

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2010

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The A.G.M

Thank you to all who attended the A.G.M at the Newton Sports and Cricket Club in January. The turnout wasn't huge but we had a pleasant evening with tea and cake afterwards. The committee were re-elected with Sue Morgan replacing one resigned member.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the summer newsletter. By the time you read this I hope that we are getting some good growing weather. We seem to have had a long winter and when writing this (at the end of May) we seem to have had a couple of hot days and it has gone cold again. My concern is the lack of rain for my plants as all my water butts are now empty. Everything seems to be a month later this year.

The weather improved to take two coaches to the Holker Hall Show in the Lake District. We are now taking bookings for the Shrewsbury Show on 14th August which will be another great day out. After a slow start at the hut due to the bad winter weather we seem to have been busier than ever. Thanks to Fred and all the volunteers in the hut and the poly tunnel staff for all their hard work. As well as bedding plants, remember, we do have perennials on sale at all times.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Show on 11th September. Let's make this a good one for entries as this will be the last one at St. Aelred's before they move to the new school.

Have a good summer.

Tony Addison - Chairman

EASTER WEEKEND

The Easter weekend open days at the hut were a great success, the tea urn bubbled away all weekend and everyone enjoyed their cups of tea and coffee, along with a lovely piece of cake served up by my granddaughters, who did a marvellous job. The weather could have been kinder, but on the whole it was a very successful time.

TRIPS

Our first trip to HOLKER HALL was a huge event, running two coaches, because one coach wasn't enough to hold everyone that wanted to go. We had 86 people in all and we got them all safely there, to enjoy, what was, a very interesting day out. The weather was excellent and everyone had a great time, so much so, that lots of people asked if we can go again next year.

MOLES

Do you have a problem with moles? If so, it has been suggested that a few children's windmills pushed into the lawn will deter the moles from coming to the surface and so they will find alternative accommodation.

THIS YEARS SHOW

Our show, this year is on the 11th September at St.Aelreds' College in Birley Street in Newton-le-Willows with the usual categories in Flowers, Vegetables, Fruit.

PHOTOGRAPHY (the subjects are Autumn, Sky, and Windmill).

COOKERY (The subjects are Jar of jam, Jar of chutney, Lemon drizzle cake and ginger biscuits).

ART (A Bowl of fruit).

FLOWER ARRANGING (100 years of Guiding).

Categories for children in PHOTOGRAPHY(Flowers) and COOKERY (Chocolate Krispie cake).

The show costs quite a lot of money to put on and we rely heavily on sponsorship to help out. If anyone would like to sponsor a Category, each section starts at £3.60 or whatever amount you like. You can also sponsor in memory of a loved one, who liked a particular sort of flower or vegetable. You will receive a letter of thanks and your name will be on the sponsorship list at the show. Just come along to the hut and see us - we will be glad to talk to you about it.

Unfortunately for us this will be the final year at this venue, as the school is about to be demolished and we are looking for somewhere to hold future shows. *We are currently looking for premises large enough to continue to hold a Show on a similar scale and preferably in the Newton area, after all, it is the Newton Show and is organised by the Newton-le-Willows Gardeners' Association.*

The site needs to be available on the 2nd Saturday of September as well as the evening before. It would be good if tables were available but they can be hired if necessary. What we don't want to do is to have an outdoor event when hiring a marquee would then involve overnight security at a huge expense.

Do you know of anywhere else? Contact Ursula, the Show Secretary on 01942 708171 or ursula.harrison @hotmail.com, if you think you know of anywhere that might suit our needs.

GARDENING TIPS

Amongst those new to gardening who just want to try something different, or who may have tried already and not achieved the results they hoped for, a visit to the our sales hut is an opportunity to pick up on the wealth of advice and gardening experience from our team of ever willing helpers. Over the last few months we have been working on different ways to collate some of this advice.

In the re-launch of the new website www.nlwgardeners.co.uk we have included a new section called "Gardening Tips". Here we will try and pass on useful advice covering many areas, which regularly concern our members, ranging from the use of fertilisers, growing tips for vegetables and flower and pest control.

Your list of questions is almost endless and we have only covered a small number so far but we hope to add new articles on a regular basis. If you have any areas you would like to see covered in future updates or indeed any useful tips of your own that you would like to pass on to members please contact our webmaster on david_hemingway@blueyonder.co.uk

DAVID HEMINGWAY

A Hug is like a perfect gift. One size fits all and nobody minds if you exchange it.

LAMB IN PALAVA SAUCE

1 red chilli, seeded and chopped	2.5cm/1in piece of root ginger peeled & chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled	1 onion, (½ chopped and ½ sliced)
1 tbsp tomato puree	400g can tomatoes
6 tbsp vegetable oil	500g/1lb 2oz lean lamb cut into cubes
300ml/1/2 pint vegetable stock	200g/8oz spinach leaves, roughly shredded
2 egg, beaten	Salt and Pepper

Method

1. Blitz the chilli, ginger, garlic, chopped onion, tomato puree and tomatoes in a food processor until chopped together to make a sauce.
 2. Heat the oil in a large frying pan and fry the sliced onion for 2 minutes. Add the lamb and stir fry over a high heat for 6-7 minutes until starting to brown. Pour the tomato sauce over the lamb and bubble rapidly for 2-3 minutes then stir in the stock and season to taste. Cover and simmer gently for 40-50 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the lamb is tender and the sauce has thickened.
 3. Stir the spinach into the sauce so it wilts, then simmer for 2-3 minutes. Drizzle in the egg and continue to simmer for 2 minutes until just set. Serve straight from the pan.
- Serves 4. Serve with new potatoes and fresh garden peas.

HOW TO SAVE YOUR OWN SEEDS

Keeping and sowing your own seed from year to year is great fun and will save you money. The easiest ones to start off collecting are Peas, Runner beans and French beans.

To start collecting beans, all you need to do is leave six pods on the plant to mature. Allow the pods to swell and dry and then harvest them once they are papery and husky. Remove the beans from their pods and store them in a paper bag, label them, then put the date on it and keep in a cool, dry place over the winter.

WHAT TO PLANT IN SEPTEMBER

September is the time to sow spring cabbages, turnips for their green tops and spinach.

For salads, sow winter lettuce, endive, radish and spring onions.

Broad beans and hardy peas also, but they will need protecting with cloches in cold districts.

Also plant out garlic and hardy onion sets.

**To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him a little.
To be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot, and not try to understand her at all.**

WHY ARE OUR HONEYBEES DISAPPEARING AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Scientists believe that the honeybee is in decline because of gardeners who spray with pesticides which are killing them, intensive farming and a parasite known as Varroa mite, as well as climate change and inbreeding. The way in which we can help is by providing a healthy environment for them to pollinate our flowers. We can

1. Avoid spraying plants that are in flower and only when they become infected.
2. Spray late in the day when the bees are less active and the flowers are closed.
3. Choose a pesticide which is less harmful to bees, hoverflies, lacewings and ladybirds.
4. Spray when there is no wind, so that the mist doesn't affect other plants around.
5. Read the instructions carefully so as not to use too concentrated a solution in the spray.
6. Inspect crops regularly for signs of pests and diseases and spray as soon as the symptoms appear, eventually using less of the insecticide.

There are lots of plants which can help the bee survive. Try planting some of them in the garden and therefore help the bee to carry on buzzing.

Aubretia	Bluebell	Borage	Bugle
Chives	Aquilegia	Foxglove	Hollyhock
Lavender	Lemon Balm	Marjoram	Apple mint
Penstemon	Poppy	Rosemary	Sweet William

Bee facts and figures:- Did you know that bees have 5 eyes?

They can carry half their weight in pollen and a bee would need to fly the equivalent of twice around the world to produce one jar of honey.

Honeybees do a waggle dance to show other bees where food is.

40 per cent of the food we eat depends on plants being pollinated by insects that include bees.

The bee's role in the natural order of our world is crucial and their importance as pollinators, both for agriculture and for wild plants can't be underestimated. We need to keep the bees alive, so come on do your bit and help to rescue the bees for future generations.

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have 4 years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man"

ALBERT EINSTEIN

What a horrible thought !!

Can I please tell those who have not renewed their membership yet, you can still do so at the hut

AND FINALLY

Nitrates, phosphates, potash and lime must be kept in the garden the whole of the time

Nitrates make greenstuffs and cabbages happy, but don't put too much or the growth will be sappy

Phosphates encourage the growth of good root, as well as hastening the ripening to boot

Potash for sturdy growth, a kind of tonic and give it to fruit if the colour is chronic

Lime attacks acid and makes the soil sweet, but don't put it on at the same time as peat.

"Silvana"

