:

They capture and store carbon. They hold nearly 30% of all carbon stored on land – more carbon per hectare than any other eco-system including forests and are the second largest carbon store after oceans.

If peat bogs dry out (following extraction) the carbon released as carbon dioxide accelerates climate change.

They act as giant sponges and help prevent flooding.

They provide drinking water – much easier and cheaper to purify than from other sources.

They provide a very particular eco-system which is home to a wealth of plants, birds and insects.

Why they are threatened:

Of the 70.000 hectares of lowland raised bog in the UK, estimates suggest that only 5-10% remains in near-natural condition. Previously peat was used as fuel, now it's used for our gardens and hanging baskets. It takes a whole year to create just 1mm of peat – so effectively once it's gone it's gone for millennia.

Saving Ourselves....

The planet will be fine – it'll save itself. It'll still be here, maybe not in the form we know it but still going strong. It's actually the human race that we're after saving because if we don't do something now we're going to destroy our home and with it ourselves. So maybe, if you haven't already, why not give peat-free a go.

Christine Fawcett

CLITHEROE GARDEN CLUB NEW YEAR MEAL / ANNUAL DINNER 2022

Wednesday 12th January 2022 6:30 for 7:00pm at the Calf's Head, Worston

Nestled in the heart of the picturesque conservation village of Worston but only a couple of miles from Clitheroe town centre, the Calf's Head has large maintained gardens and outdoor seating areas offering stunning views of Pendle Hill.

Address: Worston, Clitheroe, BB7 1QA

Telephone: (01200) 441 218



The full cost of this 3 course meal followed by coffee and mints is only £25.00 per person including gratuities.

The full menu / booking form is on the back page of the newsletter. Please fill out your name, address and telephone number and next to each menu item the number of people in your party making that choice.

Please send along with your cheque made out to “Clitheroe Garden Club” by 31st December to Noel Hodgson, 11 Bleasdale Avenue, Clitheroe, BB7 2PF

Speakers Meetings 2022

These will be taking place
at Clitheroe Rugby Club
on a Wednesday evening.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title of Talk</u>
2 March	Richard and Vicky Fox - Jubilee Cottage Nursery, Crewe (RHS Chelsea Gold Medal Winners)	Plantagogo
6 April	Jack Gott, JRG Dahlias, Milnthorpe, Cumbria.	A Rainbow of Dahlias
4 May	Anthony Norman - Conquest Plant Nursery, Macclesfield	Growing Alpines
7 September	Brenda Leese - Lakeland Horticultural Society	Trees of Holehird
5 October	Don Witton - Sheffield, National Collection of Hardy Euphorbia	Euphorbias - Once Seen, Never Forgotten
2 November	Phil Cook, Oaktrees Nursery, Bolton by Bowland	History of Oaktrees Nursery
7 December	Jacqueline Iddon Hazelwood Garden and Nursery	Xmas from the Garden

Ode to Worms

In juicy, juicy worms
Find consolation terms
The finest stuff for gardens ever found.
Your plants and flowers and trees
Bring your neighbours to their knees
And you'll know the glory hidden in the ground.



Never doubt, you can be sure
That your teabags and manure
Are transformed by process partly thermophyllical
Into compost in a heap
Where the organisms creep
Earthly gold you see

Katy Marshall

The Pitter Patter of Webbed Feet....

During the spring of this year I was visited by a pair of mallard ducks. They waddled about exploring my garden and turned my rich pond into a mud bath for about a month, then they disappeared except for a few fleeting visits.

Exactly 28 days from the day they disappeared the mummy duck emerged from the plants next to my pond followed by 10 ducklings who fell over the edge into the pond like little powder puffs. By the following morning they had gone.

I learned so much about ducks this spring but I'm not sure I'll encourage them to stay if they turn up next year as I live a long way from the Mearly Brook and I'm not sure they got there. 2021 has been a good year for wildlife for me.

Rita Heyes



TOP 10 JOBS FOR NOVEMBER FROM THE RHS

RHS Jobs for November

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 up on pot feet to prevent waterlogging
3. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
4. Prune roses to avoid "wind-rock"
5. Plant out winter bedding
6. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
7. Insulate outdoor containers from frost – bubble wrap works well
8. Stop winter moth damage to trees by putting grease bands around the trunks
9. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
10. Use a seasonal bonfire– where allowed – to dispose of excess debris which is not fit to compost



TOP 10 JOBS FOR DECEMBER FROM THE RHS

Top 10 Jobs for December

1. Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place
2. Check that greenhouse heaters are working
3. Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing
4. Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls)
5. Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
6. Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops
7. Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted
8. Take hardwood cuttings
9. Keep mice away from stored produce
10. Reduce watering of houseplants

Hardwood cutting are taken in the dormant season (mid-autumn until late winter) after leaf fall, avoiding periods of severe frost. As well as trees, climbing plants and deciduous shrubs, some evergreen plants and fruit including: gooseberries, black, red and white currants, fig, mulberry can be propagated by hardwood cuttings at this time of year. The ideal time is just after leaf fall or just before bud-burst in spring.



NAME		Telephone Number	
ADDRESS			
Starters		For:	
Broccoli & Stilton Soup			
Homemade Chicken Liver Pate with warm toast.			
Rosette of melon with a lemon sorbet centre			
Smoked salmon parcels filled with a prawn mousse			
Mains served with choice of vegetables & new or roast potatoes			
Fresh Salmon in filo pastry, dill & basil sauce			
Pork Fillet with calvados sauce			
Roast rib eye of beef with rich gravy & Yorkshire Pudding			
Chicken breast parcel filled with sundried tomato and Camembert, in a light tomato sauce.			
Vegetarian option (available on the day)			
Deserts			
Peach Melba			
Mixed fruit crumble and custard			
Tangy Lemon Torte			
Cheese and Biscuits			
Fresh Ground Coffee and Mints			

Clitheroe Garden Club New Year Meal 12 January 2022 6:30 for 7:30, Calf's Head, Worston