



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

STORE OPENS 24TH MARCH!



The WBAGS store (with Store Manager David Osborn feeding a lost racing pigeon which once took up temporary residence and Dave Parker looking on)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to Diana Osborne of Chinley who has recently joined the Society.
Welcome back to Peter Farley.

Unfortunately at the time of preparing this Newsletter, over 30 members had not renewed their subscriptions. Please contact Bob Kellock and let him have your subscription by the end of March latest. This will be the last Newsletter for those who do not pay.

FUTURE EVENTS

STORE OPENING

The Store will open on Sunday, 24th March 10.00am to 12 noon and every Sunday until 7 July. It will open on Wednesday evenings on 10th April between 6pm and 7pm. The Wednesday openings thereafter will be kept under review and will cease if there is insufficient demand. The Store Price List and a map showing the location of the Store are both attached to the Newsletter.

Our Store is a great institution. It contains most of the core products needed by all gardeners and allotment-holders and the prices are very competitive. David Osborn and his team

members work tremendously hard keeping the Store stocked, helping members hoist their purchases into their cars or wheelbarrows, arranging our Annual Plant Swap and presenting your offerings as saleable items at our annual Coffee Morning and Plant Sale. Last year, they all soldiered on through dire weather event after event. Everything crossed for better weather this year!

SPRING TALK Friday, 22nd March 7.30pm

“Derbyshire Gardens” by Irene Dougan, Derbyshire Country Organiser, National Garden Society.

See January newsletter for further details. Members £1 and guests £2.

VISIT TO DUNHAM MASSEY
Monday 15th April. Depart Whaley Bridge 10.00am

Full details of this visit were given in the January Newsletter. There are still places available, so please tell Rosemary if you would like to go. There is the possibility of visiting the house as well as the garden. £10.50 pp for National Trust members, £17.33pp for non-NT members. (Costs cover coach and gardens – house extra.) On this occasion, please let Rosemary know by post if you are interested and enclose a cheque to arrive no later than 25st March. 31 Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7BD.

VISIT TO MUNCASTER CASTLE 9th
May 7.30am from Whaley Bridge.

Muncaster Castle is set in 70 acres of stunning gardens set against a backdrop of wonderful Lakeland scenery. It has been the seat of the Pennington family since 1208 and each generation has added to its structure and facilities. John

Pennington, the first Lord Muncaster, planted most of the large hardwood trees. The gardens are home to one of the largest collections of rhododendrons and the gardening team are working with the Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh to conserve endangered plants and trees. In addition to the gardens, the house can be visited and the world Owl Centre based at Muncaster puts on a daily display. It will be a long day but with fine views along the way and masses of interest on arrival. Please let Rosemary know of your interest no later than early April and pay £30.75 per head by 29th April.

www.muncaster.co.uk/gardens

OUR ANNUAL PLANT SWAP
Sunday 19TH May 10.00am – 12 noon
at the Store



A recent Plant Swap

Here are some good reasons to attend the plant swap...

- 1 You are on the verge of giving up growing things because everything drowned last year ...so, come along and you can pick up some seedlings that have already got off to a flying start this year...
- 2 You haven't had time to make a proper plan for the garden... so, come along and

you will get some ideas from the plants available and the suggestions of your fellow members...

3 You planted seeds over-enthusiastically in February and March and now the greenhouse and window-sills are looking like a rain-forest. Allied to this, your autumn plant-division exercise led to eight of everything and not two of everything... restore normality and space and be the friend of everyone in the above two categories.. Come along, whether you have anything to swap or not, leave a donation to WBAGS in the box if you take something without bringing an item – and equally important – enjoy catching up with the plans and hopes of fellow members for the summer (?) growing season.

COFFEE MORNING, PLANT SALE AND BRIC A BRAC STALL

Saturday, 1st June Mechanics Institute

Our summer coffee morning offers an ideal occasion to raise the profile of WBAGS in Whaley Bridge, provides an opportunity for local people to meet and chat with their friends and enables the Society to raise some funds through selling refreshments, home-made cakes, plants and bric-a-brac. This all helps to meet our overheads and to maintain a flourishing Society. Please bring plants to the Mechanics Institute (labelled and in pots) a little before 10.00am. Items for the tombola and bric a brac stall will also be welcome. If you have difficulty transporting plants or are not sure if something would be suitable, please have a word with David Osborn or Roger Wood. Volunteers to help with sales of refreshments, plants and bric-a-brac will be welcome. Retail experience not required – full training will be given!

HIGHGROVE TRIPS

There will be two trips to Highgrove this year, on Wednesday 17 April and Wednesday, 3rd July.

Please contact Rosemary if you would like to go on the 17th April trip and have not yet informed her. The number of places left is small, however. Leave a message on the phone, contact her by email rosemary@rokellock.plus.com or put a message through her door by 9th April latest. The cost will be £41.50 per person.

If you wish to go on the 3rd July trip, please let Rosemary know. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. She will need names and payment by 7th May latest. Highgrove will have increased their prices by the 3rd July and the trip will cost £42.00.

NEWS OF OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GARDEN PARTY

Please remember to tell Rosemary if you would like to come, if you have not already done so. Helpers have come forward to assist on the day and Bob Kellock will handle the ticket arrangements a little nearer the time. The event will be priced with a view to covering costs but any surplus that might be made will be donated to our hosts' long-supported educational project in Kenya. Information about this inspirational project will be on display.



RECENT EVENT

SOCIAL EVENING 15th February

28 people turned out on a chilly evening. Bob's sllideshow of last year's trips was enjoyed although technical gremlins came out of the ether to try and disrupt it. The photographs defied the weather conditions which conspired against several of last year's trips and came out well. There was of course, plenty of opportunity for conversation afterwards over a glass of wine and some refreshments.

THANKS

Many thanks to Roger Wood and Roy Jennings for taking over on this occasion the reprographic and distribution work associated with the paper copies of this Newsletter.

MUSINGS FROM PODICEPS CRISTATUS....

Imagine the shock I suffered three days ago when I was pursued into the shallows by a small terrier dog – and it snapped at one of my paddles, causing a bad cut to the web before my ferocious pecking drove him off! How ironic that a creature which spends most of its day on land, should venture into the water – my life element – and almost succeed in ending my days!

Now this sorry tale gets worse: as I fluttered into deeper water, (passing the fisherman owner of the terrier), he swung his landing net over me – and trapped me – *truly adding insult to injury!!*

My new captor took me along to the Vet in Whaley, who pronounced that treating injuries to wild birds usually failed – “SHALL I PUT IT TO SLEEP?” At this point, the terrier, who had accompanied us to the surgery, suddenly recalled the phrase “put it to sleep”... memories of waking up in considerable pain, wearing a lampshade round his head for days, walking very slowly.. NOW he recognised the Vet!, and promptly started doing what terriers do best (after digging in garden beds) **RAUCOUS LOUD BARKING! I** overheard the fisherman asking...“*HOW much???*”

Well I am still alive to tell the tale – and now I'm more determined than ever to find a good nest-site before March is out, so if you see a grebe paddling gently in slow circles before diving effortlessly to drive a perch towards a fisher fellow with a small friendly terrier.....

