



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER!

GREETINGS



David Osborne, Alex Clough and Bob Kellock ready for action before the Coffee Morning!

The Committee wishes you all a good 2014 with health, well-being and productive gardening. Let's all keep fingers crossed for a gentler winter to start it off than we had last year!

The Society had a good year last year, with a real summer, abundant harvests and rewarding flowering in beds and borders. It was a fitting end to the Society's first 30 years of existence, which are summarised in the attached, special commemorative Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to David Priestley of Sheffield, who has recently joined the Society. Our fame has not spread quite that far – David is related to an existing member and likes to take advantage of our store when visiting Whaley Bridge. It is always a pleasure to welcome back people who have re-joined the Society after a gap. Greetings to Graham Meleady, Jenny Conway-Meleady, Judy Benning and Bob and Lyn Gurney.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some 60 members have yet to renew their subscriptions, which were due in November. Feel free to give your cheque to any committee member, who will make sure it gets to Treasurer Bob Kellock. If you live near him, please call round or post it. Bob Kellock, 31 Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge. SK23 7BD

RECENT EVENTS

AUTUMN TALK *Beekeeping* by Paul Wheeldon. 18th October

27 attended the talk, including 2 guests from New Mills Allotment Society. Paul gave a very interesting talk on honey bees, which he has been keeping for 14 years. He currently possesses around 12 colonies. The excellent talk covered the types of honey bee, their yearly cycle, reproduction, hive construction and swarms. Even more information was divulged in the subsequent lively question and answer session, when Paul told a number of anecdotes and kept everyone entertained for much longer than expected. The talk was followed by refreshments and that hallmark of WBAGS activities, the raffle!



WBAGS SELLS BULBS!

These bulbs were of the horticultural variety, although they first appeared in public on the evening Whaley Bridge lit up its Christmas lights. Rosemary Kellock had earlier bought and planted in bowls and baskets large numbers of hyacinths, Paperwhite narcissus and also some Grand Soleil D'Or daffodils for sale at the WBAGS December coffee morning (see below). She took advantage at short notice of an available table in the Mechanics Institute on 29th November. She was very kindly helped by Kath Large, whom many in Whaley Bridge will know from the occasions when they have taken their animals to the vet. Many thanks, Kath. The takings were £90 net!



Kath and Rosemary at the table.

COFFEE MORNING AND BULB SALE, Saturday 14th December

It was a cold, bright morning. Both sun and pre-Christmas tasks brought everyone out. The sale of bulbs proved popular, as did the coffee, chat, raffle and indoor stall. Members bought for resale home-made cakes, scarves, lavender bags and other items they had made themselves or for which they no longer had a home.

The morning's takings were £546.60, which was an all-time record. The sale of bulbs on 29th November and 14th December raised £473.60, giving a net profit of £169.85.

Selling bulbs planted attractively in pots and baskets was Rosemary's idea. Top marks for entrepreneurial flair and thanks for all the hard work to make it happen.

DIARY NOTES 2014

Please find this document attached. Thanks again to Rosemary Kellock for all the hard work in setting it up. These things do not just happen – Rosemary starts months ahead to gather ideas, contact the various venues, price the trips and collate the information into a varied and interesting programme.

EARLY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2014 PROGRAMME

SOCIAL EVENING Thursday, 13th February. 7.30pm
UNITING CHURCH ground floor rooms (please note venue)



This event is designed to bring a little late winter cheer. There will be refreshments and drinks, an opportunity to exchange ideas, to chat with friends and to see a slide show of last year's trips.

VISIT TO ASHWOOD NURSERIES, WEST MIDLANDS Thursday, 20th February Depart Whaley Bridge at 8am.

As the Diary Notes state, Ashwood Nurseries specialise in producing new hellebores and selling them. In

addition it raises cyclamen, lewisias, hepaticas, primula auricular,



(No prizes!) anemone pavinina, plus a "mouth-watering selection of conifers, hydrangeas, camellias, daphnes, salvias and snowdrops". The visit includes a guided tour conducted by the founder. The Nurseries have won 50 RHS Gold medals including 2 Chelsea Golds. This trip should be a great treat. Read Rosemary's notes and remember to dress up warmly! Please phone Rosemary to book.

THE OPENING OF THE STORE

The Elnor Lane store will open on Sunday, 23rd March between 10.00 and 12 noon until Sunday, 6th July. Wednesday openings will start on 9th April and continue until Wednesday, 2nd July.

SPRING TALK Thursday, 1st May. Ground floor room, Uniting Church. 2pm. (Note location and time.)

The talk will be entitled "The Gardens of Derbyshire" and given by Irene Dougan, Derbyshire County Organiser, National Gardens Society. £1 fee (members) and £2 (guests).

HIGHGROVE TRIP

There is no plan to run another Highgrove trip this year, due to insufficient numbers of people interested. This does not preclude running one another year and interest will be tested towards the end of 2014.

WOOD SHREDDINGS

Joyce Eyre has spare, fine wood shavings available. She has made these available free to members for a

number of years. If you are interested, please contact Joyce on 01663 732003.

OUT AND ABOUT

FOOD4MACC'S POTATO DAY

Food4Macc is a voluntary group encouraging the growing of food in Macclesfield. They are holding a Potato Day and Seed Fair in late January. Please see Food4Macc's poster below:



Inside the Town Hall
Treacle Market, Sunday 26th Jan

10am – 3pm

Everything you need for the growing season.

- . Seed Potatoes
- . Vegetable seeds
- . Onion Sets, Shallots, and Garlic
- . Fruit bushes
- . Fruit Trees
- . Rhubarb
- . Strawberry plants
- . Dahlia tubers and Gladioli bulbs

Tel: 07824 860566



MARPLE AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION SEED POTATO DAY

Here is another local event you may care to visit:

A Seed Potato Day will be held in the Marple Senior Citizens hall, Memorial Park, Marple on Sunday, 9th February 10am until 3pm. Enquiries 0161 427 5261. Over 80 varieties of seed potatoes will be available. There will also be vegetable seeds – including herbs, oriental vegetables, salad mixes and sprouting seeds. In addition, you will be able to find onion sets, shallots, garlic, soft fruit, dahlias, gladioli, lilies and other summer flowering bulbs. Refreshments will be available all day and admission is free.