

Welcome from the New Chairman for North West in Bloom



Welcome to this latest newsletter, we are pleased to announce that Bernard Pendleton has been appointed Chairman of NWIB, and has taken over from Bill Blackledge MBE, who sadly passed away in April 2020. Bernard has been a NWIB judge for over 20 years and has a wealth of horticultural expertise. After Bernard retired from Myerscough College a few years ago, he has been assisting with the administration and the co-ordination of NWIB. Bernard lives on the Fylde Coast and spends time maintaining his own allotment, his local church grounds and orchard, walking the family dog, spending time with family and his grandchildren. Bernard is often gives advice and guidance to friends, neighbours and the community groups on a range of horticultural topics.

Please Check out the link below – [A Look Into Life During Lockdown at The Willows, Kirkham - June 2020](#)

Bernard started his horticultural career at the age of 16 and worked initially as an apprentice for his local authority in Blackpool. Whilst completing his apprenticeship Bernard studied part time at 'Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture' (now Myerscough College) where he gained horticultural qualifications whilst learning on the job. Upon completion of further full-time horticultural qualifications Bernard managed a successful Garden Centre in Poulton le Fylde and began to build up a wealth of contacts in the North West.

Bernard then returned to work at Myerscough College as a Horticultural Instructor in 1990 and completed further part time studies and became a Horticultural Lecturer. He was promoted to Work-based Learning Manager and was instrumental in the College's delivery of Modern Apprenticeships. Bernard stayed working at Myerscough for nearly 30 years and his last role was Director of Student Support and Welfare.

Bernard said on his recent Chairman appointment:

"I am delighted and honoured to be voted as Chairman of North West in Bloom. It is so sad that Bill, our dear friend is no longer with us; but I take on the Chairman's role in his honour and legacy.

Recently we have all recognised the importance of outdoor space for our Health and Wellbeing. We should all appreciate the hard work of volunteers who work tirelessly to continuously improve neighbourhood environments. It has also been fantastic to see in these challenging times what a massive difference you are all making to your own communities. Well done to groups of individuals, volunteers, In Bloom groups and others (whilst social distancing) for all their hard work in the recent months in their local areas.

I, alongside all the fellow NWIB judges are looking forward to next year when hopefully we can visit areas of the North West and judge for the In Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood Competitions.

Many thanks to Julie and the Team for their hard work in co-ordinating this Newsletter and everyone who has sent in articles. Please continue to share your stories for future newsletters and on Facebook in the North West in Bloom Support group.

I encourage you all to keep growing, volunteering and stay safe!"

Bernard Pendleton, Chair of NWIB

What you've been up to?

Garstang in Bloom

Initially during lockdown, only a few Bloomers carried on working independently in their own designated area of the town. However, as the rules gradually eased, we were able to work in socially distanced pairs and later groups of up to six, in the town's perennial gardens, to keep Garstang looking great in the lovely sunny weather we've had this Spring. The Youth Council have been making flowers out of used plastic bottles and one of our team, Sue, is a talented knitter and created hanging baskets of flowers out of spare wool. To add to our RHS award of "Wise Ways With Water", we've been even more eco-friendly by delivering the harvested water to our plants by bicycle - a very important service considering the tiny amount of rain that fell from March to May! Now it's June, we're out creating displays with the summer bedding - still socially distanced of course.



Rochdale in Bloom—Burma Star

The initial idea for the Burma Star feature was pitched at Rochdale in Bloom by the Rochdale and District Fusiliers' Association, which resulted in the collaboration. The display was installed by Tracy Hibbert and the council's gardening team. The display is situated in the town centre.

Roy Down, chairman of Rochdale in Bloom, said: "The chance to help commemorate 75 years of the Burma Star Association was something that we did not hesitate to say 'yes' to. Rochdale in Bloom has a history of helping to create features that commemorate people who have served their country, especially those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. This project is once again a great example of different groups working together in co-operation to create something meaningful in our town."

Members of the Fusiliers Association are shown standing in Rochdale In Bloom's WWI garden, in the town's Memorial Gardens. The garden was the inspiration for the 2018 Gold award winning garden at the Tatton flower show.

NORTH WEST

Shevington in Bloom

We are an ageing group and with that comes health issues, therefore, there are two of us doing what we can. This week two members have offered to do a couple of small jobs. We decided we wouldn't plant any annuals this year because we will be unable to water them. We have, therefore, gradually been removing perennial plants from the baskets in the village and recycling them. Most of them going in three Weavers baskets. We have several beds with *Heuchera* in and nothing will be added to them. We have sown wild flower seeds at two schools and areas of the village. We have also used recycled plants in Frank's planter which is not finished yet.

Wigan council can't mow the grass at the moment. I asked for volunteers on our Facebook page and several people offered to help. So two gentlemen cut round the beds for us. I worked with both of them edging them and they look much better. Many residents gave positive comments on our Facebook page.

Hopefully in the future only Sandra and I will need to water. The good thing about perennials is that they can stay in the planters until late next summer when we will have a better idea of what we can do.

Also Sandra, Anne (all in bloomers) have been making gowns for the NHS. Stay Safe.



Morecambe in Bloom



This is our communal garden here at The Parks in Morecambe. The garden is being enjoyed all the more at the moment because of the pandemic. Many residents in the 23 flats are vulnerable and have used the garden for their daily exercise. The general opinion is that the garden has never looked more beautiful in all its 20 years. This year much of its condition, variety and colour is down to the tremendous efforts of one resident in particular, Duncan Hamilton, who has whiled away the stay-at-home weeks beavering away industriously among the flowers, hedges and shrubs. It is a great tribute to him.



NORTH WEST

Growing Social at Park View 4U, Lytham

Park View 4U's Gardening Hub may not have been able to physically meet this year but it hasn't stopped their volunteers from joining the RHS "Grow Social" initiative.

This enthusiastic group from Lytham have been growing fruit, veg and flowers in the kitchen garden at QEII Park View Community Playing Fields in Lytham for 7 years and have been recognised by North West in Bloom and Britain in Bloom for their achievements.

The year started off well with seeds bought and crop rotations planned, as well as working on a second project adding native wildflowers, trees and a new pathway to the park's woodland.

Unfortunately lockdown came just as our volunteers were keen to see the first of our seeds starting to sprout and everyone was concerned about abandoning our polytunnel full of plants and more importantly the social side of our weekly meetings.

We shared out the seedlings amongst those who had sunny windowsills or greenhouses to put them and discussed how we could stay in touch.

There was only one thing for it, our Gardening Hub went online and we continued to "Grow Social" via social media and a What's App group. Although originally concerned about the use of technology it wasn't long before our volunteers were chatting daily rather than the once a week catch up.



We have swapped plant growing tips and shared photos of them growing. Those who were shielding took part in some experimental growing by saving the seeds from their dinner plates including tomatoes, peppers and lemons all of which grew well.

As restrictions were lifted and we were allowed out for exercise individuals visited the kitchen garden with their own tools, gloves and watering cans taking it in turns to water or weed for their allotted hour – sharing photographs with the rest of the group when they got home.

What started off as a necessity due to Covid-19 restrictions has actually brought us all closer together. If anyone was feeling isolated then the rest of the group would soon rally round with positive stories of nature thriving at the park during our absence, such as our garden robin singing to us on Dawn Chorus day before he followed our trowels looking for juicy worms, or the bees emerging as our wildflower meadow began to bloom.

Some of our peas, mangetout, beetroot and kale have already been harvested with photographs and recipes shared. It looks like we will have a bumper year due to the sunshine and the fact that all the plants were tended regularly at home. With all plants now returned to the park our garden is thriving and full of regular visitors who are enjoying watching it grow and the reflective space it provides after weeks of being trapped indoors.

We are looking forward to returning to our regular weekly gardening group, especially as you can't share tea and cake online, but I do believe that we have still achieved to 'Grow Social' despite being in our separate homes. What we have shared over the last few months is the feeling of being part of a community through our conversations on growing and nature. It is this experience and the common goal of us working together to create a community garden that have got us through lockdown.

Julie Norman, NWIB Judge



Light Relief

How many seeds does an average strawberry have?

Did you know that strawberries, raspberries and blackberries aren't actually berries. Look at a strawberry—where the pips are close together this is because these pips were not pollinated and therefore have not developed into a fruit

In fact, on a strawberry, each little seed is actually the fruit, which contains a seed. Oddly enough, a watermelon and a chilli pepper are technically berries.



Some fruit like apples and cranberries float in water but, have you ever stopped to wonder why?

In fact there are a variety of different fruits and vegetables that will float including bananas, lemons, oranges, pears. Turnips and Sweet potatoes sometimes float and sometimes sink!



Can you name at least 5 of your favourite fruits that belong to the 'Rose' family?

The Rose family Roseaceae is a large group of plants which include trees, shrubs, herbs, perennials, alpine and climbers, approximately 4800 species.

Can you name at least 5 vegetables that are actually fruits?

Some are well known but, others may not be as obvious and they are defined by the fact that they produce a seed inside that develops from the ovary of a flowering plant, whereas 'true' vegetables come from leaves, roots and stems!



Most of us know that 2 of the oldest 'species' of trees (around when the dinosaurs were here) are *Ginkgo biloba* and the Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* but do you know what the oldest 'living' tree is a) in the UK (though this one is up for debate) and b) in the world?

The clues are that one is in Perthshire and the other is in the USA.

Which visitor attraction in the UK holds 15 of the oldest species of plants that have survived the dinosaurs and extinction?

One of them is a Dutchman's pipe, (*Aristolochia gigantea*), another is Black pepper, (*Piper nigrum*) and also Horsetail restio, (*Elegia capensis*). They are all almost 145 million years old. However, the one that is up there with the Ginkgo (and you may not know it, but is very poisonous) is Sago palm, *Cycas revoluta*!

The Answers will be shown in the next Newsletter

Light Relief Answers to the May Newsletter

Do you know in which century the first watering can appears?

Original watering can was – 5th Century.

Where was the first hoe designed?

Mesopotamia.

Bonfires aren't just for Bonfire Night?

- a) They can be used to burn pest & diseased 'material' as it can help stop the spread of disease
- b) Wood Ash is great for the compost heap, as it is a good source of lime, potassium and trace elements for fruit bushes, trees, and roses. Though avoid adding straight into the soil, as it can affect pH levels.



Did you know that plants can tell you if you have a deficiency in your soil? What does Chamomile indicate that your soil might be deficient in?

Chamomile – indicates a lime deficiency in the soil.



Potatoes were traditionally used as a way to clear the ground of weeds but, what other cultural control is it used for in horticulture?

Potatoes help break up heavy soil due to earthing, harvesting and frost (you might consider add wood ash in this instance).



One for the children

You might be wondering why there is a picture of an elephant. Well, we thought you might find it interesting to know, that a lot of plants have animal names in them, and you might even find you have some of them in your own garden!



In gardening, you will find that some plants are known by more than one name. There is the 'Latin Name', which is also known as the 'Botanical Name' and means that around the world people will know the same plant by the same name. Then there is the 'Common Name', but this can become confusing, as depending on where you are in Britain or even the world, we can have exactly the same plant, but people will give it a different name. Are you getting confused?

Well, to show you that it isn't really so bad, we have listed below some plant names that you might be able to find and if you learn the Common Name and the Latin Name, you might just be able to impress a few people!

To start with you will might need an adults help, but once you have recognised the plant and can remember the names, you will probably remember them forever, or you could try googlingso here goes, see how many you can find:

Common Name	Latin Names
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia</i>
Cat Mint	<i>Nepeta</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus</i>
Elephants ears	<i>Bergenia</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis</i>
Hedgehog Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 'Ferox'
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus</i>
Monkey Puzzle	<i>Araucaria</i>
Snake Bark Maple	<i>Acer davidii</i>



You might find you can find other plants with animal names. See if you can find out what the Latin names are too. Maybe you would like to write in by email or ask your parents to put it on our Facebook Group **Northwest in Bloom Support** and let us know what you have found!

Newsletter May 2020

RHS Bloom / It's Your Neighbourhood Awards 2020 Update

A short questionnaire has been sent to all our BIB and IYN groups. The RHS will share the responses with the Regions & Nations at the end of July. The RHS will then send certificates direct to groups in August.

Some people, groups and businesses who currently operate outside of Bloom and IYN, have been doing amazing things to support their communities this year. If Regions nominate these exceptional people then the RHS can arrange certificates for them on behalf of the RHS and that Region. If you know of any such groups please let us know at NWIB so that we can nominate them.

More information will be provided in the RHS Newsletter, Blooming Brilliant. If you don't receive this newsletter, please do enlist with them through this link.

<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/d/3B2A40EB10594988>

Kay Clarke / RHS Community Development Manager

NWIB Contact details

Unfortunately we are not able to be in the office at the moment. We do, however, always check the e-mail shown below.

E-mail: info@northwestinbloom.com

Website: www.northwestinbloom.com

Facebook Group North West in Bloom Support

We want to hear from you

Tell us what you have been doing. Why not post your story and photos on our Facebook site **Northwest in Bloom Support**

Our Facebook group now has over 120 members and fresh ideas from groups are posted daily. Why not join us.

This is a private group where we can all share ideas and support.

Please follow the link below and request membership.

Northwest in Bloom Support

