

Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

Dig This – March 2019



A corner of Jacqueline Iddon's Hardy Plants near Bretherton, south-west of Preston, which we will be visiting by coach on Thursday 23rd May - see below (illustration from Jacqueline's web site <<https://www.jacquelineiddon.co.uk/>>)

PAST EVENTS

Birds in the Garden. Coffee Morning and Talk by David Mower, Saturday, 2nd February

A very appreciative and large audience of nearly fifty people enjoyed an informative and excellently illustrated talk on the variety of birds which can be seen in gardens throughout the year. Following the talk the audience took the opportunity to buy examples of David's own simply designed yet effective bird feeder as well as RSPB merchandise.

Gresgarth Hall Gardens. A journey through the year. Illustrated talk by Steve Halliwell, Saturday 2nd March

Another excellent turn-out of over forty people enjoyed a journey through the seasons given with humour by Steve Halliwell. He highlighted the extensive collections of hamaelis, hellebores, camellias, magnolias, hydrangeas, acers and sorbus (to name just a few) and illustrated the changing seasons with excellent photos taken of the same areas at different times. The gardens are open on only the second Sunday of each month from February to November – as a result of a ‘straw poll’ held towards the end of the meeting your Committee will try to arrange a trip to view the gardens, but not until 2020 as we have a full programme for this year already.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Renewing Your Society Membership for 2019/2020

If you have not renewed your membership please do so soon by contacting Geoff Jackson (736103). The fee remains at £2.00 per household. Remember that by presenting the membership card at a number of local garden centres and merchants you will secure worthwhile discounts on your purchases.

GrowOrganic – bulk order and distribution Saturday 23rd March

Orders have now closed but distribution of purchases within the village will take place on Saturday 23rd March from Windergarth where the pallets will be located. Those who elected to collect their purchases themselves or who live outside the village should collect their orders between 9am and 11am. Volunteers to help with distribution are sought – contact Phil Hegarty (phone 733549, e-mail philhegarty@outlook.com).

Visit to RHS Bridgewater, Monday 8th April, depart The Green at 8.15am

A few members who booked for the trip have yet to make their payment for the coach seat and admission to the gardens to Geoff Jackson (736103) by 16th March. More details will be sent out closer to the time. Footwear suitable for walking around a building site is essential.

Visit to Jacqueline Iddon’s Hardy Plants near Bretherton, Thursday 23rd 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 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 independently of *Dig This*.

Visit to Lowther Castle, Saturday 29th June

A coach trip is being arranged to visit **Lowther Castle** <<https://www.lowthercastle.org/>> to include a guided tour to see the progress made in implementing the plans to bring new life to the extensive grounds. Further details will be sent out closer to the time.

Plants 'n' Pimms at Green Meadow, Friday 26th July at 6.30pm or, if poor weather, Saturday 27th July at 6.30pm

Phil Hegarty once again throws open his unique and attractive garden for you to enjoy a drink and conversation and buy some plants for the benefit of the Blood Bikes charity. Why not sow or plant some extras now and bring your plants and produce along on the evening to benefit the charity. The 2018 evening was popular and well chosen, coming just before the glorious summer weather broke – let's hope for the same in 2019!

Visit to Arley Hall, Northwich, Tuesday 20th 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, giving more opportunity to appreciate the walled garden, kitchen garden, plant nursery, herbaceous borders, scented garden, herb garden etc, as well tour the Hall and chapel. More details closer to the time.

Talk in late September/early October

Planning is under way for this event.

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 ...

OKDHS AGM

This will be held towards the end of November.

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

The Society is functioning without a Chairman and it is still short of at least two Committee Members. As you will appreciate from the events described above Committee members are trying hard to keep a full programme going. In addition, one Committee member in particular cares for the flower tubs set up beside the bus shelter on the Green – and which unfortunately have been subject to minor vandalism. If you appreciate what we are doing and can help share the work required please volunteer by contacting the Secretary, Verity Clinch (734591).

Small Ad for a Big Object

Large black plastic compost bin, free to a good home. It has been emptied and is in good condition. Contact Geoff on 736103.

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 16th 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.

Spring Containers. Talk and demonstration by Bill Blackledge, presenter of gardening programmes for BBC Radio Lancashire. Thursday 14th 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 11th 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. Also, if you have moved onto B4RN you may have been required to change your e-mail address – please let Geoff know what it is.

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

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