

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

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Chairman's Report

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome to a new gardening year.

2009 was a busy year for the committee and all the volunteers – I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

We made a successful move to Newton Sports Club in February for all our lectures.

The Club made us feel very welcome and it is pleasing to hear from members that they approve of the move, which has provided us with much better facilities.

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of Richard Jeacock in August.

Richard was our vice president, web master, till operator at the hut and my predecessor as chairman. He will be sadly missed by all of us.

The show in 2009 was a great success thanks to all the volunteers and competitors.

We look forward to welcoming all gardeners to this year's show, to be held on Saturday, 11th September 2010. More participants and exhibitors are always welcome.

Good gardening in 2010.

Tony Addison

OUR COACH TRIPS

In 2009 we had 3 coach trips. The first was to The Malvern Show in May.

We had a lovely, though very tiring day and we had to leave a little early due to the volume of traffic: nevertheless it was a very enjoyable day.

The second trip was to Chatsworth House.

We had a fabulous day there and everyone said what a gorgeous place it was.

Lastly, in July we went to the Trentham Estate (formerly known as Trentham gardens).

When I got off the coach to get the tickets it was raining quite heavily and I got soaked but after about 10 minutes the rain stopped and we had a great day out.

The shops leading down to the gardens were very interesting, each one being made of timber.

The gardens were quite stunning and the garden centre was huge.

Everyone said they had a great day and we will have to visit there again sometime soon.

This year it has been decided to have just two coach outings.

We shall be going to Holker Hall and gardens near Cartmel in the Lake District, where the special attraction will be the Garden Festival.

The second trip will be to the Shrewsbury Show in August. Details are as follows :-

HOLKER HALL on the 5th June will be approximately £19 for adults, £18 for O/60s

The garden festival is an annual event, featuring arts and crafts, demonstrations, plant marquees, live music, animal displays, together with guest appearances: it should appeal to all ages.

Please be advised that the event is on grass and therefore you will need suitable footwear.

If you wish to visit the hall there is an additional cost of £3.00

SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW on the 14th August is £26 for adults and £24 O/60's

These prices are subject to change if the prices are increased by the organisers in the New Year.

HOSTAS

I have recently read an article in the Saga magazine by a lady called Una, who is passionate about Hostas. She passes on a few tips about the control of slugs on the plants, because as we all know the little darlings just love the taste of the Hosta leaf. She says that if growing them in a pot – to cover the holes with wire or mesh because the slugs can get in underneath as well as over the top. Hostas should be grown in shade and once the leaves have opened, she recommends a fortnightly spray with a garlic solution, the recipe for which is as follows :-

2 large garlic bulbs, crushed, 2 pints of water. Boil together for 3 minutes until the garlic blanches. Cool and strain and add water to make up to 2 pints measure. Store in a screw-top container such as a coffee jar. **To use** – dilute 1 tablespoon of the mixture to 1 gallon of water and use in a watering can with a rose to wash the leaves in late afternoon. Repeat every 14 days.

10 REASONS WHY I LOVE MY MOTHER

1. My mother taught me RELIGION.
“You had better pray that will come out of the carpet”
2. My mother taught me LOGIC.
“Because I said so that’s why”
3. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.
“Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you’re in an accident”
4. My mother taught me IRONY.
“Keep crying and I’ll give you something to cry about”
5. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.
“Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck”
My mother taught me about the WEATHER.
“Your room looks as if a tornado went through it”
6. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.
“Just wait until I get you home”
7. My mother taught me about RECEIVING.
“You are going to get it when you get home”
8. My mother taught me HUMOUR.
“When that lawn mower cuts off your foot, don’t come running to me”
9. My mother taught me about JUSTICE.
“One day you’ll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you”

NEXT YEARS’ SHOW, SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

CATEGORIES WILL BE :-

PHOTOGRAPHY, Skies, Autumn and A Windmill
COOKERY, Lemon Drizzle Cake and Ginger Biscuits
CHILDREN’S PHOTOGRAPHY, Flowers
ART, Bowl of Fruit
FLORAL ART, 100 years of Guiding



In 2010 the new web address will be :-www.nlwgardeners.co.uk

COMPANION PLANTING WITH HERBS

Companion planting is the name given to the gardening theory that some plants will flourish when planted near particular species and will do badly in the presence of others. This is especially true of herbs as the following list shows. With the exception of fennel, most herbs planted in or near vegetable beds will have a beneficial effect.

Try planting herbs at the corners of beds to ward off flies and various insects and to attract bees.

Basil – Does not grow well near rue, but will benefit most vegetables.

Borage – Will encourage strawberries, cucumbers and tomatoes.

Chamomile – Helps wheat, onions and cabbage.

Chervil – Grows well with radishes.

Chives – Will improve the health of apple trees and increase the size of carrots.

Dill – Encourages the growth of cabbages and corn, but not carrots.

Fennel – Has a bad effect on tomatoes, turnips and dwarf beans, but improves lettuce and leeks.

Marigold – Improves the growth of tomatoes and deters flies.

Nasturtium – Keeps broccoli and apple trees free from aphids, also helps radishes.

Parsley – Benefits roses and tomatoes.

Rosemary – Deters carrot fly. Rosemary and sage benefit each other.

Sage – Grows well with rosemary, but does not encourage the growth of cucumbers.

Thyme – Discourages cabbage root fly.

RECIPE :- MEGS MUESLI BITES

5oz hard margarine, 5oz muesli, 2oz chopped walnuts, 5oz currants,
4oz glace cherries, 3oz grated chocolate, 5oz cake crumbs, large tin condensed milk

1. Preheat the oven to 190c/gas 5. Melt the butter and pour into a 7" x 11" cake tin.
 2. Sprinkle on the muesli and press down.
 3. Sprinkle on the nuts, currants, cherries and chocolate.
 4. Top with the cake crumbs and press down.
 5. Pour over the condensed milk to completely cover.
 6. Bake for 30-35 minutes. Allow to cool slightly and mark into squares
Makes about 40 squares.
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DID YOU KNOW THAT :-

Blackcurrants will grow very happily and vigorously if planted in an old nettle bed. If your blackcurrants are already established, you can improve their quality by planting some nettles among them.

SOME OLD SAYINGS

1. Clear moon, frost soon.
- 2) Halo around the moon, rain soon.
- 3) If you see the underside of the leaves in a gentle breeze, it will rain before you sneeze.
- 4) When your joints all start to ache, Rainy weather is at stake.
- 5) If February brings no rain, 'Tis neither good for grass nor grain.
- 6) A summer fog for fair. A winter fog for rain.
- 7) In October dung your field, and your land its wealth will yield.

THE SHOW

We had a fantastic show this year, with wonderful displays of Dahlias, Chrysanthemums and other Perennials. The cookery was well represented as was the photography. The children's section was good, but we would love more children to get involved, so please encourage them to take part. This year there were 5 exhibits in the floral art, but only one in the novice class. Come on all you budding flower arrangers, I'm sure that you could try to do a small exhibit. Next years' classes in floral art are a Centenary of Guiding (another part of my life) and for novices – Pot et Fleur

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all those people who volunteered, on the day, to help with all kinds of tasks, including putting out tables, manning a stall and clearing away after the show. We couldn't do it without you. (**URSULA HARRISON, SHOW SECRETARY**)

TALKS & DEMONSTRATIONS + Annual General Meeting (All at the Cricket Club in Newton)

Always Thursdays at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting Thursday, 28th January 2010. We look forward to seeing your support on an enjoyable evening where we can discuss your views about the Gardeners' Association. Refreshments will be provided.

The Agenda is as follows :-

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 2009 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. General Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Hut Manager's School report
8. Election of officers, committee and auditors for 2010
9. 2010 Events
10. A.O.B.

25 th February	Greenhouse Sensation	Hydroponics & Propagation.
25 th March	Ken Whittaker	Make your greenhouse work for you.
29 th April	Maurice Appleton	Pruning Grafting & Taking Cuttings.
27 th May	Phil Dunnett	Fruit for Small Gardens.
24 th June	Martin & Janet Blow	Feeling Hot! Hot! Hot! <i>creating heat and excitement in your planting using colour, shape and plant associations.</i>
28 th October	David Tidswell	Our Friendly Garden Robin

SHOWS

31 st May (Monday)	Willow Park Rural Craft Display
3 rd & 4 th July (Sat & Sun)	St Helens Festival at Sherdley Park
11 th September (Saturday)	NLWGA Flower, Flower & Vegetable Show at St Aelreds' School

HUT OPENINGS:

Saturdays	9 th January – 30 th October	10.30 – 12.00
Sundays	10 th January – 31 st October	10.30 – 12.00
Wednesdays	7 th April – 23 rd June	7.00 – 8.00

It is with sadness that I have to tell you of the death of one of our oldest members, Peter Darbyshire who was in his 90's. He will be sorely missed.