Hon. President

George Cowgill

Clitheroe Garden Club

NEWSLETTER No127

Autumn/winter edition

Welcome to our Garden Club newsletter Autumn Winter 2026, another year draws to a close we look back on an extraordinary year of weather, which is still being kind to us with relatively mild days so far, trees are slow to turn colour and flowers are still blooming, outside tomatoes are still ripening.



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Items for the newsletter are always welcome including photos, I m sure many of you wt be clicking away on your mobiles, wed love to see and print them. Many thanks to all deliverers of the newsletters, and welcome to our new volunteers for coming forward and helping to keep postal costs down and members in touch with the club news.

Gleanings from the hut

I feel I'm becoming something of a stuck record as I start this once again with "it's been a challenging year for gardeners" but it has. A lot of people had problems with seed germination & seedling growth even with those plants which normally require very little encouragement. So if you've failed to produce any peas, beans, courgettes or sweet peas don't worry you are not alone. It has however been another good year for roses and flowers and other ornamentals generally seemed to fare better than edibles but it will be interesting to see how shrubs and trees perform in 2027 after the prolonged dry weather in 2026.

The hot weather & low rainfall has affected supplies of seed potatoes with reduced harvests, some varieties not being available or already sold out including Lady Christl which we stocked for the first time this year. I have been able to order all the other varieties we offered in 2026 plus Maris Bard (a delicious first early) and Jazzy (second early) which several people requested. As in recent years the hut will open in early February for a potato and onion day, date to be announced once they've arrived.

We've had a steady year of trading at the hut, there were some hiccoughs in obtaining some products early in the year for reasons outside our & the wholesaler's control and there still seems to be a problem with supplies of blood fish & bone of all things. Hopefully that will be resolved in the next few months.

Thank you to everybody who brought in their surplus plants to sell at the hut. We had quite a lot brought in over the year nearly all of which survived the very hot weather and most of which sold.

As always a huge thank you to everybody who has turned up over the year to help at the hut on Sunday mornings, without you we wouldn't be able to open, thank you.

The hut will reopen for regular trading at the beginning of March 2027 but in the meantime if you need any supplies please contact me on my mobile or landline.

Lesley (07792967885 or 01200 427308)

Things to do in the garden in-winter.

Plant garlic

Wrap grease bands around fruit trees to stop bugs.

Lift Dahlias brush off soil put in tray cover with compost, place in cold shed.

Plant sweetpea seeds in plug pots, place in coldframe or cold greenhouse and wait.

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Monty's Bird Seed recipe

Sunflower seeds and hearts, peanut pieces, suet pellets, dried meal worms and niger seed. No grain as this primarily attracts pigeons, sparrows, squirrels, and rats and is rarely eaten by other birds.

TALK

Our first meeting of the autumn was very well attended for an excellent talk by our treasurer Ruth Hamm on preserves and pickles. She told us or the history of preserving here in England and around the world. This was followed by a tasting of chutneys and jams she had prepared. An inspiring talk greeted by great enthusiasm from our members who I am sure were inspired to go home and get out the pans and start peeling and chopping whilst the tomatoes and apples are still plentiful.

We have to report that our secretary Chris Fawcett has decided to step down at the A.G.M. after being a diligent and very competent secretary for a long no of years. We need a volunteer to step into her shoes she is willing to help and coach as long as is needed. If anyone feels able to take on this roll it would be

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….much appreciated please contact a committee member. Committee meetings are held at the New inn probably four a year, a very friendly committee with an excellent chair Gordon who keeps it to the point.

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Andrew's Weedkiller.

100gr salt 1ltr vinegar 1tbsp washingup liquid

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Trophies ; look in Garden Club website in news for photos of trophies to see if you can identify or wish to claim any.



Real Seeds

Recently my neighbour on the plot was admiring my sweet peas and, in a year when many people had struggled with them, wondered where I'd got them from. So I thought it would be a good idea to give the Real Seeds company a bit of publicity. I've sourced seeds from them for years following a recommendation by a gardening friend and have never been disappointed.

They're a family-run small company based in Wales who grow and trial seeds for the home/allotment gardener. DEFRA and Soil Association registered they grow no hybrids or genetically modified seed and actively encourage buyers to save and reuse their own seed providing advice on harvesting and storage. Since 50% of the seed they sell is grown themselves they are in an excellent position to give first-hand advice on growing and using the vegetables it produces. Seed from elsewhere is carefully selected from trusted sources.

In addition they offer subsidised seed packs for gardeners who may be struggling financially providing a useful selection of high-yielding and easy to grow vegetable seeds at a third of the usual price.

Ordering from their website on- line is easy and I've always found their orders dispatched quickly and efficiently – if there's a delay they'll let you know. In addition they encourage feedback from customers and guarantee to immediately refund or replace anything found to be unsatisfactory – including flavour when cooked and eaten – something I'm happy to say I've never had to do.

Although they mainly offer vegetable seeds they do have a selection of flowers – particularly the edible sort – and of course my lovely sweet peas.

For more information got to www..realseeds.co,uk

For those of you who intend to come to the meeting on wed Dec 2nd you will need to bring the following;

An unpeeled potato of choice but not too small. Any greenery you can lay your hands on such as ivy, holly fir and any other evergreen, complete with stems, secateurs. Other items like dried grasses es feathers, raffia if you want. A large bag to carry it home in. Gardening gloves, there will be at least 3 helpers the club will provide a selection of decorative items f.o.c

Ruth

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speakers for2026/27

4th Nov Architectural plants

Mike Myers

2nd Dec Wreath Making Ruth &Veronica

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4th Feb AGM

3rd March My Life in plants Jacqueline Iddon

7thApril Introduction to Alpines

Clifford Booker

5th May Poisonous Plants

Tracy Foster

1st Sept Perfume in the garden

Moe Sawyer

6th Oct Culinary herbs

Maureen Liddle

8th Nov Create a bulb Lasagne

1st Dec Christmas Table

Decoration.

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The Annual Dinner will be held at our usual venue

Of the Calf's Head at

Worston on January 16th 2027 12.30 for 1.00pm

Choose and pay individually on the day, Please send names to

elaine.noelh@g.mail .com or text 07742081043