

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

JANUARY 2005

Dear Member,

A very happy, peaceful, and for our gardeners, productive, New Year to you all from our Chairman, Roy Jennings, and committee.

Even though current weather conditions restrict activity down on the allotments, and I take it most other gardens, pulses are quickening and excitement is mounting as we pour over the pretty pictures on the seed packets. No matter that our results will seldom match them. The onion sets and shallots have been spread out to stop them sweating, and we're planning what's going where. Ever the optimists aren't we! No doubt the coming season will be as usual – some glorious successes and some unaccountable failures that can't possibly be our fault.

A suggestion was made at the AGM that we might be able to arrange a practical demonstration of fruit tree pruning for those who have them but have no idea what to do with them. I have discovered that the Quarry Bank Mill at Styal have a day-long course on the very subject on 6 February by an acknowledged expert. The course costs £23. To share the cost of coach hire for members wishing to take part would be prohibitively expensive on top of the fee so we feel anyone interested should contact the organisers direct and book their place. It would make sense if we share a car so when you've booked let me know. Numbers are limited so ring them on 01625 445888 and they'll send you a booking form which you return with the fee. We can sort out the transport when we know how many have signed up.

Another suggestion that's been put forward is a 'garden party' but this time, rather than hold it at Whaley Hall, we are looking for a member with a fairly large garden willing to be our hosts. The committee and any volunteer members would provide the food and drink plus our gazebos and the odd seat or two. This would be a rather jolly way to use some of the additional income raised by the sub increase. We're generally well behaved and don't take too many cuttings! So, if you think you'd be able to accommodate us give me or Ethel a ring and we'll take it from there.

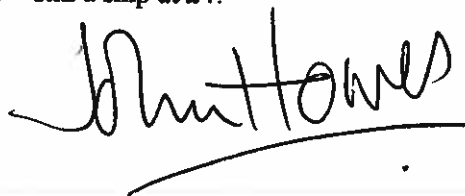
Needless to say your committee is at this very moment working hard on your behalf investigating possible ideas and suggestions for your entertainment during the coming year and we'll be supplying details in due course. (Newer members may be impressed here – older ones will be accustomed to this waffling every year at this time).

We plan to visit Harlow Carr gardens sometime in May or June and the HDRA Organic Gardens at Ryton toward the end of July. We have been to both before but improvements are always being made. And we'll definitely do the quiz again. Dates to come.

Definite dates we do have that you can put in your diaries are for our 2005 coffee mornings. These are on 14 May and 6 August.

Well, my only two non-gardening resolutions have gone by the board which means I'm still eating too much and not exercising enough! No doubt the gardening ones will go the same way.

Last mention that subs are now due – still a snip at £4!



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