

# Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

## Dig This – December 2019

### PAST EVENTS

#### **Mainly but not entirely tulips. Talk by Matthew Smith, Brighter Blooms, Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Some thirty-five people enjoyed a highly informative talk by Matthew who founded Brighter Blooms in 2010. Many took advantage of the bulbs available to buy and one of the committee members who helped set up and de-mount the display wittily (?) commented that he had “to carry heavy trays of tulip bulbs in and out of the village hall - clearly Matthew has not heard about light bulbs...”

Brighter Blooms will be holding Tulip Open Days on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 from 10am to 4pm. Hot drinks and cakes will be available (proceeds to charity). Brighter Blooms are at Walton Flats Nursery, Gillibrand Street, Walton-le-Dale, Preston, PR5 4AX. Website: [www.brighterblooms.co.uk](http://www.brighterblooms.co.uk)

#### **Quiz Night 2019, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

The memories, logical facilities and speed of touch of over fifty people, in eleven teams, were challenged for a third year by the questions set by Phil Hegarty and the variety of technical means provided by his grandson, Sam, including one for participants to record their answers.



Two innovative rounds stood out: Punchlines, in which punters had to guess the punchlines of five jokes compiled by Phil and Sam. The sound of groans was deafening. The other was identifying particular tracks recorded by the seventies American rock band The Eagles. Teams used a smart phone application to record their answers, the speed with which they tapped the phone gaining them extra points.

## **OKDHS AGM, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Just fifteen of the Society's nearly two hundred members attended the AGM and no nominations for the vacant Committee posts were received to assist its work providing members with talks, visits and discounts at local garden centres and a timber merchant. A change to the Constitution was agreed removing the bar on officers of the Society holding a post for more than five years. There are several Committee members who will reach this point within the next year. Even with the removal of this restriction there is no guarantee they will wish to continue to serve, given the lack of enthusiasm for the Society shown by the majority of the membership. A further warning was given at the AGM that your Society may cease to function soon unless new and younger members come forward to serve on the Committee.

If you appreciate what we are doing and can help share the work required, please volunteer by contacting the Secretary, Verity Clinch (734591).

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

***Some of the information about our February event printed in Over Kellet View (December, page 13) was incorrect. Apologies. Here is the correct information.***

### **Create a bee-friendly garden. Talk by Maureen Little. Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am.**

This is our annual Coffee Morning talk; refreshments will be served from 10.15, the talk starting at 10.30.

Maureen is a prolific author of books on gardening and bee-keeping. She has given talks at RHS Wisley and also The Garden Museum, London. She recently retired from running the Bee Garden, a small nursery and plant centre selling bee-friendly plants; her present focus is on her other interest, teaching about wine and encouraging others to enjoy it too. She has also broadcast on Ribble FM, joining a team to present the series 'A Little Classical Music'.

## **Membership renewals due by the end February**

Renewal of your annual membership of the Society falls due at the end of February. Membership of the Society (which still stands at just £2 per household), provides you with discounts of up to 10% on purchases from four local garden

centres and a 5% discount on all timber (except garden panels) from M D Hanafin & Sons Ltd. Members also receive free copies of *Dig This* keeping them up to date with local gardening events and, of course, information of the Society's talks and trips.

The meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February will be a perfect opportunity to renew membership; Geoff Jackson, our Membership Secretary will be on hand to assist you and issue membership cards for 2020/2021.

### **Hardy plants for a Spring garden. Illustrated talk by John Foley, Holden Clough Nurseries. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am.**

The Nurseries were founded in 1927 and are based near Bolton-by-Bowland within the Forest of Bowland. Originally focussing on alpiners, the range of plants grown is now very wide; they are sold to customers across the United Kingdom. John Foley and Kate Lawson run the nurseries and the popularity of the business may be gauged from the need for a recent extension to the car park to accommodate fifty-five vehicles. John is likely to inspire and encourage us for he says the nurseries endure about sixty inches of rainfall a year as well as very low temperatures – so come long and learn which plants to use in our more coastal and 'tropical' conditions. Plants will be available to buy.

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

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

**Annual General Knowledge Quiz** in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

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

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

**'Some floral highlights of South-West China'**. A talk by Alan Oatway in Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Advance notice of a visit to Ashwood Nurseries, Kingswinsford, West Midlands** and tour of 'master plantsman' John Massey's private garden attached to the nursery. The garden was recently featured in the Channel 5 TV series Great British Gardens. Refreshments will be available from the Tea Room.

The coach trip is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, and will depart from Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall car park at 8am, returning to reach Borwick around 7pm. The cost is £26.50 and includes coach travel (Bibby's of Ingleton), entry to John Massey's Garden and a tour led by John at 2pm to last between an hour and an hour and a quarter. Bookings can be taken by phone: 01524 782111 or e-mail: [tonysunderland@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tonysunderland@tiscali.co.uk). Full payment for the trip will be due by the end of

April - cheques should be made payable to Borwick & Priest Hutton Gardeners' Club.

### **Brighter Blooms, Walton-le-Dale, Preston**

In October members enjoyed the presentation by Matthew Smith who has sent the following information about his **Preston Potato Day** to take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 10am until 2pm. Over eighty varieties of potatoes, old favourites and new contenders, will be available in one kilogram nets; in addition onion sets, garlic, vegetable seeds, fruit plants and fruit trees, and a selection of summer flowering bulbs, including dahlias and gladioli, will be available. Price lists can be found at [www.brighterblooms.co.uk](http://www.brighterblooms.co.uk)

Brighter Blooms, Walton Flats Nursery, Gillibrand Street, Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancashire, PR5 4AX

### **Rusland Valley Horticultural Society**

**Rusland Potato Day.** In Greenodd Village Hall, near Ulverston, 10am to 2pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Warton Garden Club**

(Both events in the Village Hall)

**Annual General Knowledge Quiz.** At 7.30pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Tickets to be purchased in advance at Warton Post Office.

**Growing Fantastic Perennials for Cut Flowers.** Talk by Tom Attwood of Abi and Tom's Garden Plants in Witherslack, at 7.30pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

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

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