



Hon. President  
George Cowgill

# Clitheroe Garden Club

## NEWSLETTER

### Autumn/Winter Edition

# No 115

## Nov 2022

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Fruitfulness



Welcome to the winter newsletter. The weather is being very kind to us, giving us chance to tidy and prepare our gardens for winter.

A list of planned speakers is included. Unfortunately the annual show is still in abeyance as no one has come forward to run it.

The Annual Dinner is planned for a lunchtime in January, which we hope will appeal to all, especially those who don't like night driving. We have chosen The Calf's Head as they looked after us so well last year.

## The Pony Express

Many thanks to our dedicated team of Garden Club News deliverers between us we deliver by hand around 160 copies—free.

Items for the newsletter to  
[elaine.noelh@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.noelh@gmail.com) please

CLITHEROE GARDEN CLUB

Chair's Report – September 2022 ( Gordon Preston)

When we elected our new Chair (Tracey Lawton) and Treasurer (Sarah Withers) at our last AGM in February 2020 we had no idea what was in store for us. By March, when we would normally be looking forward to our first Speakers Meeting of the year and the reopening of the Sales Hut, we were in Covid lockdown and all activities were cancelled. Thanks to the valiant efforts of some of our volunteers the Hut was able to open later in the year whilst committee members began to acquire the necessary technical skills to meet on Zoom and members were kept informed via e-mail and newsletter.

Though the AGM for 2021 was postponed the Sales Hut did open in March with appropriate social distancing measures in place. Because so much activity had had to be cancelled the committee decided that fees paid in 2020 should carry over to 2021 and collected from new applicants only, though some kind souls insisted on paying their membership regardless. In May both Tracey Lawton and Sarah Withers resigned and it looked as if the club might fail for lack of committee members. Thankfully Gordon Preston and Chris McNeal stepped forward as acting Chair and Treasurer respectively while in July Katy Marshall took over from Beverley Cooper as Speakers Secretary.

Though life began to return to some sort of normality there was still a lot of uncertainty around the risks posed by social gatherings. As a result, the Speakers Meetings for the early part of the year and the Annual Show were cancelled. In August the committee met face-to-face for the first time, albeit outdoors, and with the approach of winter reverted to Zoom meetings until finally feeling safe enough to meet indoors in December. With an eye to recommencing Speakers Meetings it was felt a change of venue to allow more social distancing was desirable and after exploring various possibilities an agreement was reached with Clitheroe Rugby Club.

By the beginning of this year 2022 it really did feel that life was returning to some sort of normality and thanks to the efforts of Noel and Elaine Hodgson who had taken on the role of Social Secretary we kicked off the year with our Annual Dinner at the Calf's Head, Worston. The Sales Hut opened as usual at the beginning of March and Speakers Meetings recommenced at the new venue. Despite some initial glitches, like double bookings and speakers contracting Covid, the meetings were well attended and it was gratifying to see so many loyal members returning to the club. A visit to Jacqueline Iddon's Hazelwood Gardens in June was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and we look forward to hearing further from her at our December meeting.

Not everything, however has returned to normal. Sadly our very popular Annual Show has had to be cancelled for the second year running since there is no-one able or willing to take on the job of Show Co-ordinator. Our long-standing Hut Manager, Trevor Mitchell has retired after many years of dedicated service and passed the baton into the hands of the ever-capable Lesley Taylor. We wish you well Trevor and know that we'll still see you at the Hut when other duties allow. Kevin Miles, who has kept the Newsletter going all through lockdown and beyond despite being out of town for most of it, has handed over the editor's role to Noel and Elaine Hodgson. Thank you once again Kevin for your expertise and dedication.

## **SPEAKERS**

7th Dec 2022 Jacqueline Iddon Xmas from the garden.  
March 2023 Mark Myers Easy Gardening with Style  
Low maintenance and wild flower gardening.  
April Steve Helliwell The Hornbeam to the Handkerchief tree.  
May Elaine Taylor English gardens through the ages.  
Sept Irene Ridge Fungi in the garden.  
Oct George Pilkington All about composting.  
Meetings 1st Wednesday of the month Clitheroe Rugby Club .

# News from the club hut

Who knows if winter will have arrived by the time you read this but as I write this several penstemons on my plot are still flowering having started again about 3 weeks ago and one of the hollyhocks has now decided to give them a run for their money. All very nice but a timely reminder that we are running out of time to tackle the climate emergency.

The club hut closed at the end of September after what felt like a healthy season of trading. Most of the seed potatoes were sold as were the onions & shallots and members brought in surplus seedlings and plants which were snatched up. The bagged farmyard manure has proved very popular, I know that some of you are not as enamoured of the peat free compost but it's something that we will all have to get used to and the Sylvan brand is the best quality peat free compost available, Sylvan have been producing it since the 1990s and have a long history of peat free products. The biggest complaint is that it **doesn't** appear to retain moisture as well and it's true that the surface does dry out more quickly but very often the deeper layers are still moist. This finding is reflected in the studies carried out by a number of organisations including the horticultural department of nearby Craven College in Skipton but the only problem associated with it is in the danger of accidental overwatering. Personally I've found that adding some top soil to compost intended for potting on or container planting has improved moisture retention and in the case of tomatoes I've also thrown in some of the farmyard manure.

Seed potatoes for next year have been ordered and will be available as will onion and shallot sets when the hut opens in March. There will be a selection of bean & pea seeds and this year I am throwing caution to the winds and ordering a sugar snap pea variety as well as the ordinary podded ones. The only feedback I had about potatoes was to please order **Charlotte's** again which I have done along with Nicola another 2<sup>nd</sup> early. I have also ordered 2 earlies, Maris Bard (the best tasting early I think) & Arran Pilot plus one maincrop Carla. One of our members told me about a variety called Lucera, trialled by those lovely gardeners at Beechgrove, which had come out tops in terms of flavour. Unfortunately in spite of many hours trawling the internet I couldn't find a wholesale supplier in the UK (sorry Bill) but I did pass on the request to our usual supplier so who knows it may be on their list next year. We also had several enquiries about pelleted chicken manure early in the year and so I ordered some in March which finally arrived in September!! Our wholesale suppliers had been given no explanation for the lack so who knows whether it was down to Covid, Avian flu or Brexit.

I do hope that you've all enjoyed the flowerbeds at the hut this year, they've been very colourful and attracted lots of pollinators, there will be some earlier flowers next spring as we planted crocus (very early pollen source for bees) iris and narcissus bulbs in October. As always a huge thank you to everybody who has helped out at the hut in 2022, every one of you makes a difference.

Although the hut is closed for regular opening until March, I can be contacted for any supplies you may need before then.

Lesley (01200 427308)

## Watch out for our spring bulb show



## Peter Spencer

The club was contacted in the summer by Philip Spencer son of Peter who was clearing his father's house and garden sheds, he invited members to visit and search for any gardening tools and equipment that they could make use of. He had a large range and collection of tools and most members found something of use to them. Peter moved to Clitheroe to become Headmaster of St James School, and was a keen gardener and club member and a wine connoisseur, he gave the club an excellent talk and tasting at one of our meetings. Peter passed away in 2021.



Just a fraction of the pots in Peter's potting shed



The garage

# GARDENERS QUESTION TIME

In August the Clitheroe Garden Club received an Invitation for members to attend a recording of Gardeners' Question Time hosted by Preston Gardening Society at The University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in Preston. So I applied for a ticket at the princely sum of £4.50.

The recording was on a Tuesday evening from 6pm to 8pm – arrive by 5pm when we received a choice of welcome drinks, were asked to submit any questions for the panel, before filing into a capacious lecture theatre. Lesley Taylor, the Sales Hut manager, was kind enough to give me a lift to UCLAN – great because she knew the way. There were about 200 attendees most of them female and probably retired from all over Lancashire so we fitted in very well!

The recording was chaired by Kathy Clugston who proved to be a cheery host directing the panel and the audience to excellent effect. The panel were James Wong, Christine Walkden and Kirsty Wilson and, a bonus for the audience, there would be two recordings, two broadcasts and therefore double the opportunity for our gardening queries to be chosen.

Those of you who listen to GQT, as it is called for short, will know that James Wong specialises in houseplants but he carefully angled his answers to make them appropriate to those who were outdoor gardeners too. Christine Walkden was popular, a local girl born in Rishton but now living on the Hertfordshire/Essex borders. She emphasised the difference in garden seasons North v South. Kirsty Wilson, from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, was appearing for the first time on GQT. Unfortunately she arrived late for the recording – train problems. Her speciality is herbaceous plants.

Did you hear my question about my wisteria when it was broadcast?

Alex Berry



**Calf's**  
COUNTRY RESTAURANT



**Head**  
HOTEL & WATERING HOLE

**CLITHEROE GARDEN CLUB**

PROPOSED 2023 MENU (op 1)

**MENU OPTION 715**

**SMOKED SALMON PARCELS** *filled with a prawn mousse*

*or*

**ROSETTE OF MELON** *with a lemon sorbet centre*

*or*

**HOMEMADE CHICKEN LIVER PATE** *with warm toast*

*or*

**CHEF'S TOMATO & BASIL SOUP** *served with a wholemeal roll*

\*\*\*\*\*

**SALMON & HALIBUT WRAPPED IN FILO PASTRY** *served with a dill & basil cream*

*or*

**SLOW COOKED MINTED LAMB SHANK** *served with mint, honey & mushroom gravy*

*or*

**ROAST RIBEYE OF BEEF** *served with rich gravy & Yorkshire pudding*

*or*

**CHICKEN PARCEL FILLED WITH SUNDRIED TOMATO & CAMEMBERT**

*served in a light tomato sauce*

ALL SERVED WITH A CHOICE OF VEGETABLES; ROAST & NEW POTATOES

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**PEACH MELBA**

*or*

**MIXED FRUIT CRUMBLE**

*served with vanilla custard*

*or*

**TANGY LEMON TORTE**

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FRESHLY GROUND COFFEE & MINT CREMES

**£27.00 per head**

# Clitheroe Garden Club New Year Meal Sat 28th Jan 2023

12.30 for 1pm. Calf's Head Worston.

Name

Tele

## STARTERS

Soup

Rosette of Melon

Pate

Salmon Parcels

## MAINS

Salmon & Halibut

Lamb

Beef

Chicken

Veg option Cheese & onion pie or Mushroom Wellington

## DESSERTS

Peach Melba

Crumble

Lemon Torte

Coffee .

Cost £29 inc gratuities

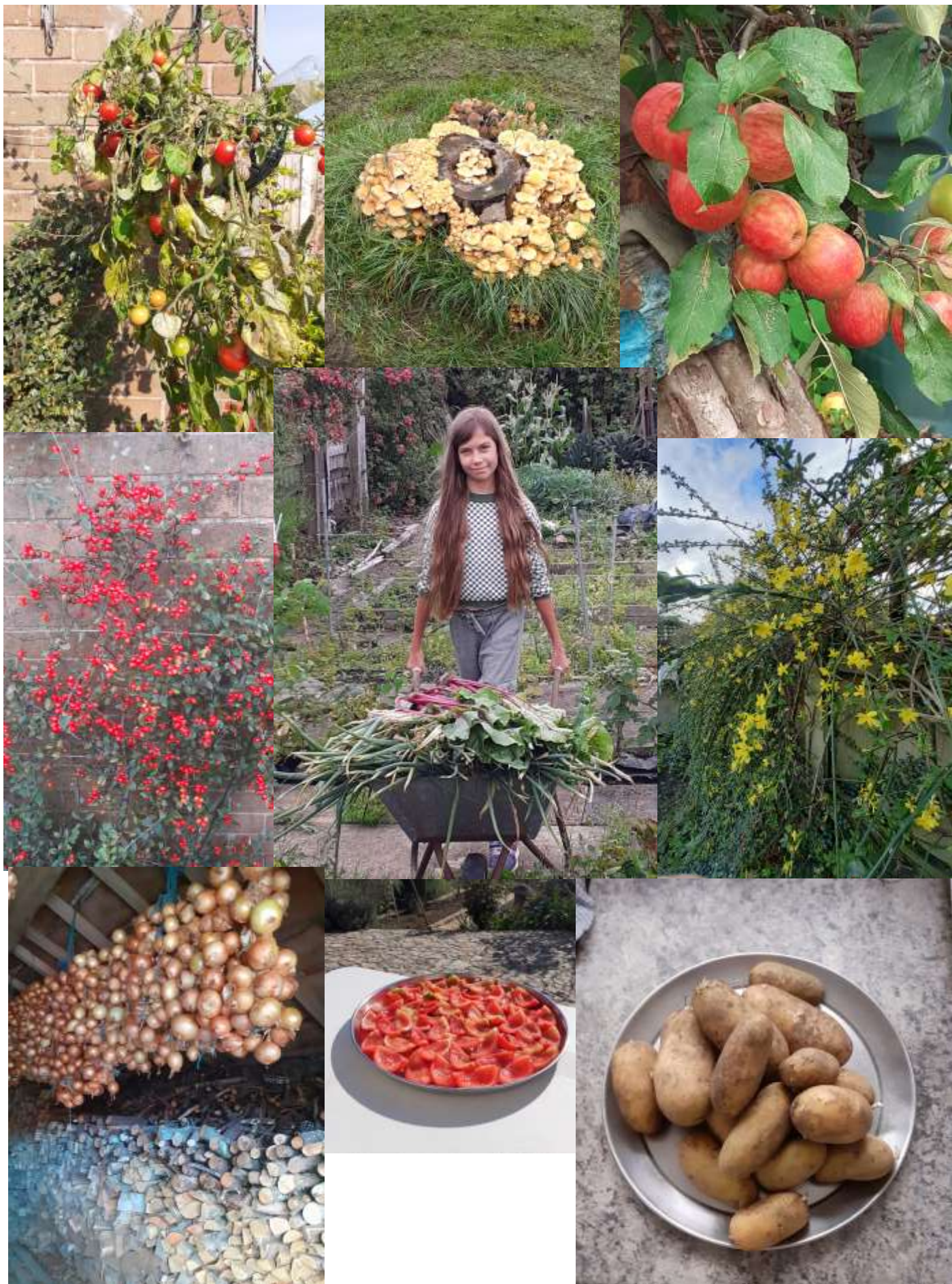
Please tick your choice and send order and cheque made out to

"Clitheroe Garden Club"

To Noel Hodgson

11 Bleasdale Ave Clitheroe

BB72PF by 14th Jan 2023.



A season of mellow fruitfulness.