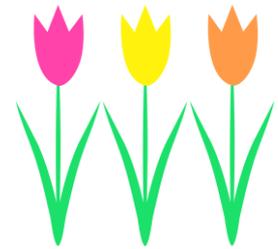


WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



MARCH 2016

LOOKING FORWARD TO LONGER DAYS

The first day of Spring has sprung but the weather still has some surprises in store after one of the warmest winters on record.



COMING EVENTS

Store opening imminent.

David Osborn and his team are ready to spring into action to supply all your early season gardening needs. Sunday openings commence on **20th March** 10 – 12 a.m. and Wednesday evenings on **6th April** from 6 – 7 p.m. The attached price list shows the wide range available at competitive prices – no charge for the witty repartee.

Our first talk.

Roger has organised our first talk of the season by Peter and Trish Kohn for Thursday **21st April 2 p.m** at the Uniting Church on “The Making of A Garden in Kerracher, Scotland”.

This loch side garden is set in its own little bay amongst spectacular scenery of Highland glens and moors with amazing wildlife and is only accessible by boat. Let's all go! The couple now volunteer at the Botanical Gardens in Sheffield.

Garden visit.

Our first trip of the season will be to Maenen Hall in Gwynedd on **Friday 13th May**. Your luck is in as this private garden will be opening specially for our group giving you an opportunity to visit this special place with beautiful views towards Snowden. There is a sloping lawned upper area with ornamental ponds leading down to bluebell woods with rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias and ornamental cherries. Rosemary needs your booking and payment of £30 by 29th April at the latest.



Plant swap.

Don't forget to pot up and label any unwanted seedlings or divided plants for or annual plant swap/ sale at Elnor Lane store on **Sunday 5th May. 10 a.m. to 12 noon**. If you have any unwanted gardening related items you can bring them along for recycling. Roger Wood is looking to recycle a high access ladder at the bargain price of £50 so give him a call (number below) if you are interested.



Coffee Morning.

Hot on the heels of the plant swap is our first coffee morning on **Saturday 21st May**. Our plant sale there is always well supported and includes surplus items from the plant swap. We will also have an indoor stall and raffle so if you have any suitable items please pass them on to any committee member.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The committee is sad to report the death of two of our members – Mr M Schofield and Mr B Robinson. Our sympathies are with their families and friends.

We welcome a new member, Mrs Barbara Chappell of Buxworth.

A reminder from our treasurer that your £5 subscription is now overdue and can be paid at the store or to any committee member.

SOCIAL MEETING 3.3.16

Despite cold, damp weather approximately 30 members attended the first meeting of the year. This number included a few guests one of whom was persuaded to join. After welcoming everyone, Roy introduced Bob's slide show of last year's coach trips. The gardens visited were diverse and provided plenty of interest and colour. Having had our appetites whetted for this year's trips, Rosemary gave a run down of the programme and invited bookings. A break for refreshments allowed time for socialising – the two raffle prizes were won by Jean Philbin and David Osborn. Our social meeting on 23.9.16 will include a gardening quiz so potential eggheads can start swotting now.

OUT AND ABOUT

Chapel Gardening Club have a number of talks that we are welcome to attend.

30.3.16 - Gardening for bees by Paul Quigley.

27.4.16 – Fuschia cuttings by Gerald Shirt.

25.5.16 – Modern roses by Tony Bracegirdle.

All are at 7.30 p.m. at Chapel Town Hall and cost £2 for non-members.

Mellor Open Gardens in aid of Cancer Research UK will be held on **22nd May 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.** with 20 gardens open to the public, free local transport is available and refreshments are for sale at the school and parish centre. This may inspire us to organise our own open garden event. Contact Bob if you want to be involved in our open gardens.

Disley and Lyme Horticultural Society have given advanced notice inviting our allotment holders to participate in their annual show on 20th August at Disley Amalgamated Club.



They have a grow and show challenge competition for teams which was won by High Lane last year. I'm sure our plot holders could show them how it's done. Talk to Bob if you are interested in this.

Peak District National Trust Centre have a trip to Cannon Hall and Wentworth Castle Gardens on 20.4.16 with a pick up in Chapel at 8.30 a.m. Speak to Judith (number below) if you are interested in this. A chauffeured golf

buggy has been booked for the garden visit for those less nimble.

Friends of Whaley Bridge Railway station have sent their thanks for the donation of unsold tulip bulbs so we can look forward to a splash of colour at the station to brighten up our rail journeys.

ALLOTMENT NEWS

The site has been tidied and the skip removed and the compost bins now contain only compostable green waste. There is little activity on the site yet due to cold wet conditions and waterlogged ground in places.

WELL DRESSING

Work on this year's well dressing will start on Saturday 18th June ready for the blessing of the well on Sunday 26th June. The display will celebrate the life and work of Beatrix Potter as 2016 is 150 years since her birth. As well as her much-loved and beautifully illustrated children's books, Beatrix Potter did extensive studies and watercolours of fungi and was a talented botanical illustrator.



Contact Rosemary if you would like to help with this year's well dressing.