



# WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



## MARCH 2012 NEWSLETTER

### WHAT HAVE WE GOT IN STORE THIS TIME?

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Your Committee is pleased to welcome on your behalf Judy Benning of Chapel-en-le-Frith and Janet Shaw of Whaley Bridge.

The Committee is sad to report the death of John Derbyshire.. He played a leading role in the work of several local organisations and was known widely in Whaley Bridge as being a very kind and caring person. Many members of the Society and their families enjoyed the day organised by John at Lyme Park in November to promote the Beatrix Potter exhibition held there. Our sympathies are with Annette and her family.

#### Subscriptions

If you have not paid your current year subscription to Bob Kellock, please do so with urgency. Those who have not paid will receive no further newsletters and will not be able to use the Store or participate in many Society activities.

#### Free Loans and Discounts for Members

A note is attached to the Newsletter summarising equipment and other items available on loan to members and also discounts available at local stores.

#### STORE OPENING

**Sundays, starting 25<sup>th</sup> March.**

**10.00 – 12.00 noon**

**Wednesdays, starting 11 April.**

**6.00pm – 7.00pm**

The answer to the Headline? Well, almost all the main things you might need, at very favourable prices as usual. Please find the Price List attached to the Newsletter. New members may benefit from the map showing the Store's location, also attached. The Store takes cash or cheques but not credit cards.



Enjoy the musings of Podiceps Cristatus on the second page of the Newsletter

The Store team comprises David Osborn, Dave Parker, Gordon Belfield and Roger Wood. If you need help with transport or would like further information about any other aspect of using the Store, please contact David Osborn .

#### RECENT EVENTS

##### SOCIAL EVENING, 17th FEBRUARY

The Social evening held at Trinity Church attracted nearly 40 members – probably a record! Bob Kellock gave a slide show presentation covering the four coach trips last year ( Highgrove was excluded). This provoked a good response from those who went on the trips and those who didn't. Bob got the evening underway with the show, which lasted about an hour and included some comments and banter about those caught on "candid camera"! All being well he hopes to repeat the exercise early next year, assuming there are no objections. Following the slides, members tucked into refreshments and became quite animated as the wine flowed. Rosemary Kellock signed up members for some of the forthcoming trips.



#### FUTURE EVENTS

**TALK. 29<sup>th</sup> March. Trinity Church Hall. 7.30pm**

Martin Blow will be talking about "Late Autumn Colour". Martin and his wife Janet run a garden nursery at Hankelow, Cheshire. They grow choice, heritage and unusual perennials and can talk from experience about how to get the best from growing all their range of plants. They hold several national collections. It should be a very interesting evening. The talk will be followed by coffee and biscuits. £1 for members and £2 for non-members.

#### COACH TRIP TO NORTHERN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S HARROGATE SPRING SHOW

**29<sup>th</sup> April Depart Whaley Bridge 9am**

Please see Diary Notes 2012 and the January 2012 Newsletter for details of this event. If you would like to go and haven't contacted Rosemary Kellock, please do so as soon as possible and ensure she receives payment (£23.50 per head) by 19<sup>th</sup> April.

[www.flowershow.org.uk](http://www.flowershow.org.uk)

#### PLANT SWAP AT THE STORE 20<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 – 12.00

This annual event is one of the Society's real strengths. Many of our members have wonderful plants in their gardens, which need splitting and thinning from time to time. Other members can acquire them for a "swap" or small donation to WBAGS funds. The spring also brings surpluses of both flower and produce seedlings. For those without greenhouses or time to grow plants from seed, this is your opportunity to benefit from other members' expertise and skill. The Editor took home a tomato plant last year which produced 5 lbs of Garden Pearl tomatoes. She is still enjoying the

chutney made from the last green stragglers!

**VISIT TO HODNET HALL GARDENS, near Market Drayton, Shropshire.**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> June. Depart Whaley Bridge 9.00am**

Gardens have existed at Hodnet since the Heber-Percy family constructed their first house in parkland during the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. Serious development began in 1921 by a later generation of the same family. Forest trees provide a wonderful backdrop for formal gardens planted to give delight through the year. There are woodland walks, flowering shrubs and a "daisy-chain" of ornamental pools. In January, 17 apple varieties with strong Shropshire links were planted in the kitchen garden. A **Jubilee Plant Fair** will be taking place on the day of the visit. There will be stalls selling rare plants, music and entertainment. The plant fair is organised by **Plant Hunters Fairs**. See the link to this organisation on [www.wbags.co.uk](http://www.wbags.co.uk) A restaurant offers light lunches and afternoon teas. Contact Rosemary Kellock if you would like to go on this trip. Payment (£14 per head) should reach Rosemary by 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.

**COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE**  
**9<sup>th</sup> June Mechanics Institute**  
**9.30am – 12.00 noon**

This is the first of the two coffee mornings that we will hold this year. It offers a chance for Whaley Bridge residents and visitors to relax and chat over a cup of coffee and to buy plants at a small price for their own gardens. The event takes place during the Whaley Water Weekend and the coffee morning offers the Society a good opportunity to have a presence at, and to contribute to, the many events of that weekend. Please contact Roger Wood if you can bring plants and Rosemary Kellock if you can provide home-made cakes or articles for a bric-a-brac stall. If you can help serve coffee and tea and make visitors feel welcome for an hour or so, that would also be appreciated.

**VISIT TO NESS GARDENS AND BURTON OPEN GARDENS** Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July  
**Depart Whaley Bridge 9am**

Please see Diary Notes 2012 and let Rosemary know if you are interested in

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS Mike High 01663 732578 Roy Jennings 01663 734187 Bob and Rosemary Kellock 01663 733393 David Osborn 01663 733659 Dave Parker 01663 750172 Gill Williamson 01663 733035 Roger Wood 01663 732112

taking part. More information will appear in the next Newsletter.

**HIGHGROVE VISITS**

There will be two visits this year, in July and August. The July visit is full and the August visit has 4 places left. Those going have been on a waiting list since last year. If you are interested in going in August, please contact Rosemary Kellock unless she already knows you want to go. Priority will be given to those who have not been before. If there is a lot of further interest, consideration will be given to a further trip in 2013.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

If you change your email address, please let Bob Kellock know. Both Bob and Rosemary Kellock have changed theirs recently. They are now as follows:

[bob@rokkelock.plus.com](mailto:bob@rokkelock.plus.com)  
[rosemary@rokkelock.plus.com](mailto:rosemary@rokkelock.plus.com)



**JULIE RAISES MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

Member Julie Batten is holding a fund-raising Garden Party at 7 Dane Hill Close, Disley on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 1pm onwards. Julie would appreciate very much unwanted presents, labelled plants, home-made cakes, preserves – and of course your attendance if you would like to come. Please contact her at [Julie.bat@virgin.net](mailto:Julie.bat@virgin.net) if you can help.

**CLEVE WEST AT BUXTON FESTIVAL**

He is described as "King of the Allotment" in the Buxton Festival 2012 programme. He won "Best in Show" at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show and is a hands-on allotmenteer. He will speak on 10 July at 10.30am. Contact [www.buxtonfestival.co.uk](http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk) or 0845 12 72190 for tickets.

**PODICEPS CRISTATUS MUSES.....**

"Earlier this week I was watching some very busy squirrels chasing each other at top speed, from sycamore to oak tree

and back – at least 30 feet above the ground, and in some places overhanging the reservoir bank! – branch to twig, leap into fresh air – grab, swing, scramble into neighbouring tree – memorising the vertiginous route, up the trunk, over and across! Such wonderful agility, mesmerising to see – so beautiful – with excited loud chattering – they were definitely on a mission! It's SPRING FEVER! ( or in squirrel terms – "now the new dreys are built – let's chase the ladies!")

These are of course, grey squirrels: *Sciurus carolinensis*. "Bright eyed and bushy tailed", fascinating to watch, a frequent companion to any woodland ramble, - yet we don't like them very much, do we? They are the intruders, arrived in the UK from the Americas in the 1870s, who have drastically reduced the population of our native red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* – widespread as recently as 1940, and now down to an estimated total of only 120,000.

This is how the old village blacksmith in Gloucestershire explains the demise of dear red Squirrel Nutkin: "*the forrin' grey guz worriting and worriting and worriting of the little red bwooy until like a stoat to a rabbit he worrits the life out of he and he gives no peace at all... And that be the manner of his passing.*"

Greys are bigger and more aggressive than reds, they are more adaptable – living in hedgerows, trees, parks, gardens as well as woodland, but worst of all they carry squirrel pox to which they are immune, but which is deadly to reds. The Countryside Restoration Trust has 10 breeding enclosures around the UK for red squirrels, to help increase the native colonies in Scotland, Isle of Wight, Anglesey and parts of Dorset."

