



**March 2019**

**Tete a tete.**

Fingers crossed that a late frost doesn't damage the early blossom. No blackthorn blossom – no sloe gin!!

**D, D and D Garden Bargains.**

The store is now open again and the 3 Daves are ready to welcome you on Sunday mornings or on Wednesday evenings. Your updated price list is attached.



Don't forget the society's free loan scheme – there are hollow tine aerators, a lawn spreader, soil ph meter and long loppers available to loan; telephone Bob Kellock if you want to borrow any equipment. If your lawn suffered during the sunny summer now is the time to help it recover. There are also members' discounts at Chapel Tool Hire and on gardening items at Halls Mica Hardware, Shallcross Nursery and

Fernmoss Pet shop on production of your membership card.

**Membership news.**

We welcome as a member Peter Thomas of Disley who is president of Disley and Lyme Horticultural Society.

The Disley society will be hosting its 112<sup>th</sup> annual show on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club on Jackson's Edge Road.



There are still forty of our members who have not renewed their subscriptions. The £5 membership can be paid to Bob Kellock, or at the store and at events.

Members enjoyed Bob's annual photographic round up of last year's events at the social gathering on 7<sup>th</sup> March; this year's events promise to be equally enjoyable.

**Coming events.**

We have a talk at 2 p.m. on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April** at the Uniting Church. The subject is "Banquets for Birds and Butterflies". I'm planning to grow caterpillar fodder this year as well as nectar plants and look forward to some useful advice.

Friends of the Earth have a useful bee identification guide online – "The Great British Bee Count Identification Guide". How many of the 270 species of bees recorded in the UK do you have in your garden? One of my favourites is the Wool Carder Bee. The females gather balls of plant hair to make their nests and the males guard plants such as lambs' ears so they can mate with the females. The ladies have combs on their legs to gather the fibres and little pockets on their legs to carry them back to the nest site.



We will leave Whaley at 9 a.m. on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** for our trip to **Harrogate Spring Flower Show**. Rosemary asks that those who have requested a seat pay in advance to avoid her carrying money on the day. There are still places available and the cost is £35.

The Dobies seeds from the scheme with a 50 % discount have given excellent germination rates and I hope to have some

plants ready for the plant swap at the store on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**. If you are splitting any of your herbaceous plants please bring them along (potted and labelled) to share with other members.

We will also have a plant sale at our coffee morning on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June** at the **Mechanics Institute**. Please come along with offers of help, cakes, raffle prizes and plants or just to share garden related chat.

I'm sure that one of this year's highlights will be the trip to the Stretton Garden Trail near Malpas in Cheshire on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. We leave Whaley at 9.30 a.m. and the cost is £27. I believe 9 gardens will be open, some are serving refreshments and locally-grown wildflower plugs.



Included in your garden passport is Stretton Old Hall, shown on Gardener's World in September 2018. This 5 acre garden has

herbaceous borders, a scree garden, walled garden with glasshouse, wildflower meadow and lakeside wildlife walk on gravel paths.



### Out and About.

If you have energy to spare after your visit to Tilson you can enjoy the **Buxton Garden Trail** on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 10.00 to 17.00. Last year over 30 private gardens were open in support of local charities.

**Chapel Gardening Club** have the following talks:-

April 24<sup>th</sup>: Jeff Bates, "Vegetables for small gardens".

May 29<sup>th</sup>: Barbara Wilkinson, "Herbs for Summer".

at Chapel Town Hall, 2 p.m. costing £2 for non-members.

There is a **plant hunter fair at Bramhall Hall on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April** where you can buy unusual plants direct from the growers.

Alderbrook Day Opportunities in Chinley have created a community allotment to foster closer links with the wider community. Purpose build raised beds will be used to grow vegetables and herbs and a grassy seating area is planned. Anyone interested in seeing what has been achieved is welcome to go along and potential volunteers can contact Emma Mountain, the

deputy unit manager, on [emma.mountain@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.mountain@derbyshire.gov.uk)

### Something to fill this space!!

I had the pleasure of visiting the citrus festival in Menton on the French Riviera in February which was great fun, with static displays and an illuminated night parade with giant mechanical dragons and birds all decorated with lemons.



The surrounding hills were full of the scent and sight of mimosa blossom.



I also had the opportunity to visit Lawrence Johnston's garden "Serre de la Madonne" created in 1924 to house the more tender plants that would not survive at Hidcote Manor.

