

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

JANUARY 2002

Dear Member,

A Happy New Year to you all! No doubt by the time you receive this the weather will have reverted to the usual dull, damp, dreary norm but as I write we have a covering of snow, brilliant sunshine from clear blue skies and quite spectacular views over the hills. One of my favourite pastimes on days like this is to watch all the vapour trails from planes flying over (this just shows the sort of level at which I operate). This morning I counted six in the sky at the same time and that was just from the front window. Amazing!

The item in last month's newsletter regarding Bob Kellock's request for ideas as to how we could spend some of the society's surplus funds did not produce any ideas from members other than those already mentioned and not a word about possible tools for the 'tool loan scheme'. However, in a bid to help reduce the surplus, Mary has purchased a smart new cash box for use at the store this year (£4.99 from Aldi in Buxton). There's a lift out tray for cash with space underneath for notes and it even comes with two keys. What a change from the old margarine tub we've been using for the past few years and I can't wait to use it!

I'll be able to when the store opens for the season on Sunday 24 February from 10am to 12noon as usual. A new price list will come with next month's newsletter but in the meantime we have most of the items on the 2001 list in stock - at 2001 prices of course. We must have got it about right as there were no suggestions from members for new products which we can stock other than those we do already.


Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Ernie Ball of Park Road. Ernie was a founder member of the Society way back in 1983 and our first treasurer. He was a familiar figure on his allotment which was always immaculate. It's just as well he can't see it as it is now.

Thanks to the thirtyone members (same number as last year) who ordered seeds - these have all been distributed now but of course it would be too much to expect that there wouldn't be the odd hiccup and I'm left with a couple of packets over. So please check that what I've delivered is what you ordered particularly if you specified two of anything and ring me if there's a discrepancy. Potatoes should be with us later this month.

I did have a call regarding the dreaded ragwort from Mrs Thomas who has had first hand experience of what it can do to horses that have eaten it. I won't go into detail but suffice it to say that they had to be put down to save any further suffering. It's just as lethal when it's been mown and dried or baled in hay. It seems that to dig it up and either burn or bin it is the best bet or a glyphosate based weedkiller should work. Cattle are also affected but, thankfully, sheep and goats seldom are. *This topic now closed, Ed. (unless anybody else rings up that is!)*

Apart from our two coffee mornings mentioned last month (June 22 and December 21) at the moment we've only one definite date for you to make a note of which is our eagerly awaited annual plant swap/sale at the store on Elnor Lane. This will be on Saturday, 11 May at 2pm.

One glaring omission last month was a reference to subs which is unusual for me as regular readers will know! These are now due and may be paid at the store when it's open or to Charles Johns at 134 Macclesfield Road, Ethel Hallam at 11 Jodrell Road, me at 6 Rock Bank or to Mary at The Larder on Old Road (Monday and Tuesday mornings at the moment - I'm trying to get her to do more hours). In an envelope with your name and address please. You will be pleased to hear that this is the last time I'll mention them until I have to make a final demand in June.



John Howes, Secretary
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