

WHALEY BRIDGE  
**Allotment & Gardeners'**  
**Society**

# newsletter

January / February '01

Dear Member,

Regular readers will probably find the following as boring as the way I go on about paying subs but it would be remiss of me not to refer, once again, to the magnificent (not too strong a word!) response to my pleas for support at the Christmas coffee morning. Takings on the day were a splendid £269 and it's thanks to all you members who came up with a very generous selection of gifts for the raffle and tombola, made cakes etc., made and delivered coffee and helped on the stalls. And, of course, it was good to see so many members calling in for some festive refreshment and whose contribution was vital. Our thanks once again for making it such a success. Raffle prizes were won by Mr Pritchard, Mrs Hallam, Mrs Bellis, Mr Gregson, Mr Bush, the Chapel Mr Bennett, Mrs Hayes and one of the ladies from the library. Much too early to start on about the coffee morning on 23 June. And lots of members paid their subs!

Apologies for this newsletter being so late that I've had to make it into a combined one with February. Various reasons, two of which are that I've been waiting for the new price list from our store supplier which should have been with us at the beginning of the month and as I write still hasn't arrived, secondly, problems with organizing our proposed trip to Ashford Nurseries - more of that later. Mention of the store reminds me that I promised to be there on Sunday, 17 December at 10am but it was such a foul day that I did not arrive until around 11.15 so I hope that not too many turned up before me and gave up in disgust. Good news - for members - is that for those who are itching to make an early start we will be opening for the season on Sunday, 11 February from 10am to 12noon as usual. Even more good news is that until we do get the 2001 price list we'll be charging last year's prices. Yes, you may pay your subs at the same time.

*Yes ✓*  
Dates for your diaries! Ethel has organized two trips for us, the first of which is on Saturday, 16 June when we visit Calke Abbey and Clumber Park near Worksop and on Saturday, 28 July when the venue will be Catforth Gardens near Preston with a visit to the All-In-One garden centre at Middleton on the way back. Fare for Catforth should be around £9. Detailed information nearer the dates but rest assured the usual super value will apply. Ring Ethel on 734436 to make sure of your seat! The suggested trip to Ashford Nurseries near Litchfield mentioned last month has unfortunately gone pear shaped as, despite sending Ethel a very comprehensive menu, they now tell us they cannot accommodate us for lunch so we've kicked them into touch! We're still working on some 'experimental' midweek outings - probably to Ashford in the Water and possibly to Wythenshawe Park. Our popular annual Plant Swap/Sale will be on Saturday, 5 May at the store on Elnor Lane. *N/A second*

Nobody claimed the lone packet of Petunia seeds left over after the seed distribution so I'm hanging onto them. Seed potatoes are still to come by the way.

Welcome to Mrs Judith Aizlewood of Meadow Close and Mr Keith Oakes of Bingswood Road - our first new members of the year.

## ALLOTMENT SCENE

Allotmenters who have braved the elements and visited the plots will have seen that we still have quite a lot of sawdusty horse manure to which everyone is welcome (return the bags though) and at the time of writing we have been promised another load of shredded Christmas trees courtesy of Mr Mounsey at the Borough Council. By the time you receive this it may well have arrived - again help your self - please. A word of caution though - make sure you put the shreadings on your paths and the manure on the beds and not vice versa! ✓

*John Howes*

John Howes, Secretary  
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STOP  
PRESS !!

Still no word on prices for goodies at the store so instead of waiting any longer to let you know we'll be charging as last season until we do get them. New prices will be posted at the store and a revised list will be sent with the March newsletter.

A new delivery has been made this week so we will have everything you could possibly need – well, we should have! Note the opening date of Sunday, 11 February.

While I'm writing the back of the newsletter I might as well mention one or two items which have developed over the last few days and were intended for March.

Firstly another date for your diary! We've organised an 'experimental' midweek trip as referred to overleaf. The venue is what I gather is a superb garden at Brierfield at Ashford in the Water on Thursday, 5 July leaving Whaley at 9.30am. The total cost is £6.50 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. The £1.50 entrance fee goes to charity as the garden is part of the Yellow Book Scheme with which you're all familiar. We plan to continue on to either Bakewell or Rowsley afterwards returning home around 5pm which will mean you'll miss Countdown but it should be well worth it!. For this trip ring me – not Ethel – on WB 733579 as soon as possible so that we can see what support there is for midweek trips. We do have another in the pipeline if there is sufficient interest.

*OK for Bub only*

Here's another great idea! Are there any parents or grandparents out there who would be interested in getting the children to join in a 'giant sunflower' competition this summer? We will provide the seeds plus instructions for getting them going and set an age limit of, say, twelve. When the time comes we can delegate someone to go round with a tape measure and we can no doubt come up with enough prizes to keep everybody happy! Let me know if you'd like to get involved – it could be a bit of fun!

#### YET MORE ON THE ALLOTMENT SCENE

The shreadings have now arrived (you can't miss them) and some of us have made a start on moving them but with two giant heaps it's going to take some doing. So if those who want some for their paths etc. can help by either filling some of the empty manure bags and shifting it that way or by wheelbarrow it would be appreciated.

Good luck!