



# WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



## JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

### TIME TO PAUSE A WHILE - AND TO BE VIGILANT!



Planings on the path (see Highlights from the AGM)

#### THE YEAR AHEAD

Your Committee wishes you health and happiness in the coming year. Whatever economic gloom we may face, the activities of the Society and its members – growing food, enhancing our surroundings, keeping active and enjoying good company – will never be out of place.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

##### New Members

The Society welcomes into membership Jean Storrer, Betty Moll and Michael Berry of Chapel-en-le-Frith, John Derbyshire and David Jeremy of Whaley Bridge. Welcome back to Mavis Gill of Whaley Bridge. There are all sorts of reasons why members may not sign up for a year or so – but we are always delighted to see them back.

##### Subscription Renewal

Many members have still not renewed their subscriptions. If you wish to continue in membership, please do so as soon as possible. The cost is £5 per person. Please send a cheque to our Treasurer Bob Kellock at 31 Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7BD. If you are inclined to be forgetful, why not do it now?

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AGM

At the date of the AGM (4<sup>th</sup> November), the Society had 191 members - a net increase of 5 over the previous year.

John Pressman resigned from the Committee after more than 20 years service, (mostly as Chairman).. Roy Jennings (current Chairman) thanked John for his enormous contribution. Dave Parker was proposed, seconded and approved as a new Committee members. Dave is well- known due to his involvement with the Store.

A surplus of £463 was achieved this year. Key ingredients were a donation of £180 made by Annette Dunk and her late husband Chris following their Open Garden in August. In addition, the summer coffee morning was very successful and membership subscriptions were up on the previous year. The surplus enables the Society to experiment with new ventures and to run some events popular with smaller numbers of our members at a slight loss.

Bob Kellock reported that the plan to clear and drain the wilderness land at the back of the allotments is still on the agenda of Whaley Bridge Town Council. There was also a plan to use a Community Service team to apply road planings to improve the allotment access path and to clear encroaching Japanese knotweed. (Planings work now completed –see photo above.)

Rosemary Kellock reported that this year's trips all went well. The visit to Highgrove was particularly well supported. Two Social Evenings were added to the programme and were enjoyed. Seed sales and swaps, displays of interesting and curious produce (see photo) grown by our members and a potato tasting were all incorporated. The coffee morning held on the Saturday of the Whaley Water Weekend made record sales (helped in no small part by the weather.) Both talks, organised by Roger Wood, were well supported and

members enjoyed refreshments and a chance to chat with the speakers after the formal parts of the evenings.

The Store was visited by 72 members, some on many separate occasions. The net profit was up on last year. The Plant Swap, the Plant Sales at the summer coffee morning and the Kings seed sales were all appreciated by members and made a good contribution to revenue. Wednesday evening openings were undertaken for the second year running and are clearly appreciated by working members who have many demands on their weekends.

[www.wbags.co.uk](http://www.wbags.co.uk) goes from strength to strength. Webmaster Mike High reminded members that almost everything concerning the Society past and present can be found on the site. Attention was drawn to the classes run at Footsteps for new computer users and the availability of free computer usage at the Whaley Bridge Library. Nobody need miss out!

The Editor thanked members for their contributions to the production and distribution of the newsletters, especially those who hand deliver them and Podiceps Cristatus, who writes interesting and enjoyable articles. If any members have difficulty reading the newsletters, they should speak to the Editor or a member of the Committee to see if help might be given.



Candidate for the Turner Prize? Grown by a member and brought to the summer social evening.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS Mike High 01663 732578 Roy Jennings 01663 734187 Bob and Rosemary Kellock 01663 733393 David Osborn 01663 733659 Dave Parker 01663 750172 Gill Williamson 01663 733035 Roger Wood 01663 732112

## EVENTS COMING UP

Many thanks to Rosemary Kellock, who has produced another excellent Social Programme. See Diary Notes 2012 (attached)

### First trip of the year!

#### NORTH OF ENGLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S HARROGATE SHOW

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. Coach leaves Whaley Bridge at 9am.

Beautiful new show gardens are being planned by talented designers, landscapers and horticultural organisations. Over 100 plant nurseries will also be exhibiting, creating innovative displays based, this year, on famous gardens around the world. Exhibits will be on sale before the coach leaves. Please contact Rosemary Kellock if you are interested and ensure she receives payment no later than 19th April. Cost £23.50.

#### SOCIAL EVENING

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm



The first social evening in 2012 will be held on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Trinity Church Hall. This will be a chance to come out of hibernation and to share refreshments, plans and ideas with fellow members. There will be a slide show of the 2011 trips.



#### Also for your diaries...

**Store Opening** Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March  
See March next edition for details.

#### Talk

**"Late Autumn Colour"** by Martin Blow.  
Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March. See March edition for details.

#### BEWARE OF BURGLARS

There is a lot of theft around at present. Safeguard your belongings!

[www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk) Go to home security section at foot of home page.

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## NEED FOR VENUE FOR 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GARDEN PARTY

The Society wants to hold a celebratory garden party to mark this anniversary in 2013. If you have a suitable garden, or know of one, please have a word with Rosemary or a member of the Committee.

#### RECENT EVENTS

**COFFEE MORNINGS** ("two for the price of one"! ) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Grey skies and rain brought us back to reality after the success of the summer coffee morning. Those who came on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December enjoyed the comfortable familiarity of a WBAGS coffee morning. Unexpectedly, the organisers of a coffee morning planned for the following day came and asked if WBAGS would like to take it over. Their volunteers had fallen by the wayside. Thanks to Rosemary's quick reactions and the support of several WBAGS members, the offer could be accepted. The organisation which had offered its coffee morning slot was reimbursed its booking fee by the Society and the people of Whaley Bridge did not lose their Saturday opportunity to enjoy drinking coffee and chatting with their friends!

#### "HOW DO YOU GROW YOUR POTATOES?"

This is what we asked Annette Dunk after her potatoes were judged to be the tastiest in our Taste Test at the social evening last July.

Here are some of her cultivation tips

- Use good quality seed potatoes
- Chit (sprout) the potatoes in a light cool, frost free place from early March
- Meanwhile prepare the ground
- Dig in garden compost and Fish , Blood & Bone
- Plant out in early April ( watch for frost which can kill the shoots when they appear above ground ,cover with fleece overnight if frost is forecast)
- Put chicken pellets in the bottom of each planting hole
- Plant 6" deep, 12" apart, 30" between rows Earth up when 6" high and again when another 6" above soil mound

- Water as necessary every couple of days during dry spells.

(Many thanks to Margaret Day, who wrote this article.)

#### WBAGS GUESTS ENJOY BEATRIX POTTER EXHIBITION

On 12 November 16 members of WBAGS and their families (some 60 people in all) visited the Beatrix Potter Exhibition currently on at Lyme Park. They were guests of the National Trust Peak District Centre, who were sponsors of the Exhibition. This comprised a series of original paintings, sketches and manuscripts produced by Beatrix Potter for her world-famous books. There was also a walk in the garden at Lyme Park, which had been populated with Beatrix Potter book characters. Guests of the National Trust Peak District Centre had the opportunity to enjoy refreshments in the comfort of a quiet, private room and to take advantage of a discount for refreshments at the main Lyme Park restaurants open that day. The weather was warm and sunny. Some WBAGS members brought two or three generations of their families to the event. Judith Aizlewood came with Graham (husband), David (son), Lindsey (David's partner) and Freya, Judith and Graham's grand-daughter (age 2). Judith wrote afterwards "A lovely day out. Freya was delighted with her Granny Rabbit (raffle) prize, which she has added to Mum, Dad and Peter Rabbit in her cot."



Freya posing as a rabbit and keeping Peter Rabbit and one of his relatives company

The Beatrix Potter Exhibition remains open at Lyme Park every weekend until 19<sup>th</sup> February, 11am – 3pm.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lymepark](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lymepark) Go to "Beatrix Potter in Winter".

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/peakdistrictcentre](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/peakdistrictcentre)