



Hon. President
George Cowgill

Clitheroe Garden Club

NEWSLETTER No 118

Winter Edition 2023/24

A.G.M.

Wed 7th Feb

At Ribblesdale

C.C. 7.30p.m.

Pie & pea

supper veg

option quiz.

£5.50.

Tickets from

Elaine & Noel.

Welcome to the winter newsletter, sitting here looking out at a soggy garden its easy to forget the last two days have been very sunny and the autumn colours splendid. Included is the programme of events for spring 2024.

Annual Dinner Sat 27th Jan 12.30
for 1.00pm.

AGM with Quiz & supper Feb 7th



Items for the newsletter to elaine .noelh@gmail.com

01200423154 07742081043 No PDFS Please.

NEWS FROM THE HUT

After a bit of dilly dallying in October when we had a heavy frost in the middle of the month but also with some lovely sunny days either side it does feel as if winter has finally made its entrance. A shame that it also brought an awful lot rain with it but at least we missed out on the worst of the storms that hit the country. I am harvesting the very last of the tomatoes in the greenhouse and, after doubting that they would ever flower, the cosmos are defying the elements and are continuing to bloom but not for much longer I think. The remedial work on the huts is now finished – thank you to Ric Calvert for a good job well done, the huts are both over 40 years old and hopefully will survive another 40!! All we need now is a suitably large container to collect all the rainwater coming off the new guttering.

I have ordered the seed potatoes for next year & after feedback & requests from club members decided on Arran pilot a first early, Orla which came out top for flavour & cropping in a small trial that the good folk at Beechgrove conducted. It is also a first early but can be left in the ground & lifted as a second early or early main crop. I've ordered 2 second earlies, the ever popular Charlotte, and also Kestrel which apparently copes well with wet ground according to those who've grown it on West View allotments. I've been persuaded to give main crop varieties another chance & have ordered Sarpo Mira a red skinned variety with good resistance to blight and slugs.

I know that some of you experience problems with the peat free compost, in particular with regard to watering. You may find it helpful to listen to the Gardeners Question Time broadcast from Mottistone Gardens on 27th October & still available on BBC Sounds. It was reassuring to hear that the experts have similar problems & that they gave much the same sort of advice that we have been giving at the hut since we started selling it. Melcourt who make Sylva, which we sell, have been making peat free compost since the nineties and our suppliers reckon it to be the best on the market.

If any of you are still planting bulbs by the time you read this then please find space for some crocus which provide an early source of pollen for bees. And it's never too late to leave a bit of woody untidiness in a quiet spot to provide shelter for the many insects seeking refuge from a north west winter

The hut is now closed until the beginning of March but if anybody needs supplies before then I can be contacted on 01200 427308 or 07792967885 to arrange collection.

See you all in spring

Lesley 🌱

Phil Radcliffe.

Sadly Phil passed away in September, after a brave fight, he had suffered ill health for a long time but fought hard all the way. He was a very keen allotment holder and gardener and spent hours on his allotment in all weathers, a loyal and long time member of the club, who regularly won prizes at the annual show along with his co gardener Jane, his wife Susan was also a winner in the craft section. Always happy to help, advise and pass on his knowledge to those of us less experienced. We miss him. And send our condolences to Susan and family.

Our last speaker in October was Hilary, chair of Northern Fruit Group, a delightful lady who seemed to know everything there is to know about apples. She brought with her jars of jams, jellies and bottles of fruit juice all home made to sell, as well as a tray full of different apples, of which she knew all the varieties, continuing to talk whilst cutting up and distributing pieces of apples for us all to try. She had so much energy she was a really good advert for eating apples. More info google northern fruit group.

Autumn and Winter Potato Storage.

Seed Potatoes are usually available from late January or early February and that's the time to decide which varieties you want to grow for Summer and for Winter storage.

Second early Charlotte and Kestrel and main crop Desiree and Sarpo-Mira for example, all store well providing the Autumn is not too mild and Winter frosts not too harsh.



I lift all my potatoes by late July/ early August to hopefully avoid the twin disappointments of Blight and slug damage. Newly dug potatoes can be spread out and turned until dry either under cover if the weather is poor or out in the open for up to a couple of days in dry weather.

Potatoes like cold, dry and dark conditions for storage and I store mine in a slatted wood shed, in half filled hessian coffee sacks, placed inside galvanised Dolly tubs or wooden boxes with lids to deter mice and with plenty of insulating material on the outside.

For the first few weeks they need to be tipped out on to an empty sack to prevent damage and those that are not keeping removed, slight slug damage will not prevent them from keeping. Once they have 'stabilised' and no more rotting ones appearing you should not need to check through them again.

Second earlies should keep until Christmas and main crop up to Easter and beyond with a bit of luck

Chris Wilcock

FOR SALE Hardwood frame 8ft x 6ft greenhouse with toughened glass which needs some attention , or maybe just re-purpose the glass, free to anyone interested.



Contact Chris Wilcock chrisjwilcoc@outlook.com

Or tel 01200428628

Meeting 6th Dec Maureen Little. From the beegarden.co.uk

“Keep your garden Buzzing” at the Rugby Club 7.30.

Speakers for Spring 2024.

March 6th Sylvia Travers Garden Media Guild Talk on her current passion “A new walled kitchen restoration.”

April 3rd Mathew Smith “Potato Salad”

May 1st Ray Cauldwell Bonsai

As from the new year our meetings will be held at

Ribblesdale Cricket Club, it was felt the Rugby Club didn't meet our needs.

We are sorry to announce our Treasurer Chris McNeal has decided to stand down as from the A.G.M. We are very grateful to her for rescuing us when our last treasurer moved away. Anyone who feels they could fill the role, perhaps as a job share, please speak to any committee member.

We are sorry to be losing Beverley Cooper and Frances Hocken from the committee they have both given sterling service to the club over many years and will be sorely missed. This leaves vacancies on the committee for at least two members, anyone who would like to join us please have a word with any committee member.



Calf's Head Christmas Special

Served Monday - Saturday from Monday 20th November 2023

SERVED IN ADDITION TO THE MAIN MENU

Homemade Chicken Liver & Cranberry Pâté

served with warm toast

or

Soup of the Moment

or

Medley of Melon Cocktail

or

Prawn & Crayfish Cocktail



Traditional Christmas Roast Turkey

served with chipolata & seasoning

or

Fillet of Poached Salmon

with prawn & cream sauce

or

Braised Steak

with a peppercorn sauce

or

Mushroom, Brie & Cranberry Wellington

served with a light tomato sauce

All served with roast & new potatoes & two other vegetables



Traditional Christmas Pudding

with brandy sauce

or

Lemon Meringue Pie

or

Hot Chocolate Fudge Cake

or

Fruits of the Forest Cheesecake

or

Homemade Sherry Trifle

For Parties Over 10
£5.00 per head
non-refundable
deposit required
at time of booking



To view details of
other promotions
visit calfshead.co.uk
or find us on Facebook

Three courses £30 including gratuity

NOT available on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.

Parties of all sizes catered for - please call 01200 441218 to book

Calf's Head, Worston, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 1QA

Clitheroe Garden Club Annual Dinner

Sat 27th Jan 2024

12.30 for 1 pm. Calf's Head Worston.

Name:..... Tel;.....

STARTERS

Pate

Medley of Melon

Soup

Prawn cocktail

MAINS

Roast Turkey

Salmon

Steak

Mushroom Wellington

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding

Lemon Meringue Pie

Hot Chocolate Fudge Cake

Fruits of the forest cheese cake

Homemade sherry trifle

Cost £30 inc. Gratuities.

Please tick your choice

And send order and cheque

Made out to

"Clitheroe Garden Club"

To Noel Hodgson

11 Bleasdale Ave

Clitheroe BB7 2PF

By 13th Jan 2024



The back and sides have been clad and are thoroughly weatherproof.



The guttering will help to keep the rain from the roof off the back of the hut and divert it for storage in a large water tank which we have yet to acquire.

Digging leeks last winter was a job for the pickaxe

