

Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

Dig This – October 2018



A corner of Lowther Castle Gardens, near Penrith – we are hoping to arrange a coach trip there in 2019, see page 2 [photo: Rumsey Photo for Lowther Castle]

PAST EVENT

Water in the Garden. Talk by Malcolm Saul, Friday 21st September

Our new season of events failed to start with a splash for, disappointingly, just fourteen members (apart from the Committee) attended the talk given by Malcolm, an expert in the design, construction and maintenance of ponds and other water features for the garden. He illustrated his talk with pictures of features of both traditional and modern designs of all shapes, sizes and cost, including a number he had built for customers. The samples of patio paving and decking he passed round showed how realistic and attractive those made of modern recycled materials have become. After his talk Malcolm held a 'clinic' providing practical solutions to a range of problems members had experienced with water features.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Quiz Night 2018, Friday 9th November, 7.30pm

As advertised in previous issues of *Dig This*, Phil Hegarty and his grandson Sam are planning a fun-filled evening. There will be a range of quiz questions mostly, but not entirely, on gardening and wildlife topics. A new addition will be a fiendish

'connecting wall' based on the feature in Victoria Coren Mitchell's quiz on BBC2: Only Connect. Prizes have again been generously donated by the national seed company Thompson & Morgan, and comprise large variety packs of special seeds. Recruit your team (ideally of four to six members) and register with Phil Hegarty (phone 733549, e-mail philhegarty@outlook.com) or pop a note in at Green Meadow, The Narrows, providing the name of your team and the number of people in it **by 2nd November**. People who turn up on the night may be able to form new teams or be invited to join existing teams, as long as the team size does not exceed six members.

Entry fee: £1 per person for members, £1.50 for non-members. Bring your own wine, glasses and nibbles – tea, coffee and biscuits will be available at half-time at a nominal charge.

AGM, Friday 23rd November, 7.30pm

Our Chairman, Arie Klijn, has led the Society for five years and under the Constitution is now obliged to step down. The position will become vacant at the close of the AGM. So far no-one has come forward to fill the position, disappointing the Committee which is already below strength and unable to provide the events it was able to a few years ago. If the membership is unable or unwilling to give time to run the Society there is no future for it. Nominations to join the Committee are welcomed. Please contact the Secretary, Verity Clinch, 734591.

Winter: a Season of Surprises. Talk by Marguerite Hughes, Saturday, 1st December at 10.30am in the Village Hall

Horticultural tutor, garden designer and speaker Marguerite Hughes will give a talk and demonstration which will be practical, informative and fun ... and involve audience participation. Marguerite will be bringing hardy plants and plant material from her own one-acre garden to show how winter can be a colourful and very interesting season in the garden with a variety colours, shapes, forms and scents. This presentation should appeal not just to growers but also flower arrangers. Refreshments and a raffle will be available

Talks and trips being planned for 2019

A return 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 is under firm consideration. Our last visit was in April 2015; we hope to return at a different time of the year to enjoy a different season. If you went last time you will see from the web site's title screen video how impressively the planting in the rear courtyard (which we saw under construction) has now matured.

We are also investigating a possible coach trip to **RHS Garden Bridgewater**,

which is open on a few selected dates. Restoration of the 154 derelict acres of Worsley New Hall, Salford began in June 2017 and has been featured on regional TV. The first phase includes restoring an eleven acre walled kitchen garden, one of the largest in the UK. You can see progress made so far, and whet your appetite by going to <<https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater>>

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 Bolton-le-Sands Horticultural Society

Talk. No details at time of writing. Old Boy's School, Thursday 15th November, 7.30pm.

2 Borwick & Priest Hutton Gardeners' Club

All events at Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall.

A Hardy Planter's Winter Survival. Talk by Don Witton, a retired schoolteacher, who holds the national collection of hardy Euphorbias which has been featured on Gardeners' World. He runs a small nursery at Harthill, near Sheffield. Tuesday 27th November 7.30pm.

AGM followed by a **talk on British gardens of note** by Steuart and Anita Kellington who gave a talk to the Club in March 2017 on European gardens. Tuesday 22nd January 7.30pm.

3 Warton Garden Club

All events at Warton Village Hall.

AGM plus talk and demonstration by Becky Hindley from Picking Posies, the Warton-based floral design business that uses hand-picked British grown flowers, Thursday 8th November 7.30pm.

The next Dig This will appear in the New Year.

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