

## JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

#### GREETINGS

The committee wishes you all a Happy New Year. Now the wrapping paper is composted and the string stored in the bits and bobs box in the shed we can turn our thoughts to the green shoots of spring.



#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to two new members – Mary Prime and John Stansfield. I understand these members are allotment holders. Developments at the allotment site have increased the number of plots and some larger plots have also been split. Water is also now available on site but, subsequent to these improvements, there has been a steep increase in fees.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The good news is that there has been no increase in our membership fee which has been held at £5. Half of the fee is paid to the National Allotment Society who provide valuable benefits such as liability insurance. Substantial discounts and saving on travel time and fuel costs can be made at the society store. The society also has tools and 2 gazebos available for loan and members can obtain discounts from local suppliers. Approximately 50% of our members have so far renewed their membership which was due in November 2014. Our treasurer, Bob Kellock at 31, Meadow Close, or any

committee member would be pleased to receive your subscription.

#### STORE NEWS

David Osborn and his store team are planning to make some improvements including the installation of lighting so they don't have to operate by torch light. They intend to start opening the store on 22<sup>nd</sup> March each Sunday morning till 5<sup>th</sup> July. Wednesday evening openings will be from 1<sup>st</sup> April till 1<sup>st</sup> July. A wide range of composts, fertilisers and garden sundries (with or without banter) are available. David Osborn or Dave Parker (numbers below) will do their best to supply any orders after this date and deliver to those who have difficulties with bags of compost etc.

#### RECENT EVENTS

##### AGM

The AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 was well attended by over 30 members. An afternoon meeting was trialled at the request of some members. All committee members were re-elected with the exception of Gill Williamson who has done an excellent job developing and editing the newsletter and will still be involved with the society.



Gill buying from Judy Hardman's cake stall.

She was thanked with flowers and a voucher which she has used to purchase a wrought iron plant trolley and azalea. Thanks were also extended to Ann Eden-Green who has audited our accounts for 25 years. There was a lively discussion on the timing of meetings and the affordability of outings. Raffle prizes were won by John Savage, Judith Aizlewood and Christine Goddard.

Judith Aizlewood has joined the committee as newsletter editor and would welcome any contributions to [wbagsnewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:wbagsnewsletter@outlook.com)

#### FUNDRAISING

Following success last year Rosemary, with occasional help from Bob and Roy Jennings, has worked hard ordering, potting up, storing and transporting paperwhites, hyacinths and amaryllis to sell at the table top sale at the Christmas Tree lighting and at our coffee morning on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014.



Alex Clough and David Osborn dressed for the freezing weather on the plant stall.

somewhat unkind with unseasonably warm weather causing the paperwhites to peak early. The mday of the coffee morning was bitterly cold and hail the previous

day had frozen overnight deterring many people from venturing out. Those who did were treated to coffee, cakes and conversation as well as a Christmas gift stall and raffle. Thanks to all who helped.



Jane Gregson serving on the Xmas stall.

## DAIRY NOTES 2014

Please find our programme for 2015 attached. Many thanks to Rosemary Kellock for her research to find new and interesting places for our trips and to Roger Wood for finding our speakers. Archived copies of newsletters and diary notes can be found on the WBAGS website.

[www.wbags.co.uk](http://www.wbags.co.uk)

## EARLY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2014 PROGRAMME.

### SOCIAL EVENT

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 2 p.m.  
Uniting Church ground floor rooms.  
Again this event has been planned for the afternoon – feedback from members on the timing would be appreciated. This is an opportunity to share refreshments and a chat with fellow members and see a slide show from Bob's "candid camera" featuring highlights of last year's events.

### VISIT TO HODSOCK PRIORY

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. £17.  
This is a return visit for the society to this Nottinghamshire garden famed for its snowdrops and hellebores.

There is a cafe, gift shop and plant sales area. Stout shoes will be needed for the woodland walk leading to the woodland cafe and campfire. The coach will leave Whaley at 9 a.m. and we plan to leave Hodsock at approximately 3.30. Please phone Rosemary to book (01663 733393) and send your payment of £17.00 per person by 12<sup>th</sup> February.

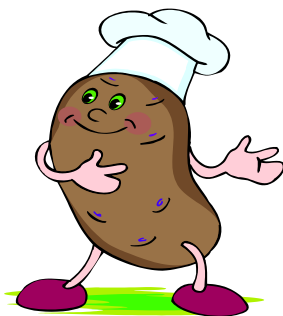


Helleborus niger

### HIGHGROVE VISIT

This would need to be booked by early February. Eight people have currently expressed interest but a minimum of 26 is needed to make it viable. Please contact Rosemary Kellock as soon as possible to register your interest.

### OUT AND ABOUT



Two local organisations are organising potato days:-

The Food4Macc event is at Macclesfield Town Hall on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will coincide with the January Treacle Market. As well as over 80 varieties of seed potatoes

you can buy fruit bushes, trees and plants, summer bulbs and those vegetable seeds you forgot to include in your seed order. The Treacle Market, which is held on the last Sunday every month, is well worth a visit with a good variety of local producers and street food and for an al fresco lunch. It was named last year as one of the top 10 farmers markets. Further details at [Food4Macc.org](http://Food4Macc.org) and

[www.treaclemacclesfield.co.uk](http://www.treaclemacclesfield.co.uk).

Marple and District Allotment association are holding their potato day on Sunday 8th February 2015 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Hall in the Memorial Park (Behind Regent Cinema) Entrance is free and refreshments will be available. They have over 90 varieties of seed potato, onion sets, garlic and shallots, herbs and summer bulbs etc. Further details at [www.marpleallotments.org.uk](http://www.marpleallotments.org.uk).

### SPECIAL OFFERS.

Possibly of interest to a new allotment holder, a 10 x 8 aluminium and glass greenhouse in good condition is offered free to anyone willing to dismantle it. It is situated in Whaley Bridge. Also available is an Eltex double burner paraffin greenhouse heater with 5 litres of paraffin and 2 white glazed sinks suitable for growing herbs or alpines – again these are offered free to members. Contact Roger Wood for further details (01663 732112)

