

# Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

## Dig This – January 2019



Birds in the Garden – the title of our coffee morning talk on 2<sup>nd</sup> February – see below (Illustration from RSPB website)

### PAST EVENTS

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

More than sixty people in fourteen teams enjoyed a fun evening with their memories challenged by clues in pictures, videos, music and bird song. In a quiz based so much on the love of nature and the countryside it came as little surprise that the winners were the OK Walkers led by Geoff Jackson. They won £60 worth of Thomson & Morgan seeds from the company which generously provided all the top prizes. Not far behind in second place were Mosey's Posies led by Margaret Mosey who won £40 worth of seeds. Very close behind in third place were Ashmeadow's Friends led by Olwyn Watson, who will have to fathom out how to divide amongst the team members a bag of GrowOrganic fertilizer and soil conditioner. For the second year running the same team which made all the others feel so good about themselves, the Right Charlies led by Liz Brewster was awarded a green dibber.

Warm thanks are extended to both Phil Hegarty and his grandson Sam for taking so much effort to make the evening a success, and also to the band of volunteers who set up and packed away the special arrangement of tables and chairs.

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

About twenty members (including eight members of the committee) attended and enjoyed Marilyn Whitfield's tray bakes with tea, coffee or wine after business ended. Our Chairman, Arie Klijn, stepped down after leading the Society for five years. No-one came forward to take the position so the Society will try to function without a leader. We welcome Lynn Fotheringham to the Committee but need more volunteers to join it. We will continue to try to plan interesting and attractive events for the membership. However, there is now no possibility of organising a Show like those held up to 2016.

### **Winter: a Season of Surprises. Talk by Marguerite Hughes, Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December**

A very appreciative audience of twenty-six people enjoyed this informative yet relaxed talk by experienced speaker, Marguerite Hughes. Cuttings from her garden were passed around the room to illustrate how winter perennials, shrubs and trees can provide scent, colour and a variety of shapes to please all the senses during winter. The variety of potted outdoor plants she brought along sold well. At the end of the morning, and for the first time in memory, the person who drew the first raffle tickets from the bowl immediately won that prize!

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Birds in the Garden. Coffee Morning and Talk by David Mower, Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February - talk to start 10.30am**

The first meeting of the New Year and a topic designed to appeal to a wider community than gardeners. Our well-qualified speaker, who was Chief Warden at Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve for thirty years, will identify the birds we are likely to see and how we can encourage more, provide tips on feeding them and how to deal with predators. There will be an opportunity to buy raffle tickets and enjoy coffee and cake beforehand from about 10.15am, so please come early.

#### **Renewing Your Society Membership for 2019/2020**

Annual renewal invitations were sent out recently and will be due for return by 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The fee remains at £2.00 per household. Geoff Jackson will be at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to collect your subscriptions and issue membership cards. It is easier for Geoff if you pay as soon as you can after receiving the renewal notice, which will include contact details.

Remember that by presenting the membership card at a number of local garden centres and merchants you will secure worthwhile discounts on your purchases.

'Subs Day' is also an opportunity to give us details of your e-mail address (if you have not done so already) so that you may receive *Dig This* and other notifications electronically.

### **GrowOrganic – bulk order and distribution March 2019**

Each Spring we organise the bulk purchase, at very favourable prices, of gardening sundries from a firm near Preston now called LS Systems Ltd, formerly Altys. Through the hard (physical!) work of a handful of members the pallet of orders is divided up and purchases delivered to your door or back garden. This year LS Systems have held prices close to what they have been for the last two years. Order forms will accompany this issue of *Dig This* and should be completed and delivered, preferably with a cheque, to Phil Hegarty at Green Meadow, The Narrows, by 8<sup>th</sup> March or to any committee member at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Distribution has been pencilled in for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We get the best deal if we can order at least sixty bags of GrowOrganic but last year we just failed to reach that figure. So, now is your chance to stock up.

### **Gresgarth Hall Gardens. A journey through the year. Illustrated talk by Steve Halliwell, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10.30am**

Gresgarth Hall Gardens were designed by the owner Arabella Lennox-Boyd, a noted landscape and architectural designer. They are extensive and varied including terraces, a lake, a small bog garden, a wild garden, an extensive kitchen garden, a bluebell wood, the millennium wood, the rhododendron hillside, herbaceous borders, and a serpentine walk. There are many different plants, shrubs and trees to see including many moisture loving plants, ferns, acers, lilacs as well as azaleas and magnolias. Modern and classical sculpture is displayed throughout. The gardens are open on only a few dates each year.

Our speaker Steve Halliwell is a member of Preston Gardening Society. He has given this talk to many organisations in central Lancashire leading to very good reviews.

I visited the impressive gardens eighteen months ago and encourage members to come to this illustrated talk as an excellent taster of what to expect. We hope to arrange a trip to the gardens in the future.

### **Visit to RHS Bridgewater, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

A fully-booked coach of twenty members (the maximum RHS Bridgewater will permit) will be going to see progress with the restoration of this 154 acre site. Payment will be requested shortly from those members whose booking has been confirmed and should be made by 16<sup>th</sup> March. Joining instructions will be sent out closer to the time. Geoff Jackson has a reserve list for those who want to go but were not in the first twenty members responding. He can be contacted on 736103.

## **Visit to Jacqueline Iddon's Hardy Plants near Bretherton, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

We are planning a coach visit to the one-and-a-half acre garden and nursery run by Jacqueline Iddon. Members may recollect that she gave a very well-received talk, 'Spring into Action', in March 2018. The coach visit will probably include a 'large' lunch. For a taster of the what there is to see (and eat!) go to <<https://www.jacquelineiddon.co.uk/garden-visits>>. More details will follow in the Spring issue of *Dig This*.

## **Visit to Lowther Castle – provisional date Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Planning is under way for a second coach visit to **Lowther Castle** <<https://www.lowthercastle.org/>> to see the progress made in implementing the plans to bring new life to the extensive grounds. This is early warning that Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June is the favoured (though as yet unconfirmed) date. Further details in the Spring issue of *Dig This*.

## **Visit to Arley Hall, Northwich, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

Planning is also under way for a coach visit to Arley Hall, Cheshire. <<http://www.arleyhallandgardens.com/>> We last visited it in June 2014 but this time there should not be the crowds attracted by the Country Fair. More details closer to the time.

## **Quiz Night 2019, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm**

Advance notice – mark the date in your diary – your chance to win one of the fabulous prizes ...

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

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

### **1 Alpine Garden Society Show at Kendal**

This very popular annual event will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the usual venue: Kirkbie Kendal School, Lound Road, Kendal, between 10am and 3.30pm. The show is well supported by specialist alpine nurseries from across the north of England and beyond which provide authoritative advice and sell plants and seeds. See <<https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/shows-events/kendal-2019/>>

### **2 Warton Garden Club**

All events at Warton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**Re-awakening the Garden at Sizergh.** Talk by Susan Rowley, Head Gardener, Sizergh Castle. Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Spring Containers.** Talk and demonstration by Bill Blackledge, presenter of gardening programmes for BBC Radio Lancashire. Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**Growing Fantastic Perennials for Cut Flowers.** Talk by Tom Atwood of Abi and Tom's Garden Plants, the nursery founded in 2011 at Halecat, Witherslack. Tom is also author of the gardening column for the *Westmorland Gazette* and other publications. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

There are no details to hand of events to be held by Bolton-le Sands Horticultural Society or Borwick & Priest Hutton Gardeners' Club.

**Dig This is distributed to the majority of members by e-mail but a minority receive it in paper form posted through their letter boxes. If you are one of the minority but now have an e-mail address may we encourage you to receive *Dig This* by that route. To join the e-mail list contact Geoff Jackson (736103) – e-mail distribution is more cost-effective and simpler for us.**

**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)