



Hon. President
George Cowgill

Clitheroe Garden Club

NEWSLETTER No126

Summer Edition

Summer 2026 1st of August already, the nights are drawing in, but enough of that what fantastic weather we have had. We've been lucky to have had our son & granddaughter staying for 4weeks, never had to think about umbrellas and macs.

Tricky weather for gardening Lesley says germination has been difficult, overall ours has been quite good although Noel's parsley took 10weeks to grow but basil has done well. Shrubs have grown exponentially, watering has kept us all busy. We don't want it to break but rain overnight would be welcome.



Thai basil

Gleanings from the hut

I'm getting used to waking up everyday to dry weather and the prospect of sunshine even if early mornings are overcast, personally I find the current temperatures very pleasant. I wonder how long it will take us to start grumbling once we do get some rain?

A reminder that the club hut is open again this Sunday 26th 10-12. We have good stocks of our usual products plus plenty of liquid tomato feed which I also use on my hanging baskets. We also still have a fair selection of perennial plants remember our wildlife and if possible put some water out for the birds and any visiting hedgehogs.

Happy gardening

Lesley

Sabden Horticultural Society have asked me to tell you that they are holding their annual show on 15th August 2-4pm at St Mary's Community Hall Sabden. For information about entries please contact Dave Bell at dandabell@hotmail.com





RIP Trevor Mitchell long serving
Member, some time organiser
of the show, custodian of the
Trophies and stalwart of the hut,

Sadly passed in June. Trevor was 91 born in Scun-
thorpe worked at the steelworks before training as a
metallurgist at Newcastle University, later joining
the staff at Accrington College and living in Clith-
eroe. Never short of words he had helpful tips on
fertilisers and gardening queries. He loved growing
things and gardening having a small garden now
his pots were always amazing. He leaves his wife
Ruth and two daughters and families.

The trophies (of which there are many). The valuable
pair of silver are now with the town council. The remainder
are of little financial value but possibly have sentimental attach-
ment for some members, if this is you please get in touch with
the club.

Blackberry Chutney

1 red onion chopped, 1 apple chopped

Pinch cinnamon 1/4 tsp chilli flakes

1/2 tsp dried ginger or fresh

1/2 zest of orange

100gr sugar 100ml red wine vinegar

Cook everything apart from the vinegar & sugar until softened 15 –20 mins. Add vinegar & sugar dissolve and then boil before simmering for 20 mins. you know the chutney has reached consistency when you can drag a spoon across the base of pan and it leaves a clean trail. Ladle into jars and leave a couple of weeks before using.

Angela Newman

The Charles Pearce legacy

Charles, family made a generous donation to the club to buy some useful items for the club.



In memory of Charles the club has bought & planted Claire Austen Rose.

The April meeting's speaker was D Mathewman on the subject of sweetpeas, it was very well attended a popular subject. He came from Northallerton N.Yorks a past grower of sweetpeas and has run a large nursery and been a frequent winner at Chelsea and R.H.S. shows. He showed slides and explained how best to grow sweetpeas from seed. He brought seedlings and plants to buy producing many varieties himself in the past but no longer as the public have taken over and provide their own



Gordon's plum, he
picked his last in early
august

The trouble with buddleia

In my volunteering activities I spend a lot of time trying to defeat invasive species. This year a new one came to my attention, buddleia also known as the butterfly bush, first sold in this country in the 1890s making the leap from domestic gardens to the wild in 1922 when one was found growing in Wales. Since then it has flourished, colonising our railways, damaging buildings, bringing some colour to old industrial sites, and (most regrettably) invading our nature reserves! Five years ago there were about 4 buddleias on Primrose Reserve, in spring this year there were 40+ (I lost count).

Buddleia is identified as an invasive non- native species (INNS) but is not listed on section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), this means that it is still legal to sell or grow it. It is very prolific in its seed production each flower producing hundreds of seeds which are dispersed by the wind over long distances and remain viable for 3-5 years. In the wild it outperforms many native plants many of which also attract butterflies and can result in reduced diversity of plant life in our wild areas with resulting decline in our wildlife. But, I hear you say, butterflies love it, and indeed they do but only as adults. Buddleia doesn't support butterflies throughout their lifecycle, they don't lay eggs on the buddleia leaves and the very presence of buddleia casting a deep shade may mean there are no suitable plants for larvae to thrive on.

So my message is that buddleia needs to be controlled. I'm not asking anybody to cut their buddleia down but please can we keep them in the garden and stop their seed being cast to the winds? When the flowers are turning brown please will you dead head them before the seed heads develop and dispose of preferably by burning them. Definitely don't put them in your compost heap!



Lesley

SPEAKERS FOR 2026

2nd Sept Pickles& Preserves Ruth Hamm

7th Oct Seasonal garden Greg Anderson

4th Nov Architectural Plants Mike Myers

2nd Dec Wreath Making Ruth & Veronica

When splitting any of your garden plants please remember the club and bring along to the sales hut.

Volunteers needed to deliver news letters.

Council now recycling plastic pots not black.

Website of interest, www.allotments.co.uk

Lots of help videos & recipes.

Items for newsletter email or word to

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