



Hon. President
George Cowgill

Clitheroe Garden Club

NEWSLETTER No 121

Autumn Edition 2024

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter, today is the 30th of September and you could say September is going out with a splash. 2024 has been a difficult year for us gardeners and I for one won't be sorry to say goodbye to it, a new year will no doubt bring new challenges but hopefully less weeds. Lets hope drier conditions are around the corner we, we look forward to autumn tints and mellow fruitfulness.



The Garden Club hut flower beds at the end of September

Many thanks to our contributors.

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

WORD docs are much preferred please.

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Views from the hut

It feels a long time since we were welcoming the lengthening days of spring but conversely the dark evenings seem to have returned much too quickly, perhaps it's something to do with the feeling that summer never properly arrived. I keep a weather diary & looking back over the entries for this year I find I haven't imagined all those cold cloudy days in June and the rain in July and August. We have been lucky at the hut though, as most Sunday mornings were dry if often cool although we had rain on every Sunday morning in September bar the last one.

After a very successful start with the potato day in February when we sold out of most of the seed potatoes, trading at the hut was slow to get going in March possibly because the weather was so cold and wet that nobody was gardening. Things improved and for the most part there has been steady trading with the usual amounts of stuff like blood fish & bone being sold but less of the lawn treatments maybe that's a reflection of the type of gardening being done by members. We sold 100 litres of perlite in the first 6 months of trading but then another 100 litres in the last month, probably because of the recommendation of Kevin Pratt our speaker at the September meeting.

I had mostly positive feedback about the seed potatoes that we sold this year so will probably order the same varieties for next year. I think there has been a lot less consistency in rates of success with anything that people have grown this year. Some have had great crops of plums & apples others have been lucky to get 3 on a tree, others have had repeated failures with germination & seedlings of plants they've grown for years. I had great success with germination of cucumbers & tomatoes although seedling growth was painfully slow but 2 generous sowings of sunflower seeds resulted in only 2 plants that didn't produce any flowers.

The beds at the hut have provided a lovely and varied display from early spring and the great thing is that everything in them is either a perennial or self seeded annual, requires very little care and so all very sustainable. The flowers have been a great attraction for the insects that have been around although many people have commented on the generally reduced numbers this year especially of butterflies. As always a huge thank you to everybody who comes on Sundays to help at the hut and makes it work, everybody's contribution is invaluable but I think if we gave out gold stars one would have to go to Gerry Purchase! Thank you to anybody who brought plants in but particularly Brenda, Beverley and Robin who kept us very well supplied throughout the year. A special thank you too to Ruth, Chris & Maria for their help in applying the annual coat of preservative to the huts, ironically given all the grumbles about the weather we did it on what was probably one of the hottest mornings of the year, hey ho.

Happy gardening, see you all next year

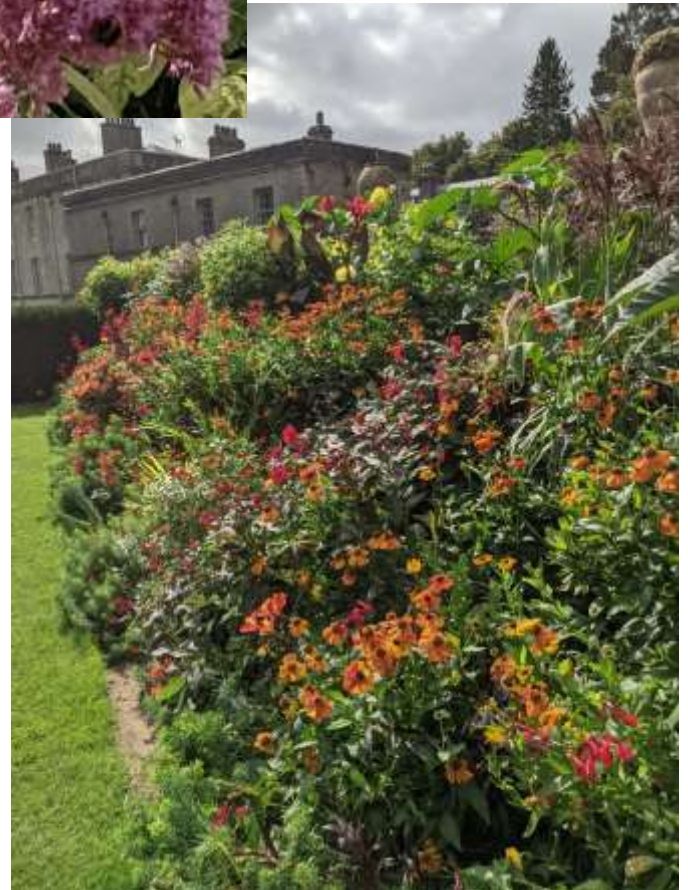
Lesley





PLAS
NWEWEDD

From Chris



Parcevall Hall and Gardens

In late July our daughter came to stay for a few days the weather improved and for a day out we took a trip to Parcevall Hall, situated at Skyrethorne Skipton. The route there is very picturesque past Bolton Abbey and on into Wharfedale, a lovely spot but only for the fit and able.

The Hall itself is at the top of a steep hill with stunning views all around, the gardens are beautiful and well cared for, the grounds are full of superb trees planted by Sir William Milner who bought the Hall in 1927 and planted rare specimens including from West China and Tibet. He was one of the founders of Harlow Carr. The Hall now belongs to the diocese of Leeds and is a retreat. We spent a lovely peaceful day there. There is a café and plenty of parking.





PARCEVALL HALL GARDENS





Clever plants
giant aubergines
and weird
tomatoes



Goodbye and keep cold

This saying goodbye on the edge of the dark
And the cold to an orchard so young in the bark
Reminds me of all that can happen to harm
An orchard away at the end of the farm
All winter, cut off by a hill from the house.
I don't want it girdled by rabbit and mouse,
I don't want it dreamily nibbled for browse
By deer, and I don't want it budded by grouse.
(if certain it wouldn't be idle to call
I'd summon grouse rabbit, and deer to the wall
And warn them away with a stick for a gun.)
I don't want it stirred by the heat of the sun.
(We made it secure against being, I hope,
By setting it out on a northerly slope.)

No orchards the worse for the wintriest storm
But one thing about it, it musn't get warm.
'How often already you've had to be told,
Keep cold, young orchard. Goodbye and keep cold.
Dread fifty above more than fifty below.'
I have to be gone for a season or so.
My business awhile is with different trees,
Less carefully nurtured, less fruitful than these,
And such as is done to their wood with an axe –
Maples and birches and tamaracks.
I wish I could promise to lie in the night
And think of an orchard's arboreal plight
When slowly (and nobody comes with a light)
Its heart sinks lower under the sod,
But something has to be left to God.

Robert Frost



The secret Yarden

The first book I read which succeeded in capturing my imagination was 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett. I think I read it in my first year at my Grammar school in Blackpool. From then, I was hooked on reading.

I really did feel as though I were in the garden with the surrounding walls and secret doorway and I realised that not only was I reading a novel, but I was learning how to love the beauty of gardens.

The colours, the shapes of trees and shrubs, the scents within each season, the wind and the sun affecting the movements of the ever-changing scenes within those walls. The transformation from an overgrown wilderness, to the place of beauty and tranquility sparked something in me which I probably didn't realise at the time, being 11 years old, but it must have lain dormant, just like the things that Mary had found, which were waiting to be brought to life.

Well, I have been fortunate to have had my own gardens to work in, though none as grand as the one at Misselthwaite Manor. But in their own way, all a pleasure to spend time in.

Fast forward to November, 2020, when I moved to a small terraced house in Clitheroe. It was crying out for some TLC. It had that special feeling about it as soon as I walked in.

Approaching the yard, which is all of roughly, 18 square feet, the need for transformation was apparent and I would take it on.

After about 18 months and during the Covid era, I had renovated the house and the yard, with the help of builders of course!

It was no longer a yard, but a cute and useful outdoor space to enjoy with a couple of small growing beds and pots of plants, shrubs, herbs and an apple tree(now deceased).

I even managed to incorporate a sewing shed; a place to sit and sew with the radio for company and the view of those remaining square feet.

I have grown pumpkin, climbing beans, potatoes, lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, carrots and a variety of flowers.

I change my planting each year, according to what I fancy. A garden doesn't have to be big to be useful, but requires some planning of a minimalist nature!

I have called it ' The Secret Yarden'.

It has four walls and a gate.

Unfortunately, the gate only has a latch and a bolt and not the big heavy key at the Manor, which would have finished the job off perfectly.

Ruth Hamm

PS.

The top two photos are the yard in original state.

The rest show it now, including: Wisteria, Argentinian verbena, herb planter, standard eucalyptus, Salvia, Canna Lily, Yew tree, honeysuckle, Campsis, Cascade clematis.

Obviously, some are no longer in flower.

Leeks are also in the herb bed, courtesy of Clitheroe Garden Club, so I won't starve this winter!



Events are held at the Ribblesdale Cricket Club

Speakers Diary for 2024/25

Nov 6th Peat in gardening Isabella Donohue

Dec 4th Potato Salad Matthew Smith

Mar 5th The new Way to Garden

Doug Stewart

Apr 2nd Take the fear Marguerite Hughes

Out of pruning

May 7th Peoples food & farming alliance

Annual Dinner Saturday 25th January 2025

12.30 for 1.00 at the Calf's Head Worston.

This year we can choose from the menu on the day and pay individually on the day.

Please let us have names by Mid January.

Elaine & Noel

AGM 5/02/2025 details to follow.