

Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

Dig This – January 2018



Colourful alpine planting

Photo by Peter Clinch, taken at Harlow Carr during OKDHS visit May 2017

OKDHS Past Events

OKDHS Annual General Meeting: Friday 17th November

More than 20 members attended the AGM. Similarly with many village organisations in the North-West, members' comments in the discussion session focused on how to get more young folk involved in the Society, but unfortunately few answers were forthcoming. The Committee is still short of volunteers and no more were forthcoming at the AGM. This will limit the type of events that can be offered.

As a result of other commitments the responsibilities of some committee members have altered:

Chair Arie Klijn

Secretary Verity Clinch

Treasurers Marilyn Whinfield and Pat Woolstencroft

Membership Secretary Geoff Jackson
Events organisers Liz Brewster, Phil Hegarty and Geoff Jackson
'Dig This' Editor Peter Clinch
Ordinary Committee Member Pat Bowskill

Sizergh: a garden to visit in all seasons: Friday 24th November

Susan Rowley, Head Gardener at Sizergh, gave a very attractively illustrated talk on the extensive gardens. She leads a small team with enthusiasm and vision and has undertaken some major improvements and re-design work during the four years she has been in charge. More than 30 members of the Society attended the talk and there were gasps when Susan showed pictures of flood water rushing through the site in October; then she explained that the heavy rainfall a day or two before her presentation had resulted in the acclaimed rock garden being under some two metres of water. The damage to the Spring display of bulbs is as yet unknown. She has a band of some 50 volunteers who carry out maintenance work; she donated her speaker's fee to assist improvement work in the gardens. Put a date in your 2018 diary to go and see the attractive and varied changes she has made.

Village Green initiative

Members may have noticed that during the summer two small tubs planted up with seasonal displays of flowers appeared alongside the new bus shelter. This was the idea of Pat Bowskill which was supported by the Parish Council. For 2018 Pat, Phil Hegarty and Geoff Jackson have plans for a rather more permanent, substantial and colourful display to enhance the location.

Future Events

Making a colourful display with Alpines: Saturday 10th February 2018 at 10.30am – **includes demonstration and plant sale**

Our traditional coffee morning starts off the 2018 programme of events with a presentation by two experts from the North Lancashire Alpine Garden Society. At our meeting last September David Morris gave a very well-received illustrated talk about alpines in their natural habitats. In February he returns, accompanied by Frank Hoyle, to provide a practical demonstration of selecting, planting up and caring for alpines using troughs made from household materials, but disguised. They will bring plants for sale. As a link to this event, why not visit the Alpine Garden Society Show in Kendal in March – see below for details.

Refreshments will be available.

Membership renewal time

January – and time to renew your membership of the Society. The £2 per household remains unchanged for 2018 and is due by 28th February. Reminders will go out shortly. What better time to renew than at the Coffee Morning talk

described above. Geoff will be on-hand to take your cash and issue a new membership card. Remember that membership entitles you to receive notification of and free entry to OKDHS events, and obtain discounts at a number of local garden centres and suppliers.

Alty's annual order and distribution event

As in past years we are planning to send out to all members by the end of January order forms with price lists for the purchase of gardening and horticultural supplies from Alty's of Tarleton, near Preston. We will be able to take advantage of discounts by buying in bulk. Orders will need to be returned by early March and the distribution will take place probably on 24th March. More and firmer details will be provided in due course.

Our talks and trips plans for 2018

The events team are putting together a programme for you which, provisionally, will include a talk in early March, a visit (possibly in early to mid-June) probably to a garden in North Yorkshire, another visit more locally in July or August, a talk in September, a repeat of the very popular quiz night (this time a little later in the year, in November) and the AGM also in November, but this time on the same evening, followed by a talk from an invited expert, possibly on a winter or seasonal theme.

Open garden event

On a not very warm summer evening in July 2016 we organised an open garden event which drew some 20 members to visit six gardens scattered across the village. We can learn much from seeing other people's design and planting ideas. The Society is thinking of organising a repeat for 2018 but perhaps with a different selection of gardens. We would like to gauge members' interest in holding such an event and particularly hear from any members who would be prepared to open their gardens for an evening. If you would like further information about how to take part please contact Phil Hegarty on 733549 or philhegarty@outlook.com

Extending our geographical reach

Your committee has decided to try and encourage new memberships from people living in Arkholme, Aughton and Gressingham. We hope to drop promotional leaflets through letter boxes during the Spring.

Other gardening and society events in the area

**1 Alpine Garden Society Show, Kendal, Saturday 17th 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 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

Quiz. Friday 26th January, 7.30 at the Community Centre off Packet Lane. Entry fee: £10 per team to Mr D Regan, phone 832025 by 20th January. BYOB.

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

AGM. Wednesday 11th April at 7.30pm at the Old Boys School, St Michael's Lane
Blood Bikes. Hot Pot & Talk by Mike Ashton. Friday 20th April at 7pm at the Community Centre off Packet Lane.

3 Rusland Valley Horticultural Society

Potato Day. Sale of 120+ varieties of seed potatoes, fruit bushes & trees, seeds, onions, flower bulbs & tubers, & more! (all supplied by Brighter Blooms Nursery, Preston). Home-made soup and cakes. Sunday 21st January at Greenodd Village Hall. Admission £1 (children free).

4 Warton Garden Club talks etc

Annual General Knowledge Quiz and Pie Supper. Friday 19th January, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Back Lane, Warton. Admission by ticket only at £7 per person. Tickets will soon be available from Warton Post Office or any Gardening Club Committee Member. Bring your own bottle(s) and glasses. All welcome.

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Contact Eric Greenough (01524 734479)

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