

Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

Dig This – August 2019

PAST EVENTS

Visit to Jacqueline Iddon's Hardy Plants near Bretherton, Thursday 23rd May

Twenty-five people thoroughly enjoyed the visit to Jacqui's garden and nursery. Jacqui led an informative, guided tour of the garden in the morning, followed by a filling, light lunch and after there was adequate time in the afternoon to wander through the variety of spaces and plantings to admire them in detail ... or just sit in the sunshine or shade. The whole event was very relaxing. A considerable number of plants were purchased from the nursery - the labelling was immaculate and Jacqui was on hand to provide sound advice. All in all, a very enjoyable trip. *Photo: Peter Clinch*



Visit to Lowther Castle, Saturday 29th June

On the hottest day of the year so far twenty-four people took the coach trip to Lowther Castle <<https://www.lowthercastle.org/>>. Those who had been on our previous trip in 2015 marvelled at how the parterre on the south terrace, the wild flower meadows now occupying the entire east and west sides of the long south lawn, and many other areas had matured. The small team of four full-time gardeners supported by volunteers has achieved so much. With the completion of work to stabilize the roofless central tower of the castle we were able to enjoy some recent planting in very shaded areas inside the structure and hear of the Head Gardener's plans for a fernery in the former stately main entrance hall!

Planting out of a new rose garden has begun with hundreds of David Austin English roses and thousands of low-growing perennials. There was plenty of time to explore other areas of the huge site and a personal favourite was Jack Croft's Pond and Summerhouse – a designated silent area, enhanced by the reflections

of trees and shrubs in the water which was edged by yellow flag irises coming into flower. Perhaps the only negative feature of all the newly planted areas was the total lack of plant labelling – some plant combinations were visually stunning but it required a very detailed knowledge of varieties to identify how this effect had been achieved.

Plants 'n' Pimms at Green Meadow, Friday 26th July

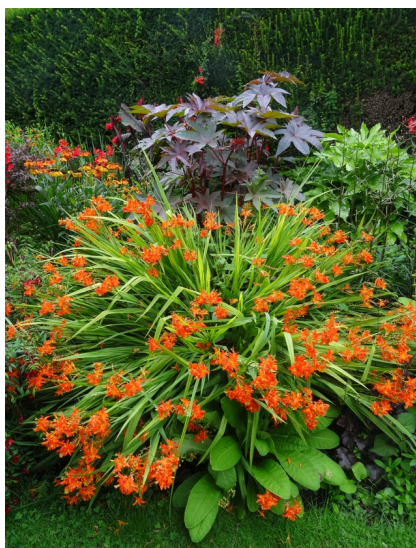
Here are Phil Hegarty's photo and report of the event: "The evening was well attended, the weather stayed fine and warm until 11.00pm when the determined ones were refreshed by a sprinkling of rain. Spirits remained undamped! Once again there were huge efforts made to ensure no Pimms was left - the thirty or more members and friends worked tirelessly through eight litres of Pimms, a similar amount of



lemonade - and failed to notice the soft drinks..... donations and plant sales raised over £150 for this year's charity, Blood Bikers. As last year, rain came overnight to ensure that everything - chairs, tables, umbrellas and gazebos - was as generously soaked as last year - an unfortunate tradition.... Special thanks are due to Geoff and Pat B for help with setting up and dripping down, and to the ladies of the committee for supplies of nibbles. A good night was had by all...."

Visit to Arley Hall, Northwich, Tuesday 20th August

The weather was kind and thirty-one people enjoyed the gardens, eating in the Gardener's Kitchen, buying from the Plant Nursery, and some visited the Hall and Chapel as well. A wide variety of crocosmia were in spectacular flower and many planting combinations provided stunning effects, especially in front of the Hall.



The double herbaceous border was created in 1846 and is believed to be one of the first of its kind in England; the 'period' Alcove provides a place to sit and enjoy the vista. The borders featured a wide variety of seasonal favourites such as crocosmia, echinacea, echinops, kniphofia, rudbeckia and sedum.



All Arley photos: Peter Clinch

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mainly but not entirely tulips. Talk by Matthew Smith, Brighter Blooms, Saturday, 5th October, at 10.30am

Matthew founded Brighter Blooms in 2010, which he describes as 'a small, local business trying to breakthrough in a big competitive market'. He has been based in Walton-le-Dale since 2011 and exhibits at all the major flower shows, including Chelsea. In 2015 he won a Gold Medal for his display of Zantedeschia. Matthew will bring along bulbs to sell. This talk promises to be timely for the Autumn season and given by an expert in the field.

Quiz Night 2019, Friday 8th November, 7.30pm

Advance notice – mark the date in your diary – your chance to win one of the fabulous prizes ... even the booby prize of a dibber is beautifully hand-crafted.

OKDHS AGM, Friday 29th November, 7.30pm

To be followed by cheese and biscuits, wine and nibbles in return for a modest and discretionary donation to the Society's funds.

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

WANTED – CHAIRMAN AND TWO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Still no volunteers – how long can we continue to function as a Society? This is

likely to be discussed and actions taken at our AGM in November. If you appreciate what we are doing and can help share the work required, please volunteer by contacting the Secretary, Verity Clinch (734591).

OTHER GARDENING SOCIETY EVENTS IN THE AREA

Bolton-le-Sands Horticultural Society

Coffee Evening and Gardeners' Question Time in the United Reform Church at 7pm on Friday 13th September.

Community Coffee Morning with refreshments, stalls and raffle in the Community Centre between 9.45am and 11.15am on Thursday 3rd October.

Annual Autumn Show. Between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 19th October. Registration for exhibitors at Bolton-le-Sands Library between 3pm and 4pm on Thursday 17th October or by post to the Show Secretary, Louise Belcher. 7, Slyne Road, LA5 8AG.

'Conserving hedgehogs'. A talk by Rowan Worsman in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th November.

Annual General Knowledge Quiz in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Friday 31st January 2020.

'Restoring a Thomas Mawson Garden in Silverdale'. A talk by Brian Smith in the Old Boys' School at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th February 2020.

Warton Garden Club

'Keep your garden buzzing'. Talk by Maureen Little in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th September.

'Woodland garden plants'. A talk by Neil Huntley of Alston Nursery in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th October.

AGM and seasonal demonstration. In the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th November.

There are no details to hand of events to be held by Borwick & Priest Hutton Gardeners' Club.

The next *Dig This* will appear in the Autumn.

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