

MOLD GARDENING CLUB NEWS

Message from our Chairman

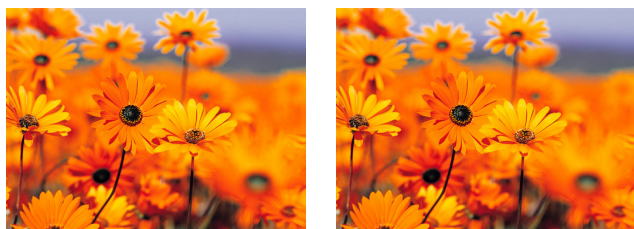
Hi Everyone! I trust all of you have been busy in your gardens this year. Planting all those plants bought from this years' plant sale and battling with the weeds. – I know I have.

Anyway a new year for the club beckons and a programme of very interesting talks awaits. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Don't forget our AGM in November so please give some thought to this. Please discuss any ideas/thoughts/comments with myself or any other committee members.

Lastly I am looking forward to 2008-2009 and seeing you all at the club. Until then take care.

**Christine A Bishop
Chair**



2008/09 Meetings programme

Our opening meeting of the gardening year will be on

Monday 15th September, when Mark Fawcett, a local nurseryman, will be speaking on 'Hot Plants for Cool Climates'. This will be followed by John Alexander from the Council for National Parks talking on these special places on **20th October**. The AGM is planned for **17th November** and we will end 2008 with our usual festive meeting on **15th December**.

Committee Members - profiles

Here is some more information that we think you might find interesting:

Helen Tomlinson (Minutes Secretary) - I am the daughter of a gardener but didn't get

interested, like most people, until I owned my first house. Since then I've enjoyed pottering in my garden - I only have a small one now! I enjoy visiting other peoples' gardens or any major garden and seeing what can be done.

Anne Brenchley (Newsletter Editor)

Nearly ten years ago, Ian and I bought a very boring bungalow in Sychdyn, whose main redeeming feature was the 2/3 acre garden. The transformation isn't complete but we do have a very productive organic vegetable patch, with raised beds, a large wildlife pond, several large mixed shrub and flower beds and a wildflower meadow that this year displayed nearly 600 spikes of common spotted orchid.

I come from gardening stock on both sides of the family and growing things is in my blood. Finding the time to manage the garden is a constant struggle as I work in North West England for most of the week and do a lot of travelling to Manchester, Preston, Wigan and Crewe. Gardening is my personal stress reliever.

Joy Heard (Show Secretary)

Three years ago my husband and I were house hunting or more realistically we were garden hunting! We eventually found what we were looking for in Pantymwyn. On the shopping list was a vegetable plot, somewhere the dogs could run around and a pretty area for sitting in. There's been 3 years hard slog since but slowly we are getting there. The next phase has just begun and that involves keeping chickens.

I am the Show Secretary at the gardening club, I was persuaded to do the job by Brenda Stokes and I have to admit I really enjoy it. I am also the coordinator of a group of volunteer gardeners at Mold Hospital. We work at the hospital for 2 hours every Monday and keep the courtyard gardens looking nice for the patients and visitors. We've been prize-winners in Blooming Mold for the past few years for our

hanging baskets.

Congratulations

Firstly to our Chair, Christine, who has kept very quiet about her success but she has recently passed all her exams in the RHS Diploma course, taken at Reaseheath College, Cheshire.

Secondly to Jean Roscoe and Carol Robinson but let Jean tell the story.....

'Gold' for the Cottage Garden Society

It was so satisfying to be on duty on a stand, where the first word people said when they saw it was 'Wow'! That was the main reaction to the display we had put together for this year's Tatton Flower Show and, much to our delight, the judges agreed and gave us a gold medal!



The Cottage Garden Society award-winning stand at the Tatton Flower Show

Needless to say, it was not achieved without a lot of hard work and a lot of help from many people. To cut a long story short, we didn't get much notice to do the display because the original plan fell apart when a critical person changed jobs and so determined not to miss out, we took it upon ourselves to create the cottage garden. We bought plants to grow on, dug them up from our gardens, begged, borrowed and stole plants from anybody we knew and some people we didn't! Sue Beasley of Lodge Lane Nursery (remember our visit last year) came to our rescue by providing much needed space at her nursery to store our

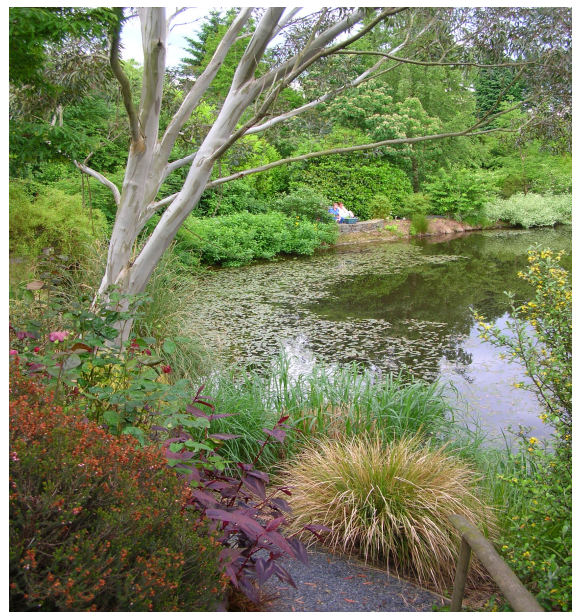
plants and allowed us to use any spare plants and materials that we needed.

The beautiful backdrop of a cottage was painted by a local CGS member who has spent years painting theatre backdrops and the little wooden fence and compost bin was made for us by P & A Fencing & Sheds Ltd of Mold. The display took an day and half to set out with the help of several volunteers at any one time. More volunteers helped to man the stand over the five days of the show including Barbara and Richard Rowley. In the end it was worth every bit of effort to hear that magic word 'Gold'.

Jean Roscoe and Carol Robinson

June coach trip – a great day out

We had lovely weather for the trip to Hall Farm Nursery, the Derwen Garden Centre and the Dingle, Welshpool on 6th June. It sounded hectic but was quite a relaxing day out! We were warmly welcomed to Hall Farm Nursery by Christine Ffoulkes-Jones herself, even though she had a busy schedule. Although it is a small nursery, it is packed with every imaginable herbaceous plant and we helped to reduce her stock slightly! We were even given the privilege of visiting the beautiful private garden adjoining which belongs to Christine's parents. On to the Derwen, where we enjoyed a lovely menu in the restaurant, much needed by then, and a walk around the 13 show gardens and nursery, where yet more plants were bought before moving on to the Dingle.



Tranquillity – The Dingle Garden

A free cup of coffee and a walk in the inspiring gardens was rounded off by yet more purchases in the nursery. The coach was well loaded on its return journey and we could smile as it began to rain!

August trip to Trentham Gardens

We weren't so lucky with the weather for this trip but we all went prepared for the rain and enjoyed a great day out. In between the showers, we viewed the spectacular Italian Garden, designed by Tom Stuart Smith (a regular gold medal winning garden designer at Chelsea) and some of the small show gardens behind the Gardens Tea Room.



The Italian Garden at Trentham

There were plenty of shopping opportunities including a large garden centre and Retail Village. Had the weather been better we could have explored acres of estate surrounding the large central lake but that will have to wait for another day.

and the next coach trip?

This will hopefully be in February, providing we have enough interest, to Ashwood Nurseries, specialists in hellebores. More information will be available at the September meeting.

Val Pugh

Members Plant Sale – 19th May 2008

This was a lot of hard work but again many members came up trumps with their unusual and not so unusual plants. We made over £90 for the club and this means that this

really should be an annual event. Vegetables were in short supply this year because we all assumed that there would be plenty so don't hold back in 2009. Do sow extra seed next spring and get busy dividing and propagating because we need your support again.

Anne Brenchley

Garden Open – 31st May

Richard and Barbara Rowley held a hugely successful event back in May and they raised £650, split equally between the North West Cancer Research Fund and the Diana Children's Nursing Trust. A plant sale was part of this event and most unsold plants from the garden club sale were taken by Richard and Barbara to supplement their own plants. Many thanks to everyone who provided support.

Summer Show 2008

Our Summer Show got off to a slow start because the manager of Northop Garden Centre forgot that it was our show day. However, sixteen members entered the show with a total of 118 exhibits, all of excellent quality. The members settled down in the café, whilst our judge, Mr Allington Jones, went to work. Helen and I followed him around the rooms filling names on certificates and adding up points as quickly as we could to work out who had won the prizes.



The smiling winners and their wonderful display

The winners were as follows:
Rose classes – Joy Heard
Flower classes – Stan Davis

Pot plants – Stan Davis
 Vegetables – Roger Taylor
 Fruit – Roger Taylor
 Joyce Butler Award (Coleus) – Stan Davis
 Floral Art (watering can) – Anne Harrison
 Floral Art ('Midnight Mood') – Moira Stanley
 Overall winner receiving the Fothergill Cup – Stan Davis.



Now for a few pointers for next year's shows – Spring Show photo will be 'A view of Moel Famau'. Summer show will include *Nicotiana*, *Hosta* and runner beans.

Joy Heard

Social Event – 2nd August 2008

For those who were unaware of this event or were unable to visit Stan and Christine's garden, you missed a treat. An invite was generously extended to all club members to mark the end of the 2007-2008 season with a chat and a glass of wine. The garden is typically urban, pristine, weed free and full of healthy plants. Despite disability, the garden they have both created is a testament to hard work and dedication. It was a privilege and a pleasure to witness gardening skills and knowledge at their best.



Christine and Stan Davis in their lovely garden

The front garden is formal with colourful bedding (seed raised of course) and expertly pruned containerised shrubs. The

front lawn was replaced with paths and the driveway a delightful design of herringbone pavers. The gravel bed to the right of the driveway contained some interesting design elements, such as clematis growing up a dead tree trunk and some lovely alpine plants in bowls, laid in gravel.

The patio was intimate with the most amazing containerised *Hosta* and the largest *Sedum* you have ever seen. Both were very healthy and no slug damage on the *Hosta* – unbelievable! The cordylines, also in containers, were equally impressive.

The back garden was laid to lawn with an off-centre rockery. The garden is obviously well loved and tended and we all had a most joyous afternoon. Stan and Christine raised £120, which they donated to the club. Many thanks for their generosity and hospitality.

Christine Bishop



Gardening gift for Christmas

In the next month or so, bulbs will be arriving in the garden centres etc. I usually buy one of the many lovely pots available and plant it up with at least half a dozen of each of 2 contrasting tulip bulbs, top with a coloured grave, wrap a ribbon around the pot and give it to a relative or friend for Christmas. Not perhaps that exciting, until the shoots emerge in spring followed by a wonderful display.

Val Pugh

Finally – your views and contributions are needed

Editor – Anne Brenchley (01352 750118)