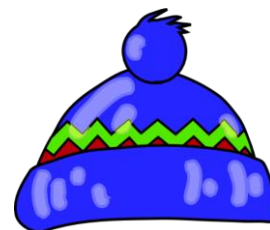


WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.

SIGNS OF SPRING



Luckily we seem to have been spared the worst of the weather so far. I spotted iris reticulate, aconites, cyclamen, hellebores and primula in bloom in the garden today whilst clearing debris from the overnight storm. Just hoping a sharp frost doesn't see off all this early growth.



SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL.

Approximately half of existing members have renewed their subscriptions which were due

in November. The cost of membership has been held at £5 and for this year only will cover you for 2016 and 2017. Our treasurer, Bob Kellock, or any committee member will be happy to receive your payment. Remember your membership includes the opportunity for free loan of tools – lists available at the store and social events or e-mail me for a copy (aizlewood@sky.com). Any suggestions for additional loan items will be considered by the committee.

RECENT EVENTS

AGM 6th November 2015

26 members attended this meeting to review another successful and enjoyable year. Trips have remained viable by encouraging friends and members of other local societies to join us. The store reported an excellent year with profits boosted by the sale of donated items such as unwanted tools. Talks were also well attended. Charitable donations were discussed and will be made to the Uniting Church for refurbishment of chairs, the air ambulance, the

mobile physiotherapy society and First Responders.

Fund raising events.

The society had a stall at the Christmas Market in the Mechanics Institute to sell bulbs. Torrential rain reduced the attendance at this event but it was a good showcase for WBAGS.



Our coffee morning and bulb sale on 19th December was well supported – thanks to all who helped and made donations. Surplus tulip bulbs were donated to friends of Whaley Station so look out for a splash of colour in the station garden in the spring.



My amaryllis is already brightening up the winter days with more buds to follow.



STORE OPENING.

The usual suspects are ready to spring into action from Sunday 20th March 10 a.m. to 12 noon. If you have mobility difficulties please contact David Osborn to discuss delivery (01663 733112). Wednesday opening starts on 6th April 6 to 7 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

Attached are your diary notes for 2016. Please note details of talks will be included in future newsletters.

Slide show Thursday 3.3.16

This will be our first social event of the year held at the Uniting Church at 2 p.m. Meet old friends, remind yourself of last year's outings or see what you missed. Guests are welcome. There will be light refreshments and a free raffle.

Advance notice.

Our first trip of the year will be on Friday 13th May to

Maenen Hall, Gwynedd. Please book, including payment, by 29th April. Details are in your diary of events.

The plant swap will be held at the store from 10 to 12 noon on Sunday 15th May. Pot up and label any unwanted seedlings or plants that you are dividing. If you don't have any swaps just come along and pick up a bargain for a small donation.

We have booked a **coffee morning including plant sale** for Saturday 21st May.



OUT AND ABOUT

Nothing beats the taste of freshly dug potatoes. I had some success growing in bags last year with seed potatoes bought from the Potato Day at Macclesfield. This year's sale will have over 80 varieties of potatoes as well as fruit bushes and trees. It is held at Macclesfield Town Hall on Sunday 31st January from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and coincides with the first Treacle Market of the year. Further information and prices at Food4Macc.org and on facebook/twitter. If you miss this event you have a second chance at the Marple Potato Day:-

Hosted By:- Marple & District Allotment Association.
Senior Citizens Hall, Memorial Park, Marple, SK6 6BE
(access from Stockport Road, between Costa Coffee & Regent Cinema)
Sunday February 7th 2016
10am till 3pm
Enquiries: 0161 427 5261

90 varieties of Seed Potato available.

Vegetable Seeds
Dahlias, Gladioli, Lilies and other summer flowering bulbs.
Herb Stall - both Culinary & Medicinal
For further details see:
www.marpleallotments.org.uk
Refreshments available all day.
FREE ADMISSION

Chapel Gardening Club are holding their first talk of the year on 24.2.16 by Tom Atherton on "Sweet Peas for Everyone" 7.30 p.m. at Chapel Town Hall. Non-members £2.



Mellor Open Gardens.

Sunday 22nd May 2016 – 20 gardens open to the public from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 20 gardens open with programmes at £9. Proceeds to Cancer Research UK and Mellor Parish Centre.
www.melloropengardens.org.uk

Plant Hunters Fairs.

20.3.16 Deanforth Lake, Whitchurch, Shropshire. SY13 7AR.
26.3.16 Battlefield 1403 Shrewsbury SY4 3DB
27/28.3.16 Dorothy Clive Garden. Newcastle, Staffs. TF9 4EU
planthuntersfairs.co.uk