

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

Dear Member

By now I expect you will all have heard the sad news regarding Ethel Hallam's unsuccessful fight against cancer. As you will know Ethel was a long serving and hardworking member of the Society as well as other organisations. As our 'social secretary' Ethel organized our annual outings, was a key figure at the coffee mornings, quiz nights and plant swaps. Always very good company, she was happy to make herself available to help whenever it was needed. We had hoped that Ethel would recover enough to rejoin us on the committee but unfortunately it was not to be. It goes without saying that we will all miss her greatly. A donation from the Society, plus the proceeds from our very successful coffee morning and donations from her many friends and colleagues in Whaley Bridge went towards the extremely high cost of her only session of chemotherapy. Ethel expressed her heartfelt gratitude for everybody's kindness. Our sympathies go to daughter Louise and all the family.

Our 'stand-in' social secretary Rosemary Kellock has been extremely busy on your behalf regarding trips and I can give you details of our first outing that I'm sure you will enjoy.

The date is TUESDAY, 26 JUNE and the 'double venues' are to the Claire Austin Plant Nurseries near Shifnal, Shropshire and to the nursery and garden of famous rose grower David Austin.

As it's a longish trip we plan to depart at 9am for Claire Austin's where lunch is available at £6.50 per head and then go on to David Austin's for a tour of the nursery and gardens with tea and scones to follow. You may be wondering why this is a Tuesday trip. This is because coaches are only allowed on certain weekdays by arrangement. Price per person without lunch: £15. This includes the coach fare and all admission charges. Price per person inclusive of lunch: £21.50.

A new system of paying is being introduced this year to make things easier. Rosemary will want your booking and payment (preferably cheque) in advance in future and for this trip by 24 May latest. Plenty of time yet of course and full details will appear in the next newsletter or you can hear more from Rosemary on 733393.

Rosemary has worked hard organising this outing and we trust she will be well supported by members.

Other venues are being looked at, one being a Sunday trip in September to the Sheffield Botanical Gardens where there will be a plant sale open to the public. This should be a great chance to pick up some quality specimens! Definite details of this and other events will also be given soon.

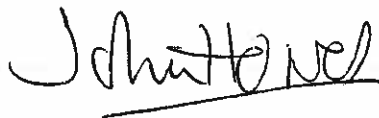
We'd also like to hear from any members willing to open their garden to us this summer. With your help we have been organising these extremely pleasant afternoons for many years and members will know what's involved. We provide a few seats and tables plus some wine and a raffle prize. You provide some light refreshments and a garden. Any money taken goes to the charity of your choice! If you'd like to invite us to your place ring Rosemary on 733393 or Mary on 733579.

Some members will remember visiting the superb garden of Derek and Ann Lear at Green Oak, Taxal last year. The magnificent sum of just over £1000 was raised, an amount of which will go toward the Lear's aim to have enough money to fund an African child in Kenya to complete his primary education. I know you'll agree this is a splendid objective and if successful, the garden will be open again to raise funds for his secondary schooling. We hope to have occasional reports on progress and we'll pass these on.

The store will be open for business on Sunday, 11th March between 10am and 12noon. Composts have been ordered so if you can't wait to make a start ring me ring on 733579 and we can arrange something.

Subs are only £4 and may be paid to treasurer Bob Kellock at 31 Meadow Close or to me at 6 Rock Bank.

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 John Howes