

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

Dear Member,

FEBRUARY 2004

This spell of snow has caused a bit of disruption, certainly on the gardening front, but from the advance warnings we kept getting from the weathermen – sorry, persons - you'd think the world was coming to an end. Is a cold snap with some snow such a rarity I ask myself. To be fair we didn't get it as bad as some parts of the country which often seems to be the case.

Good news folks. Enough members have shown interest in our Quiz Night idea so we'll sort out final details for a Friday evening sometime in April and give them in the next newsletter. I should point out by the way that it's a 'No Smoking' venue so those smokers who think they might find the tension too much should be prepared to bite their nails rather than light up!

An imminent committee meeting should 'firm up' details of our trips etcetera and details of these will also appear next time so have those diaries ready. We have lots and lots of new members who we'd like to see at at (?) least some of our events. We should also be able to give you a revised price list for the store which will open for business in March.

Sorry to report the recent death of our member of many years Ron Bate of Reddish Lane. Our sympathies go to his wife, Marlene, and family.

Seed potatoes have now been distributed. Thanks to all those who ordered through us especially the gent from Chinley allotments who now has three 25kg sacks of them to plant out. Keep your eyes peeled for someone selling spuds from a roadside stall later in the year!

We do, for some reason, have some 1.5kg bags of various varieties left over so if your order is short or you ordered but they have not been delivered give me a ring. In the meantime I'll chit them and, if they are not claimed, offer them to members – at a price. Nobody has come on reporting missing seeds from their orders so I take it everyone's happy. On a similar theme nobody has contacted me to ask for items in addition to those we supply from the store, would like to see our wholesaler's amazing catalogue or wants to order the NSALG quarterly magazine.

If you've paid your sub, by the way, and not received a membership card give me a ring.

NATURE NOTES

Our local garden birds have survived the cold snap OK but it's not surprising judging by the number of peanut feeders and what seem to be almost half loaves of bread left out for them.

I appreciate that there are a lot of foxes around but I've never spotted one strolling up Rock Bank in broad daylight before – or at any other time come to that. Any remarks on foxes welcome!

Further to the mini-saga of the lone butterfly that has taken up residence in our attic/office for the winter I saw an item in my newspaper that I know will be of great interest to you. It seems this chap during the summer had 14 species on his buddleia and lavatera, the most abundant being the small tortoiseshell. And here's the really interesting bit. Six had settled in his bathroom and on his wife's brown velvet dress hanging in a spare bedroom there were twenty! Unfortunately, most woke up too soon and "either fluttered out into a hostile world or slowly exhausted themselves against the closed windows". Anyway ladies check your brown velvet dresses before putting them on.

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