

THE MEOLS MESSENGER

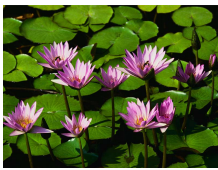
The Newsletter of the Meols (Southport)



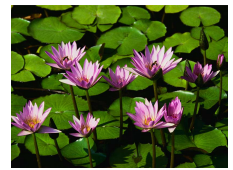
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From the Editor

Issue 3 – August 2009



GARDEN GROUP SPECIAL EDITION



By the time the next edition of the Messenger is published on Oct 13, the summer will be over and the scope for garden visits and other events much reduced. Together with the walking group, the gardeners are a very active group of like minded people, who, thanks to Sylvia Cornick, enjoy a varied and interesting programme of garden visits, talks and demonstrations etc. Various members of the group volunteered to write down their impressions of the gardens we visited this year; these are included under the main Garden Group heading. NB - You don't have to be a gardener to join this group, in fact you don't even have to have a garden! A balcony or patio will do where you can grow things in pots or containers. If all else fails why not just come along to one of next years visits and enjoy some one else's garden in the company of congenial folk....and there's always tea/coffee and cakes available for a small charitable donation.

Sometimes numbers are limited because of space restrictions so a quick phone call to Sylvia is a good idea.

MEOLS U3A GARDENING GROUP

Collectively and individually we have enjoyed a busy few months, many gardens being open during summer both for national garden schemes, charities and village gardens. We have been fortunate to have special access to some of them.

Sylvia

Crabtree Lane Burscough

In June we visited two gardens in Burscough. The first was a traditionally laid out circular garden with a central feature and good selection of flowers and shrubs. The second garden was totally different, being ¼ acre in size and having walkways leading to separate sections. One of my favourites was a dry stone building consisting of four walls but no roof, with a fireplace on one wall with old pots and pans for decoration – ideal for a BBQ in summer.

Afterwards we all enjoyed tea and biscuits and, of course, a gossip on the Patio in lovely warm sunshine. Thanks Sylvia for the arrangements

Fiona

Moss lane Allotments, Churchtown, 23 July

A lovely warm sunny day for our visit to the allotments, which are not visible from the road and are well protected by lines of trees.

The secretary and chairman met us at the gate and gave us a brief talk on the history of the site and the creation of the allotments in the 1930's.

We then had a conducted tour of the site. Each plot has it's own character with profusions of flowers, fruit and vegetables of excellent quality. The setting is really peaceful, the perfect place to create your own Shangri La. With garden sheds on every plot, a bottle of wine or cup of tea, many a peaceful afternoon can be your indulgence (just like Jack Duckworth). One of the annual competitions is decided by who can grow the largest sunflower head. Like all good things, there is a long waiting list for an allotment.

We concluded our visit at the main hut with tea and biscuits - a fascinating visit thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Walter

The garden of Diane and Peter Lavery in Highfield Road

From the moment we entered it was a real pleasure, it was full of colour with a variety of flowers

In the first section of garden there was a pretty pool to sit by and enjoy.

As we wended our way through a covered walkway we found lots of nooks and corners each one with a seat so that no matter which way the sun shines there is a seat to sit on and enjoy it. There was another small pond at the far end of the garden which gave a choice of spots for the frogs too.

Hidden behind the garden was the working area which saved the garden from being spoiled. Around the garden were different types of containers, including old fashioned kettles which gave more focal points to the flowers on show.

We ended the afternoon sitting in the sun or shade whichever you preferred and enjoyed a choice of drinks with a delicious strawberry and cream bun.

We all had a lovely time and our thanks go to Diane and Peter. All donations they receive go to help the children in Nepal

Vera

Mavis Standring's garden in Roe Lane.

Flaming June it was not! What started out as a wet and windy day had redeemed itself by the time we visited

Such a treat! The garden encompasses a large plot and has several mature trees under many of which are planted vivid and robust perennials and shrubs. Mavis cultivates a wide variety of unusual plants, and the design of the garden has created walkways which lure you further into it.

The colours were striking, some areas bold and showy, others delicate and pale. Wonderful old varieties of roses with the most enchanting aroma; many tumbling over pergolas and obelisks. A feast for the senses!

A pond was unobtrusive amidst crowded planting, a haven for birds and insects.

Later we were treated to refreshments on the terrace and were grateful for the rain staying away during our visit.

Margaret J

Garden Group – Ode to Summer

Many gardens large and small
 Enjoyed so much by one and all
 Some have trees standing tall
 Others a pond and waterfall.
 A seat that beckons in a bower
 To breathe the scent of a flower
 And smell grass after a shower
 Even the sound of a hover mower.
 Ladybirds and honeybees
 Birds are singing in the trees
 Cream buns, biscuits, lovely teas
 Friendships made so join us please.
 A garden quiz to have some fun
 Vegetables growing in the sun
 Something to interest everyone.

ANON (with apologies to Keats)

HOBBIES MEETING

Hobbies ranged from Photography; Egg Decoration; Art in 3 different media – Pastel, Acrylic and Watercolour; Flower Arranging; Family History; Embroidery; Patchwork; Knitting and Postcard collections and garden group plants.

"Thank you everyone who took part in the members' hobbies meeting - your participation made all the difference to the success of the day". **Eleanor**

GROUP CONTACTS

GARDENING – Sylvia 224099	GARDEN CLUB -DIARY DATES Sept 3 rd Produce show Sylvia’s Garden LIMITED Numbers – 2p.m Sept 19 th Harrogate Autumn Show Coach Outing 9am Places available – phone Sylvia. Oct 8 th Dobbies talk on bees 2pm, Nov 5 th Garden video/discussion Sylvia’s house Dec 3 rd Christmas lunch at Southport Old Links 12 noon
LUNCHEON CLUB Eunice 213419	<u>Wednesdays’as usual at 12noon.</u> 19 th August Nostalgia, 215 Lord Street (Upstairs, next to the Early Learning Centre) 2 nd Sept. The Barking Frog, 137, Manchester Rd. PR9 9BD 16 th Sept. Trattoria O’Sole Mio, 1,Avondale Rd. PR9 OEP 30 th Sept. The Toby Carvery, 537, Liverpool Rd. If any member cannot attend, please ring me on 01704 213419 and leave a message.

<p>MUSIC APPRECIATION Steve 536830</p>	<p>The Music Group meets fortnightly, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month.</p>
<p>OUT AND ABOUT Margaret 380012</p>	<p>Thursday 13th August Sudley House We might as well make a day of it!!!! We will meet at 9.50 am for the 10'clock train. We are fortunate that the Emily Tinne Exhibition is on show which reflects whole wardrobes full of clothes dating between 1910 and 1943. Admission is free and there are plenty of places for picnics. There are also Tea Rooms available.</p> <p>We had a super evening at the Lifeboat House with an interesting Talk and slideshow and we were introduced to the latest crew member Called William who is being trained as a search and find dog. The Radio City tour was another successful evening which started off at the Tappas Bar and, WOW, what a super meal!!!</p> <p>In September we will visit Western Approaches and in October a tour of the Liverpool Synagogue is planned.</p>
<p>SCRABBLE Joyce 228804</p>	<p>The Scrabble Group meets fortnightly 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. We play two games with an interval for tea and biscuits. This year we have lost two of our members Maureen Barber [one of the founder members of U3A] and John Lewis, they are both sadly missed. We have room for new members so please contact me at the meeting or by telephone if you are interested.</p>
<p>THEATRE – Pam 549841</p>	<p>We do need new members so please contact me as soon as you can. <u>The price is £39.50 and covers 8 plays for the price of 6.</u> The new programme starts - - 25th September to 3rd October - "Blithe Spirit" - 30th October to 7th November - "September Tide". - 27th November to 5th December - "Tom, Dick & Harry" - 22nd December to 10th January - Pantomime "Beauty and the Beast".</p>
<p>WALKING – Nat 224805</p> <p>Walking Group programme</p>	<p>The intended Clitheroe walk on June 8 had to be cancelled so the walkers travelled by rail to the Wirral and began a walk at Hooton and meandered along the leafy Wirral Way. We lunched at Hadlow Road Station, now a mini-museum of by-gone rail travel. Resuming our walk we arrived at the delightful village of Neston. After cappuccinos, teas and carrot cake we travelled by bus to Liverpool via the lush countryside.</p>

Summer Day Trips by Coach (Thursdays)

The last of these is - 10th September to the Lake District
Coaches will depart Emanuel Church Hall at 8a.m. Cost £5 per member and £10 for a visitor.

AND ANOTHER THING.....

"ZEST FOR LIFE TRAINING" –

Eunice has information on Chair based exercise classes being held at Crossens Community Centre and which started on 23rd June. This form of exercise is apparently extremely good for anyone unable to stand for any length of time. Classes start at 10.30 followed by tea and biscuits and a chat and cost £2.50 per session.

See Eunice or phone her for more details.

BOOKSTALL

Please note that we are unable to accept any more books from members at the moment because of limited storage space and we already have a very good selection to choose from, plus CDs and jigsaws. Come along and have a browse.

Contact Eunice for the Book Stall.

Our Webmaster– Eunice Owen, STILL wants to see more input onto our Website from Group Leaders. Any problems regarding input please contact Eunice on 213419

FROM PAUL HALSALL OUR CHAIRMAN

Since the last edition we had our first trip which was to Skipton and then on to Harrogate. 49 members and friends went and all had a good time although it was a pity it wasn't market day in Skipton.

Tony, our Treasurer and I went to the second meeting of the newly formed South Lancashire Network of the U3A. There were 12 members present but it is still far too early to say if they can do any thing for us.

Once again I appeal for Raffle prizes, we are now getting very short.

At our last monthly meeting, Sophie Ledson from Brockholes Nature Reserve near Preston gave a talk on this very interesting new development

After the monthly meeting the committee met to discuss the Christmas party. It was decided to get outside catering and a singer. Tickets will cost £5 and entry will be by ticket only. Soft drinks and wine will be included.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our editor Mike Kedzlie a speedy recovery after his knee operation. (*Thanks Paul, progress is slow but steady!*)

PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for copy for next issue is **October 6th** , if possible by e.mail. Mike Kedzlie