

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

March / April 2003

Dear Member,

Well, this weather is a bit more like it! Excellent for getting out in the garden as the ground is drying out nicely now what with all the sun and a cool wind. Plot holders have been sighted hard at work on the allotment which means spring can't be too far away! Good to see bees and the odd butterfly out too BUT let's not get carried away folks - it's still early yet. "Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out" as my dear old Dad used to say (and probably your dear old Dad did too - and maybe still does). Mention of butterflies reminds me I saw one the other day that was trying to get into a daffodil backwards. He gave up after a bit and flew off. It must have been his first time out and hadn't quite got the hang of things.

We're gradually getting dates and details for our splendid programme of summer activities sorted out and can now give more information - so pencils and diaries at the ready. Here goes!

Firstly, our Garden Party at Whaley Hall on Sunday, 8 June. To book your ticket ring Ethel on 734436 but don't hang about as there is a limit to the numbers for which the Hall can comfortably cater. The tickets cost £6 per person and members may bring one guest. When Ethel has accepted your booking, the payment (cheques if possible) should be posted or delivered to her at 11 Jodrell Road in an envelope, showing your name and that of your guest (if applicable) plus your address and telephone number. By Saturday, 3 May at the latest please. This will give us plenty of time to deliver your tickets for the big day. These should be guarded with your life as admission is only by your ticket which then becomes your entry to our super raffle.

Next, the first trip of the year will be on Saturday, 17 May when the venue will be Erddig, near Wrexham. Details of cost, timings etcetera to come but in the meantime make a note in your diaries and ring Ethel soon as it's not too far off! People who have been before tell me both the house and garden are well worth a visit. *Booked*

Then there's our now regular midweek trip and this time the venue is Chatsworth followed by a visit to Fir Croft Alpine Nursery at Calver. Most members will have been to Chatsworth before but there's always lots to do and see - the superb kitchen garden will appeal to our many veg. growers. This trip is on Wednesday, 6 August. Again cost and timings to come but if you want to book early phone ME, not Ethel, on 733579 for this one. ?

Ethel is also organising a return trip to Arley Hall. (How does she do it all!). This will be on Saturday, 19 July and we hope to find a garden centre to call in at on the way back. More details later. X

On the subject of trips the obviously hardworking Peter Thomas has contacted us - not only is he the treasurer of Disley & Lyme Horticultural Society but he's also the trips organiser for the Stockport Horticultural Society. Anyway, he's extended an invitation to us to join the Disley members on a trip to the HDRA organic gardens at Ryton on 7 June. We paid a visit two or three years ago but I know there have been changes made so I'm sure a return visit will be worthwhile or if you haven't been before you'll find it extremely interesting. I have some booking forms if you're interested or you can contact him direct on 01663 763302. The cost is £14 but HDRA members get in free so if you are one that should make it cheaper. He has also supplied details of the trips by Stockport. The venues are Southport Botanic Garden, Bluebell Walk at Weston Park, Harlow Carr at Harrogate, Sudeley Castle and the Malvern Show. I have some booking forms for these too (they're very well organised!) but again you can contact him on the number above. 2

Our coffee morning is not too far off either. This again coincides with the popular Whaley Water Weekend or WWW3 as we call it (good job there are more than two Ws!) which is on Saturday, 21 June - but, of course, the usual grovelling pleas on that later. NA

PTO

Even more good news for our members! After lengthy negotiations over the last few months we've at last managed to persuade the management at the Cottage Garden flower shop in the village to grant us a 10% discount on purchases made there. They sell all sorts of goodies, such as a splendid range of greetings cards, as well as flowers and will make up special orders and things. Members will recall that Rose, or was it Daisy, won a raffle prize at our Christmas coffee morning so as they supported us let's go down with our membership cards and reciprocate.

A warm welcome to new member Mrs Marjorie Walton of Goyt Road.

Members will have been saddened to hear of the death of Lew Mounsey. Lew wasn't a society member but was a good friend to us on the allotments and organised the delivery of the Christmas tree shreadings.

We hope to visit Janet Langman's garden at Top of the Plane, Ashbourne Lane in Chapel on Sunday, 15 June – confirmation to come. We'd still like a second garden to visit! ✓

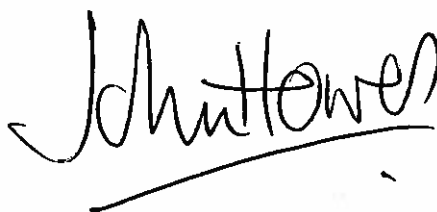
The Sharp garden at Alders Lane, Chinley is open again as part of the Yellow Book scheme. Make a date for either of the last two Saturdays in June for your annual pilgrimage!

Any day now will be a good time to enjoy the results of the Bristol family's marathon daffodil planting session on the grass verges on Linglongs Road leading to Taxal Church.

The store is now in open for business on Sunday mornings from 10am until noon with (almost) something for everyone and a price list is attached. The prices of some items have increased but generally are as last year and are of course excellent value.

Our plant swap/sale at the store on Saturday, 10 May at 2pm is also a great opportunity to purchase supplies (and pay your subs if you haven't yet done so). N/A

Also attached are details of the tool loan and hire schemes that we hope members will take advantage of. You will recall that these ideas together with the garden party were suggested at the AGM in November as a means of making use of some of our surplus funds and we trust you feel YOUR money has been put to good use.



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