

2014 Show Dates and Contact Information

Crown of Peover

K Tickle, 5 Hulme Lane, Lower Peover, Knutsford, WA16 9QE
Tel: 01565 722049 *Show Date: 26th July 2014*

Allostock

(Held at the Crown of Peover)

J Hart, 46 Springwood Avenue, Knutsford, WA16 8JA
Tel: 01565 631043 *Show Date: 2nd August 2014*

Goostrey

(Held at the Crown of Goostrey)

D Garratt, Field Close, Goostrey, Crewe, CW4 8GD
Tel: 01477 535504 *Show Date: 26th July 2014*

Holmes Chapel

(Held at the Victoria Club)

M C Quayle, 258 Bessancourt, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, CW4 7NB
Tel: 01477 533561 *Show Date: 26th July 2014*

Lower Withington

(Held at the Red Lion)

K Staton, 47 Coronation Road, Congleton, CW12 3HH
Tel: 01260 281378 *Show Date: 26th July 2014*

Marton

(Held at the Davenport Arms)

P Buxton, Pump Cottage, Oak Lane, Marton, Macclesfield, SK11 9HE
Tel: 01260 224284 *Show Date: 2nd August 2014*

Over Peover

(Held at the Dog Inn)

B Okill, 2 Dixon Drive, Chelford, Macclesfield, SK11 9BU
Tel: 01625 861450 *Show Date: 3rd August 2014*

Swettenham Club

J Porter, 16 Woodside, Siddington, Macclesfield, SK11 9LG
Tel: 01260 224670 *Show Date: 2nd August*



*Xentum IFA are proud to sponsor the
Mid-Cheshire Gooseberry Association*

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With you every step of the way



*Welcome to the
Mid-Cheshire*

The **Mid-Cheshire Gooseberry Association** is made up of eight clubs all with their own shows

On the day before the show, each club divides its members into groups of three to witness the picking of the Gooseberries. Once picked, they are boxed in to the different categories of colours, which are: Red, Green, Yellow and White, they are also split between twins, triplets (which are rare) and there is a category for the largest berry –

“The Premier”

Once boxed it is tied with string and sealed with hot sealing wax – all this is witnessed and checked

The growers' take them home and leave them overnight in a cool place ready for showing the next day (berries do run the risk of splitting or weeping overnight in the box and it is only when the boxes are opened in front of all the members of the show that their condition is known split or weeping berries cannot be shown)

The shows usually start in the afternoon, when all the growers gather. Once at the show the 'seals' are checked, boxes opened and the weighing begins, with all the members present

The first category is the largest berry (Premier Class) followed by the twins, triplets, colours and then the championship plates (the plates are 12 berries of each colour)

Berries are then displayed in special cabinets

Each class winner gets a prize and there is a prize for the most points and trophies**

Gooseberries are measured using the old tray weights of *“penny weights and grains”*. You will see the scales and weights on display on the table

Prior to the picking of Gooseberries a lot of hard work is put into the growing with many secrets; what to feed, how to prune etc and if tips and secrets are not passed down to the next generation, often go to the grave with the growers

Clubs would be welcome new growers so if you would like further information please contact a Club near you or ask at the stand where Peter, Richard, Lee and others will be more than happy to help and advise

**** Clubs are also open to sponsorship of various classes or the show itself, so if you are interested in sponsoring a show please contact Club Secretaries**

The Last Great Gathering

The 'Last Great Gathering' is the name of the garden we have built - the garden shows the gathering/picking of gooseberries. It shows a typical allotment in 1914, half way through picking

As you will see on the table there is a gathering box and scales for balancing the berries as they are half way through picking them and enjoying a bottle of ginger beer and lemonade – you will also see in the shed, tools and equipment you would expect to see in 1914

In 1914 there were 67 recorded gooseberry shows; growing of gooseberries had already declined from its heyday in the mid 1800's when there were over 170 shows; in Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire

Due to the war this would be the last time showing on this scale would be seen!

Many gooseberries of that time had names reflecting the influence on society of famous military and navel victories a few years earlier. Names such as *'Roaring Lion'*, *'Nelsons Wave's'*, *'Hero of the Nile'* and *'Wellington's Glory'*

The First World War ended gooseberry growing!
(After the war there was only around 12 shows recorded)

As small resurgence continued up to the Second World War when there were 12-20 shows; some shows stopped and new clubs started. This continued to the late 1950's, when there were only 8 shows left in Cheshire and 1 in Yorkshire (Egton Bridge Old Gooseberry Society) all of which continues today

The Garden shows half way through gathering/picking of the gooseberries – as you will see by the bicycle, another member has come to witness the picking of the gooseberries – you will see by the scales the gooseberries are balanced for the heaviest in each colour and also a Premier Berry and placed in the gathering box. When picking has finished the box will be closed, string tied around four sides and sealed with hot wax. The seal will be checked before any of the berries can be shown.

All the bushes in the garden are cultivars grown in 1914, some you will recognize that are grown today for desert use i.e. *Leveller* and *Careless*.

The vegetables that are in the garden are all varieties that were available in 1914

Prizes in 1914 were usually a few pence with the trophies being a copper kettle or a copper pan, unlike the trophies and prizes of today