



## WHALEY BRIDGE *Allotment & Gardeners'* Society



MARCH 2020

Our first meeting of the year was well attended. Bob's slide show reviewed our trips during 2019 reminding us of the three enjoyable outings organised by Rosemary. She has been organising our outings for many years and always manages to find new and interesting places to visit.

Raffle prizes were provided by Mike Heeley of Shallcross nursery. Don't forget members can enjoy a discount on plants purchased from this local nursery on Elnor Lane on production of a current membership card. Mike specialises in plants for hanging baskets and containers and always has a varied selection. He will also refill you own baskets.

### Dates for your diary

Dobies seed orders have been delivered and I have just planted up cosmos seeds. No doubt you will be needing compost etc for your own planting and will be pleased to hear that **the store reopens** on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wednesday openings start on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 6 till 7 p.m. Don't

forget to grow a few extra seedlings for the **plant swap** on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 10 a.m. till 12 noon at the Elnor Lane store. Now is a good time to lift and divide perennials and these can also be potted and labelled for the swap. Surplus plant from this event are taken to our **coffee morning and plant sale** on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 9.30 till 12 noon at the Mechanics Institute. Help at this event is needed please.

I have a container grown twisted hazel looking for a home if anyone wants it – it's a little large to take to the plant swap. (733070)



While wandering out to take its picture I noticed an attractive hellebore. Some of the new hybrids have attractive foliage and upward facing flowers and provide a welcome splash of colour at this time of year.



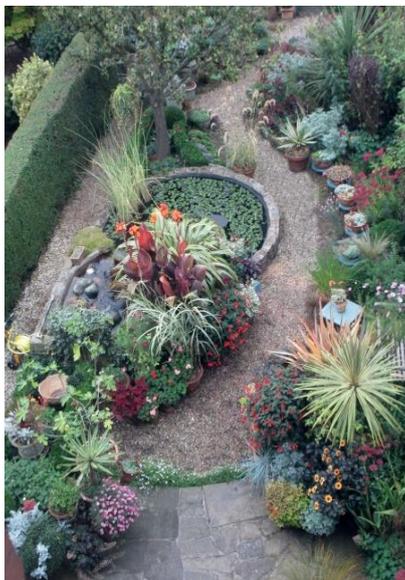
A reminder that our first talk this year will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2 p.m. at the Uniting Church by Sally Hodgson, a hill farmer and dry stone waller from Glossop.

Our first visit is on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May to Chirk Castle and Dibleys Nursery. The cost is £30.50 for National Trust members and £43 if not a member.

We have a talk on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October by Maureen Sawyer on "Foliage Matters", Maureen's own garden is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year of opening under the NGS scheme in 2020 on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 12 noon till 6 p.m. £4 Southlands, 12, Sandy Lane, Stretford, Manchester. M32 9DA.

There is much to see including a courtyard garden, Mediterranean style garden,

gravel walk, shade, pond, woodland and kitchen gardens. The garden was named BBC garden of the year for the north of England, has featured in many publications and also features art work by Maureen Sawyer and Duncan Watmough.



Further details and images can be found on the NGS website or at [www.southlands12.com](http://www.southlands12.com)

Maureen will also be speaking at Chapel Garden Society on 25<sup>th</sup> March on the subject of "hardworking plants for small gardens, 2 p.m. at Chapel Town Hall. £2

This garden also opens for groups by prior arrangement so maybe Rosemary will arrange a visit for us next year after our appetites have been whetted by the talks!

Another date for your diary is July 5<sup>th</sup> for Mellor open gardens. Every 4 years about 20 private gardens are open

for the day. There is a free jump on/off bus through the village and refreshments at the primary school and community centre. Tickets are £8 in advance and £10 on the day and the event supports Cancer Research UK and Mellor community centre.

### Allotment news

The working group met on 11<sup>th</sup> February. It is not surprising that the recent wet

weather has exacerbated drainage problems and any funding raised will prioritise dealing with this directly and also by building raised beds on the most badly affected plots.

Don't forget you can still vote at Tesco using the blue tokens till the end of March for the allotments.

### AGM

Last year's AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 was much better attended. If you would like a copy of the minutes prior to next year's AGM please contact Bob. As agreed a the meeting donations of £100 have been made to Kinder Mountain Rescue, Blythe House Hospice and Friends of Whaley Canal.

### RHS affiliation

At the last meeting the committee made the decision to affiliate WBAGS to the RHS.

For an annual fee of £35 we can have one free visit to an RHS garden for up to 55 members.



Next year we are hoping to visit the new RHS Bridgewater garden which is due to open in July 2020 so the RHA affiliation should potentially be of benefit to all our members. There is still a lot of work to be achieved but it will be interesting to make a visit during the early stages of the gardens creation.

We can also obtain discounted entry to RHS gardens and special affiliated Society rates for RHS shows.

### Membership news

Welcome to John Kearns of Chapel who has recently joined the group. Our membership secretary asks me to remind you that 25 members have not renewed their £5 membership due last November; if this is an oversight please ensure that you are not lapsed from our membership list which will be updated at the end of March.