



Whaley Bridge Allotment and Gardeners' Society



January 2010 Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP

Your Chairman and Committee wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Members will be sad to hear of the death in October of **Alf Hadfield**. **Alf** was always cheerful, friends with everyone and viewed the natural world with joy. Our sympathies go to his daughter **Helena** and her family.

We are delighted to welcome into membership **Steven Ward** and **Clive Naylor**, both of Jodrell Road, Whaley Bridge.

AGM BUSINESS

29 members attended the AGM on 6 November.

THE COMMITTEE is now as follows:

Roy Jennings. Chairman

Bob Kellock. Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

Rosemary Kellock. Social Secretary.

Dave Osborn. Store Manager.

Roger Wood. Talks Organiser.

Gill Williamson. Newsletter Editor

John Pressman and **Lindsay Morris**. Committee Members.

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

An annual increase to £5 per member was agreed effective from November 2010. This will ensure cover of basic costs which continue to rise. It is 6 years since the previous increase and further

increases are not envisaged for several years.

THE RAFFLE was won by **Di Howe** (The prize was a £20 garden centre voucher).



A good time of year for armchair gardening, booking places on visits and entering Society activities in your new diary!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not paid your subscription (due in November 2009), please give **Bob Kellock** £4 cash or a cheque payable to WBAGS. (31, Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7BD. 01663 733393)

COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning, held on 29 November at the Mechanics Institute, raised £193 (£167 in 2008). This was an excellent result, given that the event took place on a Friday. Thanks to all who donated raffle and tombola prizes, cakes, plants and gifts. Thanks also to those who gave their time to help out and to Whaley Bridge residents who supported the event. Members who won raffle prizes were **Joyce Eyre**, **Dorothy Pearson**, **Di Howe**, **Dave Parker** and **Muriel Pressman**.

FIRST VISIT OF 2010!

Oldroyd Rhubarb Sheds 6 March

This is one of the main farms producing forced rhubarb commercially in "The Wakefield Triangle". It is an industry over 160 years old. See the sheds, where the lighting is measured in candlepower. Listen carefully and hear the rhubarb creak as it grows! Rhubarb crowns and products will be available to buy. Enjoy a rhubarb-themed lunch! www.eoldroyd.co.uk.

*****BOOK NOW!

See full details of this and other Society activities in the document **WBAGS Diary Notes 2010.doc** (Attached if you receive your Newsletter as a paper copy.)

Congratulations to Rosemary Kellock for bringing together an excellent programme.

FIRST TALK OF 2010!

9 March."Using Space in a Garden". **Jane Allison**. Jane Allison has a private, cottage garden nursery (Mayfield Plants) in Middlewich. She is a garden designer specialising in small to medium-sized gardens. She will bring a selection of herbaceous, perennial plants for sale. **Uniting Church. 19.30. Cost £1 (members). £2.00 (guests). Coffee and biscuits.**

*****NOTE THE DATE!*****

STORE OPENING

The Store will open on Sunday, 28 March. See March Newsletter for full details.

DISCOUNT NEWS

Fernmoss Pet Supplies. 10% off all garden-related items.

Shallcross Nursery, Whaley Lane. 10% off all products.

Brookside Garden Centre. 10% off plants (not seeds, bulbs, turf, artificial plants and flowers, fresh Christmas trees or plants already reduced).

OPEN GARDENS

If you would be willing to open your garden to members this summer, please have a word with Rosemary Kellock (01663 733393).

MUSINGS FROM..."PODICEPS CRISTATUS"

"When Christmas is ended, bid feasting adieu, go play the good husband, thy stock to renew."

In 1557 when Thomas Tusser wrote the round of verses from which the above is quoted, he was an estate agent at Brantham Hall in Suffolk. He went on to publish one of the great, early reference books on farming and land management "A Hundred Points of Husbandry." In those days, any strong and healthy person could obtain the basic necessities from any sort of land, even wild fen and marsh. The skills needed were passed from father to son - and even though we live in a very different world today, as the descendents of those early farmers, we still respond instinctively to the earth,

don't we? Who does not react to the reek of peat, sense the blue woodsmoke, or thrill to the sight or sound of clear, running water?



Many gardeners of course can benefit from the availability of commercially prepared seedling plugs, from the plastic plant pots which have revolutionised propagation and have facilitated transporting the huge variety of plants for all seasons. As a result, we can pop into the local garden centre and select relatively cheaply the plants to create our next garden project! As keen allotment holders and gardeners, we can also take advantage of pre-packed composts and fertilisers- not to mention all the seed varieties we germinate (with varying degrees of success!).

So as we recover from the festive season and wait for the snow to melt away, it's time to dig out the seed catalogues, read the new Christmas present gardening book received, plan the crop rotation for next season, deal with the slippery paths and patios resulting from the shorter, darker days, think about how to be more "organic" - and ponder what we could have been doing in the garden 100 years ago...

I'm sure many of us remember Adam the Gardener in the Sunday Express(?) ...yes, it's 40 years ago! There was always a lot of "dusting with 1oz/square yard of superphosphate", wasn't there?

Just dipping into my dog-eared copy the other day, I came across "January, first week - how to make a hot bed"....so there's a challenge for us as soon as the snow goes! Gather fresh manure, cinders, dry leaves, build a cold-frame..... and by the way, it works!

YOUR LOCAL SEED TRIAL

Message from the seed trial team.

"Some of you who attended the talk by David Hampsey may remember him saying that he didn't rate Kings seeds and recommended Shelley's. **Roger Wood** obtained the Shelley's seed list and together with Roger, **Dave Osborn** and **Margaret Day** have decided to set up a 'trial' to test this statement. If anyone would like to join in, contact one of us. More details to follow in the March Newsletter with the results published in the autumn Newsletter." (**Margaret** 01663 742877 or e-mail enginehouse48@hotmail.com). **Dave** 01663 733659 and **Roger** 01663 732112)

BBC "GARDENERS' WORLD" MAGAZINES

Glynn Whitehead has given the Society 15 years of back-issues. These are available free on loan to members. Please contact Bob Kellock if interested. (01663 733393.)

HAPPY TO HAVE AN E-MAIL NEWSLETTER?

If you currently receive yours as "hard copy" but would be happy to receive it by e-mail, please let Gill Williamson know GillMWilliamson@hotmail.com