

# Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

## Dig This – February 2018



[photo courtesy of Newby Hall]

Newby Hall, North Yorkshire and its gardens – the destination for the Society's first visit this year (see details below)

### **OKDHS Past Event**

#### **Making a colourful display with Alpines: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Fifty members and visitors attended our traditional coffee morning and enjoyed a comprehensive talk and demonstration. Frank Hoyle of the Alpine Garden Society gave a short, illustrated introduction to the growing conditions and habitats of alpine plants; then followed a demonstration (in which he was assisted by David Morris) on how to convert a polystyrene fish or vegetable box and broken thermalite blocks (these are often discarded by builders) to make an exceedingly realistic garden in a trough. If anyone wants to try this approach for themselves, fish boxes can be obtained from Woodlands Garden Centre at Crooklands (which

also sells fish for garden ponds) or from the vegetable wholesaler at the canal end of Queen Street, Lancaster. Unfortunately the poor weather this winter and early spring has meant that the plants David and Frank had hoped to bring along for sale are far too small and immature. However, plenty of promotional 'plugs' were made for the Kendal Show (see the listing at the end of this issue of *Dig This*) where eight or nine specialist nurserymen will have a wide range of alpines for sale and also provide free advice on the best situation for particular varieties.

## Future Events

**Spring into Action. An illustrated talk and demonstration by Jacqueline Iddon, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, refreshments 10.15am, talk at 10.30am, Over Kellet Village Hall**

Learn how to choose fresh, early-flowering plants for the garden and prepare for a glorious summer display. Jacqueline will demonstrate how to plant up containers for a stunning spring display. Our speaker runs Jacqueline Iddon Hardy Plants Nursery at Bretherton, near Leyland (a corner of which is illustrated here)

<<https://www.jacquelineiddon.co.uk/>>.



She last visited us a couple of years ago and gave a very well received talk and demonstration on 'Christmas Decorations from the Garden.'

This will also be an opportunity to pay any outstanding annual subscriptions to the Society, and the final chance to place your Alty's GrowOrganic order (see below).

**Visit by coach to Newby Hall Gardens, Near Ripon, North Yorkshire, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, leaving OK Village Hall at 9.15am**

Gorgeous gardens, spectacular herbaceous borders, the riverside, Sylvia's secluded garden, the National Cornus Collection, the woodland gardens, the White Garden, and much more – not forgetting the miniature railway running along the bank of the River Ure. There are many rare and lovely plants to be seen; a generous range is available to buy from the Plant Nursery.

This photo (courtesy of Newby Hall) is of the Tropical Garden – let's hope the weather for our visit matches the habitat!

Don't forget to take a notebook – you will need it! This will be a full-day trip. Lunch may be available to purchase at the excellent café, or take your own picnic. Take a look at what is on offer at



<<http://www.newbyhall.com/>>

This is a private garden (not NT or RHS) so costs will be a bit higher than usual - but well worth it, we think. We have negotiated a special entry deal so the total charge will be £25pp including luxury coach travel. Please note that there is an additional cost if you want to go round the house. A trip on the miniature railway costs £2.20.

Full details and booking form will be distributed in early March – your contact is Phil Hegarty on 733549 or [philhegarty@outlook.com](mailto:philhegarty@outlook.com)

**Visit by coach to Hazel Cottage, Armathwaite, Eden Valley, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, leaving Over Kellet Village Hall at 10.45am and departing Hazel Cottage at 3.30pm**

Hazel Cottage is set in five acres of garden created from a wilderness by the present owners. It is a haven for wildlife and a paradise for flower arrangers and plant enthusiasts. It has mature herbaceous borders, pergolas, and ponds to wander round. There is a delightful "wild " feel to this garden and a sense of tranquillity. There are lots of wooden benches hidden in corners making it a perfect place to picnic, or just to sit and contemplate.



The plan is to leave Over Kellet Village Hall at 10.45am by coach for a drive of approximately one hour to Armathwaite, near Penrith. Bring your own lunch to enjoy as a picnic in the garden, weather permitting. Choose either to take the guided tour of the garden or wander independently. Later the owner, David, will

demonstrate how to make a couple of flower arrangements using material from the garden. Before we leave at 3.30pm there will be time to enjoy afternoon tea. The cost including coach hire, entry, flower arranging demonstration and afternoon tea will be £16.

Full details and a booking form will be distributed in late May. Your contact is Liz Brewster who can be reached on [j.brewster973@btinternet.com](mailto:j.brewster973@btinternet.com)

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

Following the very positive response to our first quiz night last October we are doing it again! Once again the Amazing Sam will create a multi-media extravaganza with even more fiendish questions than last year (some easy, some silly). Bring your own wine and glasses for a fun evening – recruit your team and put the date in your diary ... now!

### **Our other talks and trips planned for 2018**

The events team are putting together a programme for you which, as well as the events detailed in this Newsletter, will include a talk in September and the AGM in November - this time followed by a talk from an invited expert, possibly on a winter or seasonal theme.

### **Open garden event**

In view of the poor response this event has been cancelled – but see the next entry:

### **Pimms and Plants, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm or Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm (weather to determine the date)**

Enjoy a refreshing drink in an attractive garden on a summer evening. Bring some of your own plants along to sell, and buy some for your own garden. Admission will be by way of a donation and all proceeds from the 'bring and buy' plant swop will go to charity. The event will be held in Phil Hegarty's garden at Green Meadow, by The Narrows. Early expressions of interest welcomed: contact Phil Hegarty on 733549 or [philhegarty@outlook.com](mailto:philhegarty@outlook.com)

### **Membership renewal time**

The £2 per household subscription remains unchanged for 2018 and is due by 28<sup>th</sup> February. Reminders have gone out. Remember that membership entitles you to receive notification of and free entry to OKDHS events, and to obtain discounts at a number of local garden centres and suppliers.

### **Alty's annual order and distribution event**

Order forms with price lists for the purchase of gardening and horticultural supplies from Alty's of Tarleton, near Preston, were sent out to Society members in January. We will be able to take advantage of discounts by buying in bulk. Orders need to be returned by Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Volunteers are required, with or without their own transport, to help with distribution within the village on

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March – please contact Phil Hegarty on 733549 or [philhegarty@outlook.com](mailto:philhegarty@outlook.com)

## **Growing the Society (not just plants!)**

Your committee is very actively promoting OKDHS in neighbouring villages, and has leafleted properties in Arkholme, Gressingham and Aughton. If you have friends in the area, please help us by telling them about what we have to offer. We are thriving and we want to keep growing!

## **Other gardening and society events in the area**

### **1 Alpine Garden Society Show, Kendal, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Kirkbie Kendal School, Lound Road, Kendal, LA9 7EQ, 10am to 3.30pm (Show Hall opens 11am)**

This is one of the big events in the north-west calendar. It is jointly run with the Scottish Rock Garden Club, and attracts eight or nine specialist alpine nurserymen who offer a wide range of plants for sale, and who freely provide advice on starting out in this fascinating side of gardening. The show also features prize-winning displays of stunning ingenuity and colour.

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

**Working on the Lancaster Canal.** Talk by Keith Tassart. Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm at the Old Boys' School, St Michael's Lane. Entrance: £2.

**Seed Swop and Plant Sale.** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 10am to 12 noon, at the Old Boys' School, St Michael's Lane.

**AGM.** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at the Old Boys' School, St Michael's Lane.

**Blood Bikes.** Hot Pot & Talk by Mike Ashton. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at the Community Centre off Packet Lane.

### **3 Warton Garden Club talks, etc**

All events at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Back Lane, Warton.

**Holehird – a Lakeland garden for all seasons.** Talk by Shelagh Todd of Newton Rigg, 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Pots of interest.** Talk and demonstration on container growing by Jacqueline Iddon, 12<sup>th</sup> April.

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