



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

STORE OPENS SUNDAY, 27TH MARCH!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome into membership **Pat Kumar** of Whaley Bridge and **Alec Clough** of Chapel-en-le-Frith..

We are sad to report the death in January of **Gerald Pearson**. He gave much to both his country as an RAF Serviceman and the local community. He was a keen sportsman, a very gentle character and was liked by all his contemporaries. Our sympathies are with his daughter Judith and all those who miss him.

Some 35 members have not yet renewed their subscriptions. These were due in November. Regretfully, members who have not renewed their subscriptions will be ineligible to use the Store, to receive Newsletters and benefit from other membership facilities. If you have not yet renewed, please let Bob Kellock have cash or a cheque for £5. His phone number is given below and his address is 31 Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7BD. **£££££**

OUR STORE

Spring is well on the way and **David Osborn** and his team will open the Store for you on 27th March. The store will be open on Sundays between 10.00 and 12 noon from March 27th to July 3rd inclusive. It will also be open on Wednesdays between 18.00 and 19.00 from April 13th to 29th June. The Store is now packed with a wide range of



David Osborn, Jean Elliott and Dave Parker (seated) on opening day at the store last year.

products representing excellent value. See the Store Price List attached. Payment for goods may be made by cash or cheque.

Recent joiners of the Society may find the map showing the location of the Store helpful. (Also attached)

RECENT EVENT

SOCIAL EVENING Friday 11 March

About 30 members came to our Social Evening. It provided a chance to catch up with old friends, make new ones, link names and faces and enjoy a glass of wine and snacks in relaxed surroundings.



Rosemary Kellock updating members on Social Programme News.

We had our first "Seed Swap", an idea offered by **Margaret Day**. Many

people contributed spare seeds and went away with a variety of small packets. Margaret also brought her spanking new bee-hive to show those interested in the idea of keeping bees. "It is easier to transport before the new residents move in!" Thanks to all who helped to make the evening a success.



FUTURE EVENTS

SPRING TALK Thursday 31st March Trinity Church Hall

We are delighted that Simon Tetlow is able to give this talk, which unfortunately had to be postponed in the autumn. Simon is Assistant Head Gardener at Tatton Park. He will tell us the story of the restoration of its fabulous Japanese Garden. This was inspired originally by the Japanese gardens at the great British Japan Exhibition held 100 years ago in London. The garden at Tatton Park fell into disrepair after the death of Lord (Maurice) Egerton, who had originally commissioned it. Members £1. Visitors £2. Coffee and biscuits will be served. See also Diary section of our website www.wbags.co.uk

VISIT TO FELLEY PRIORY Sunday 17th April

Rosemary Kellock reports that there are still places available on this visit. Felley Priory is a garden for all seasons and Spring is particularly

splendid with its orchard full of daffodils. The garden has ancient walls, yew hedges and topiary; there are pergolas surrounded by a knot garden, there is a small arboretum and borders filled with unusual trees and shrubs. The cost is £15. Please contact Rosemary (telephone number below) as soon as possible to book a place and pay her by 9th April.

www.gardens-guide.com/index

(Seek Felley Priory in alphabetical index)

PLANT AND SEED SWAP Sunday, 22 MAY

This will be held at the Store. We are enlarging the scope of our plant swap this year to include seeds as well. Please put seeds you are bringing in small, labelled envelopes, together with any growing instructions from which your fellow members would benefit. If you need advice about bringing plants, contact **Roger Wood** (see phone number below). If you have nothing to bring, come just the same. Given clement weather it is quite a social occasion! If you have nothing to swap, you can take home plants or seeds that tempt you for a small donation to the Society's funds.



Yes, it can be sunny in May! Members enjoying last year's plant swap.

VISIT TO HEBBS FARM AND NORWELL NURSERIES

Saturday 4 June

This is an opportunity to accompany Stuart Dixon (a Lecturer in Horticulture, a Writer and a Broadcaster) as he shows us round his restored 18th Century Garden.

After lunch at Manor Farm Cafe (price included in the trip cost), the coach will visit Norwell Nurseries and Garden. Norwell Nurseries specialises in unusual herbaceous perennials, as well as cottage garden plants, woodland plants, shade lovers and many more categories. Please contact Rosemary Kellock (phone number below) to tell her of your interest and to discuss lunch preferences. Cost £26.

www.norwellnurseries.co.uk

COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE Saturday 11 June Mechanics Institute

This is an advance request for sale items for our Coffee Morning, at which we will have a plant sale and a bric-a-brac stall. Please give bric-a-brac items to **Rosemary Kellock** and contact **Roger Wood** if you will be bringing plants on the day or need advice about so doing. Rosemary's and Roger's phone numbers are given below.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO OPEN YOUR GARDEN TO SOCIETY MEMBERS THIS SUMMER?

Grand or bijoux, well-established or new - all have their place in the Society's gardening life! If you might be willing to consider opening your garden one summer afternoon, please discuss the possibility with **Rosemary Kellock** (phone number below) .

Julie Batten is opening her garden in Disley on the evening of May 21st. 7 Dane Hill Close, off Buxton Old Road. Julie's Open Garden is in aid of Cancer Relief. For more details, contact Julie on 01663 763331 or at Julie.bat@virgin.net

NEWS ABOUT THE PROPOSED VISIT TO HIGHGROVE

Thank you for letting **Rosemary Kellock** know of your interest, as requested in the last Newsletter. Happily, there were many members interested and Highgrove has

changed its booking system. As a result, the Society will undertake a visit to Highgrove in July this year. The list is full as a result of the initial expressions of interest. However, there is a waiting list for a proposed visit next year. Let Rosemary know if you would like to be on the waiting list. (Phone number below).

AVAILABLE AND SPARE

The Society has been given a set of 12 DVDs featuring a year in a Yorkshire garden. They are likely to be of particular interest to allotment holders or members who grow their own fruit and vegetables. Please contact **Roy Jennings** (phone number below) if you are interested.

A member wishes to dispose of his greenhouse and a Vauxhall car. If you are interested, please contact **Roy Jennings** in the first instance.

We have a collection of press cuttings relating to the early days of the Society. If anyone would like to see them, please contact the Editor, **Gill Williamson** (phone number below).

WHERE IS THE GREBE?

You will remember that in the last edition of the Newsletter, a picture appeared of an empty and icy Toddbrook reservoir. The water is back but many of the birds have still to return. There are occasional goosanders and plenty of gulls and other birds flying overhead. However, our friendly **grebe** is still away. We look forward to his return later in the year.

How about this picture to gladden the heart?

