

# Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

## Dig This – August 2018



Newby Hall Gardens – part of the National Cornus Collection (photo: Newby Hall)

### PAST EVENTS

#### **Visit by coach to Newby Hall Gardens, near Ripon, North Yorkshire**

Phil Hegarty writes: on 26th June, twenty-five people made a visit to Newby Hall, near Ripon. Travellers' Choice provided comfortable and efficient transport for our scenic journey over the Pennines. This time, no passport checks were required at the Yorkshire border. The gardens at Newby were a delight and much enjoyed by our party. The Cornus were in full display (th is the home of the National Collection) and were quite breathtaking. The herbaceous borders were stunning and Sylvia's garden was an inspiration. Boat trips on the river and rides on the miniature railway were an added attraction for some. The excellent cafe provided welcome refreshments and the picnic area, in welcome shade, was appreciated. As the temperature rose into the high 80s in the afternoon, many visitors sought out the shady spots, or visited Gyles Brandreth's teddy bear collection or simply had a snooze.

Finally, a visit to the plant centre parted some of us from our cash and we returned to the bus, to be greeted by Verity's Remarkable Raffle, then home to Over Kellet, tired like the Bears after our Picnics, having enjoyed a grand day out. Thanks are due to the staff at Newby Hall and to our driver for making the day so easy and enjoyable.

## **Plants and Pimms, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July**



Photos: Peter Clinch and Phil Hegarty

With immaculate timing hours before rain ended a long, hot, dry spell of weather the OKDHS Plants and Pimms event was held at Green Meadow, Phil Hegarty's delightful garden of many nooks and corners. About thirty people enjoyed cold drinks, sparkling conversation and buying from the range of plants and produce for sale (donated by Phil, David Hasteed, Geoff Jackson and Peter Clinch). A total of £100.10 was raised for Bay Search and Rescue. The event took a considerable amount of planning and work on the day; thanks are due to Phil for his hospitality, Geoff for his enthusiastic support and the several people who supplied 'nibbles'. To avoid embarrassment, the total amount of Pimms consumed will not be reported here - but Phil says it was 50% over his planned quantities – and he is not known for miserly inclinations. The soft drinks, though, were less popular!

## **Visit by coach to Hazel Cottage, Armathwaite, Eden Valley Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

After a very wet and windy journey from Over Kellet, amazingly the sun beamed down on the twenty-six people who toured the sprawling five acres of gardens created since 2003 by David Ryland and John Thexton. John began our tour of





Photo: Peter Clinch

the gardens by displaying photographs of the original, largely uncultivated site and then took us through a variety of imaginative and enticing spaces across the hillside behind the house, including a woodland walk with a stream and bog plants, arbours, lawns, and extensive shrub and perennial beds supplying material for their thriving nationally renowned flower arranging and garden maintenance business. The tour ended with John masterfully creating three quite different flower arrangements which were raffled off free to the audience. As the party enjoyed first class tea and cake sheltering in the house, the weather closed in and brought to an end a very enjoyable trip in the beautiful Eden Valley.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Water in the Garden. Talk by Malcolm Saul, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 7.30pm, Over Kellet Village Hall**

Water holds a special fascination for almost all of us. As an element of garden design water can play an essential role. It did in the great landscape gardens of past generations and it still does today in the infinitely smaller modern garden. 'Water in the Garden' will cover key areas of this fascinating topic including Choosing a Water Feature, Special Features, Water for Leisure, Stocking the Water Garden and Water Garden Techniques. The talk is intended to help gardeners who want to design with water perhaps for the first time and to prompt those who already have a water garden to become more aware of its importance and consider doing more with this natural asset.

**Malcolm Saul** is the grandson of late Fred Loads MBE. He was born into a rich horticultural heritage and from birth was surrounded and inspired the love of gardening. He qualified horticulture at The Hertfordshire College of Agriculture & Horticulture where studied alongside Alan Titchmarsh. His long career in commercial horticulture and landscaping has included managing tree and shrub nurseries, running a large Garden Centre in Cheshire and



many years hands-on garden construction. Malcolm is now a leading garden designer specialising in creating virtual gardens that grow in the real world.

### **Quiz Night 2018, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm**

As advertised in previous issues of *Dig This* Phil Hegarty and his grandson, Sam, are planning a fun-filled evening. Bring your own wine and glasses. Recruit your team (ideally of four to six members) and please let Phil know the name and size of your team well beforehand so he can plan for the quiz paperwork and refreshments to be provided at half-time - phone 733549 or e-mail [philhegarty@outlook.com](mailto:philhegarty@outlook.com) or put a note through the door at Green Meadow. People who turn up on the night may be able to form new teams or be invited to join existing teams, as long as the team size does not exceed six members.

The questions will all have a horticultural or wild life connection and will be aimed to be mostly quite easy - with some exceptions, to sort the weeds from the F1 Hybrids. A new feature will be a fiendish Only Connect (BBC 2) style wall - which should amuse and infuriate in equal measure.

Entry fee: £1 per person for members, £1.50 for non-members, refreshments extra, but there will be prizes! So, do come and join us for what promises to be a fun and entertaining evening!

### **AGM, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 7.30pm**

Our Chairman, Arie Klijn, has led the Society for five years and under the Constitution is now obliged to step down. The position will become vacant at the close of the AGM. Please think about who you would like to take over this position. We are still short of a full committee which prevents us offering more activities and events to members. Nominations to join the Committee are welcomed. Please contact the Secretary, Verity Clinch, 734591.

### **Talk in December**

A talk is being arranged for December – further details closer to the time.

### **Talks and trips being planned for 2019**

Ideas the events team are considering for 2019 include a return visit to Lowther Castle to see the progress made in implementing the plans to bring new life to the extensive grounds. Our last visit was in April 2015 and we hope to return at a different time of the year to enjoy a different season. Another event under consideration is a treasure hunt around the village.

If you have any ideas for trips or events the committee would like to hear them; please contact the Secretary, Verity Clinch, phone 734591.

### **HELP IN THE COMMUNITY**

In the last issue of *Dig This* an appeal was made for volunteers to come forward to assist with our wish to be more active in the community by, for example,

temporarily maintaining any domestic garden which the owner was unable to keep up to scratch through illness. No response was received from the membership. The Committee has decided that if a member of the Society asks for help to prevent their garden becoming overgrown through the circumstances described, the best we can do is to try then to find volunteers to give assistance.

In the July issue of *OK View* (pages 20 and 24) an appeal was made for volunteers to come forward to maintain the Village Hall gardens. Similarly, no-one has come forward. The Village Hall Committee has been informed of this.

Bearing in mind that about 120 households belong to the Society, the Committee is disappointed by the lack of response from the membership.

## **PHIL HEGARTY DISCOVERS HOW INSTALLING NEW PLANTERS ON THE GREEN HAS LED TO AN ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILING SYSTEM**

In the May issue of *Dig This* Phil Hegarty set a puzzle about the different styles adopted by the retired mechanical engineer, the retired university chap and the not-retired nuclear engineer when filling the planters on The Green. Here is the answer:

The one who just chucked it in - retired university chap (Phil Hegarty)  
Neatly stone by stone - retired mechanical engineer (Geoff Jackson)  
Chucked and stirred a bit – not-yet-retired nuclear engineer (Arie Klijn)

Well, did you guess correctly?

## **OTHER GARDENING AND SOCIETY EVENTS IN THE AREA**

### **1 Bolton-le-Sands Horticultural Society**

All events at the Community Centre, off Packet Lane, unless otherwise stated.

**Coffee Evening and Gardeners' Question Time.** Includes sale of Spring bulbs, Autumn bedding and other plants. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 6pm to 9pm at the United Reformed Church

**Coffee Morning with Stalls.** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 11.30am.

**Show Day.** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2pm to 4pm.

### **2 Borwick & Priest Hutton Gardeners' Club**

All events at Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall.

**A Garden for All Seasons.** Talk by Shelagh Todd, Head of Horticulture at Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm.

**Plant hunting in Portugal.** Talk by Kevin Pratt, a qualified botanist who runs a small nursery 'Village Plants' in Hazel Grove, near Stockport. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 7.30pm.

### **3 Warton Garden Club**

All events at Warton Village Hall.

**Ferns, Fabulous Ferns.** Talk by Steve Mees. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm.

**Shaping History – the gardens at Levens Hall.** Talk by Chris Crowder, Head Gardener, Levens Hall. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm.

**AGM plus talk and demonstration** by Becky Hindley from Picking Posies, the floral design business using hand-picked British grown flowers, based in Warton. Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm.

**The next Dig This will appear in late October.**

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter please contact the compiler: Peter Clinch (734591)