

Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

Dig This – May 2019



Lowther Castle – the planting has matured considerably since our last visit in 2015. A coach trip is planned for Saturday 29th June – see below (photo: Applewhite Garden Design)

PAST EVENTS

GrowOrganic – bulk order and distribution Saturday 23rd March

Our supplier failed to send all the merchandise ordered in the first delivery. Ten days later the remainder was supplied and delivered to members on Tuesday 2nd April. We apologise to those of you who did not receive your order on 23rd March but it was due to circumstances beyond our control.

Visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater, Monday 8th April

Perfect spring weather shone on the twenty people who toured the site of RHS Garden Bridgewater being created in the grounds of Worsley Hall. The Hall was built between 1840 and 1845 but demolished in 1949. The gardens have not been cultivated since 1914 and at various times over the next one hundred years parts were used as a nursery and garden centre, scout camp and rifle range. The RHS acquired a long lease of the site in 2015 and has held a number of open competitions for the design of different areas. The idea is not to re-create the gardens as they were in the 19th century but to create gardens for today and tomorrow. The result is some exciting and original design ideas, most of which have barely started to take shape on the ground. Highlights of the two-hour tour were the large lake, recently drained and de-silted (the left-hand photo shows some of our group negotiating the slope above it).



Extensive woodlands have been cleared of the invasive rhododendron ponticum. Three enormous walled gardens have been cleared of undergrowth, including a row of 60ft high *Leylandii* heeled-in as cuttings for sale when the site was a nursery over thirty years ago. One walled garden is being made into a Paradise Garden with water features (see right-hand photo above), another into a vegetable and fruit garden and the third into a Well-Being Garden with community allotments close by. Historic varieties of twenty-three pear and two apple trees have been identified in the former wildernesses and four hundred cuttings taken to create a modern orchard. Phase three of the renovation (dependent on finance and not due for completion for more than ten years) will see the creation of an arboretum and the foundations of the Hall used as the base for a conservatory on a similar scale to that at Kew Gardens. The tour whetted the appetites of all to return to the

site in 2020 when the £32m first phase opens to the public, to see how the present construction site has become a place of horticultural inspiration, information and education.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Visit to Jacqueline Iddon's Hardy Plants near Bretherton, Thursday 23rd May

Bookings close on Monday 6th May. We need more people to book otherwise we may have to cancel the trip. The £25 cost includes coach transport, a tour of the gardens and lunch. The booking form was sent out to members in early April but with the wrong date (29th May). If you booked for then and can't manage 23rd, contact Pat (details below) for a refund. If you're using the original form, please change the date so we know you are booking for the correct one. Apologies. The completed form, with a cheque made payable to Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society, should be sent to Pat Woolstencroft, The Bowers, Cockle Hill, Kirkby Lonsdale Road, LA6 1FF, phone 733965.

Visit to Lowther Castle, Saturday 29th June

A coach trip to **Lowther Castle** <<https://www.lowthercastle.org/>> is being arranged including a guided tour led by the Head Gardener 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.

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 early October

Final plans are being made – the speaker's topic is expected to be on an annual and perennial challenge to all gardeners.

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, Friday 29th November, 7.30pm

To be followed by cheese and biscuits, wine and nibbles in return for a modest and discretionary donation to the Society's funds.

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, we care 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).

OTHER GARDENING AND SOCIETY EVENTS IN THE AREA

Warton Garden Club

Car-sharing trip to Gresgarth Hall gardens, Caton. Admission to the gardens: £9.00. Cars will leave Warton at 10.30am on Sunday 12th May. If you'd like to join the trip please contact the WGS Chair, Emma Berry on emmajberry83@icloud.com - all welcome.

Coffee Morning and Plant Sale in the Church Hall between 10am and 12 noon, Saturday 1st June.

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 – e-mail distribution is more cost-effective and simpler for us. To join the e-mail list contact Geoff Jackson (736103); if you have moved onto B4RN you may have been required to change your e-mail address – please let Geoff know the new one if so.

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)