



GARDENING SPECIAL



Older People Active Lives

WELCOME TO THE OPAL GARDENING SPECIAL

As we approach mid summer, we felt a gardening special would be a good idea - overleaf we have quizzes and crafts to keep you busy. You may be aware that the RHS have 4 gardens in England and they are currently creating a new garden in the heart of the North West – RHS Garden Bridgewater at Salford, on the site of Worsley Hall. We have enclosed a postcard of the gardens as they were in their heyday in copies of OPAL Reach received via post, and below is some more information about the history of the site, taken from the RHS website.

HISTORY OF WORSLEY NEW HALL

Once visited by Queen Victoria and King Edward VII, Worsley New Hall survived a fire and two World Wars before it was demolished in the 1940s. In its heyday, Worsley New Hall, standing in its glorious, formal landscaped gardens, was a notable residence of its era.



Half a century to landscape

Just as grand as the house, the magnificent gardens were landscaped over a 50-year period. Landscape designer William Andrews Nesfield, one of the most sought-after of his profession at the time, was involved in the project from 1846. Over the following years the sloping grounds to the south of the hall were worked into a formal terraced garden. It was accessed by a series of steps and gravel paths and set off with ornate fountains, as seen in the image above.

Like many a fine garden in its era, there was a croquet lawn and a tennis court. An area of woodland towards the west of the hall separated the formal gardens from the gardener's cottage and the 11-acre walled kitchen gardens. From these kitchen gardens, staff sent out 'flowers and evergreens' at Christmas and Easter to local churches, Sunday schools and workhouses.

War hospital and training ground for troops

Worsley New Hall became a British Red Cross hospital during the First World War, but afterwards, with the departure of the Egerton family from the Worsley Estate, the hall and the gardens fell into decline.

In the Second World War parts of the hall were requisitioned by the War Office, its gardens used as training grounds by the Lancashire Fusiliers.

ROYAL APPROVAL

Queen Victoria visited the hall twice, in 1851 and 1857. For her first visit the Queen and her party travelled to the hall via the Bridgewater Canal. In honour of her visit, the canal was dyed blue and the Earl of Ellesmere commissioned a Royal Barge and built a landing stage on the banks. King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra visited in 1909 for a review of the East Lancashire Division of the Territorial Army in the grounds of the hall.



During the early 20th century the hall fell into disrepair. Weakened by dry rot and following a fire in 1943, this once-grand building was finally demolished by a scrap merchant, who had bought it for just £2,500!

Gardening

Word Search Puzzle



CLIPPERS	RAKE	SUNSHINE
COMPOST	SEEDS	TILLER
FLOWERS	SHEARS	TROWEL
GARDEN HOSE	SHOVEL	VEGETABLES
GLOVES	SNAILS	WATER
HERBS	SNIPS	WATERING CAN
HOE	SOIL	WEEDS
PLANTING	SPADE	WHEELBARROW

Free printable courtesy of PrintFree.net

Get Crafty



MAKE A BIRD FEEDER

You need an orange, bird seed and string

1. Chop orange in half and remove the content of the orange (save as a snack for later!).
2. Make holes using a skewer in the sides of the orange so you can thread the string through later.
3. Add the bird seed into the orange half.



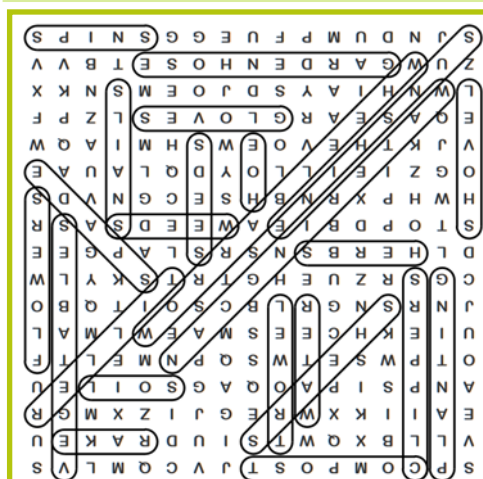
In the garden, find a tree, fencepost or piece of furniture to hang the feeder from.
(Craft idea from NGS website)

WHAT FLOWER AM I?

- 1) I am a brand of milk.
- 2) I am part of the eye.
- 3) I'm a bovine accident.
- 4) I like to be remembered.
- 5) I'm a very nice man.
- 6) You use me to kiss.

PRESSED FLOWERS

This is an easy craft to do, and doesn't need a flower press. Chose a heavy book or catalogue. Pick your flowers when the weather is dry and carefully lay them between newspaper or kitchen roll. Close the book, and leave in a warm dry place for a few weeks, weighed down by more books if available. The resulting dried flowers can be made into cards, pictures and bookmarks. Here are some pictures made by the OPAL groups last year.



WHAT FLOWER AM I?
1. CARNATION 2. IRIS 3. COWSLIP 4. FORGET ME NOT
5. SWEET WILLIAM 6. TULIPS

Answers

Kindly printed by **FARRALLSGROUP** Think about me, not my age

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