

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

April '01

Dear Member,

At last – the first signs of spring and the allotments over the weekend were a hive of activity as was the case in most gardens I suspect. Last Friday was warm enough to bring out, for me at least, the first butterfly of the year which, although not knowing too much about these things, I thought was very early. I didn't have my Observer Book of British Butterflies with me so I have no idea what sort it was but it did look a bit cold and confused – if butterflies can look cold and confused. However as I write this the rain is tipping down again so, as they say, no change there then.

The warm spell also brought a welcome flurry of customers to the store on Sunday morning taking advantage of our selection of great value composts, fertilisers etc. There are a few of Linden Smith's hessian potato sacks going spare if anyone is interested plus some packets of unwanted seeds. Nearly forgot – you can also pay your subs if you haven't already done so.

Sharp-eyed readers will have spotted a couple of errors last month – our talk by Dr Furness from Fir Croft will be on 28th September not the 18th as I said and Calke Abbey, (venue together with Clumber Park for our trip on 16 June, seats still available – price to come – phone Ethel on 734436 to book) is not spelt Caulke! The reason that the price is still to come is the complication of having two venues plus the fact that both are National Trust properties with various extra charges for this and that. Ethel will get it sorted by the next newsletter and rest assured that, as usual, value for money to members will be our prime consideration – (waffle,waffle).

There are still some seats left on our other trips to Catforth Gardens on 28 July (phone Ethel) and Ashford in the Water on THURSDAY, 5 July (phone me).

Our member, Janet Langman from Chapel, now has a website where you can see details of all the plants she has available for sale so if you're hooked up you can visit her (is that the correct terminology?) at www.blacknarcissus.co.uk or phone 01298 812793.

WELL DRESSING CORNER. There's an 'Open Evening' at the Mechanics on Tuesday, 22 May at 7pm for anyone who would like to get involved or know more.

Another reminder of our annual Spring Plant Swap / Sale at the store on Saturday, 5 May at 2pm. Last year's was a great success so bring all your unwanted plants to either swap or sell and you can stock up with composts etc. and veg growers, don't forget the September coffee morning when, hopefully, we'll have lots of spare produce we can sell.

Welcome to new members Mrs Pearson and Mr Garlick of Shallcross Avenue (not the same address by the way!), Mrs Blamey of Manor Road and Mrs Canning of Bradshaw Lane, Chapel.

ALLOTMENT NOTES

It seems that one of our neighbours on Goyt Road had cause to complain to the Town Clerk about a plot holder having what was a modest bonfire recently. There is nothing in the Rules & Regs to say that bonfires are banned of course and we certainly do not have that many. With the odd exception we have reasonably convivial relations with the local residents and ideally we should aim to keep it that way. It was unfortunate that our member's plot backs onto one of the residents who does tend to complain. Before having a bonfire, to avoid possible friction, perhaps we should check that there's no washing out and lighting it as far from the houses as possible. A complaint about using a strimmer on the allotment last summer was, I feel, completely unjustified. I don't know who they complain to when someone nearby gets a lawnmower out!

John Howes

John Howes, Secretary
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