

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

APRIL / MAY 2002

Dear Member,

Well, this weather is more like it, isn't it? At least it is at the time of writing. Lots of activity on the allotments and the gardening front generally – good news for sales at the store which is what we like!

There is, of course, bad news as well as good. Some of the bad was if you were a bit slow getting your name down for the trip to Llangollen on Saturday, 25 May as it is now fully booked (which is good from the Society's point of view!) It sounds like an inspired choice of venue by our 'trip supremo' who is now compiling a standby list in case anyone drops out. If you want to get on it ring Ethel on 734436 (I've double checked that!). More good news is that there are still some seats on our trip to Ness Gardens and Lodge Lane Nursery on Wednesday, 3 July. Cost for this trip is £12 and to book RING ME on 733579 – but hurry, I'd hate you to be doubly disappointed!

Members will recall the mention in the February newsletter of a 'garden trail' trip which Ethel was arranging and we can now give details. The venue is the really beautiful village of Thorpe Salvin near Worksop. It seems they regularly win all sorts of awards such as 'Britain in Bloom' and even one called 'Prix d'honneur European entente floral'. Don't ask me what it means but it's got to be a bit special! We go on Saturday, 3 August departing at 9.30am and the fare is only £5. There will be lots of gardens open to the public and an initial £2.50 gains admission to them all. There's a church with a superb Norman doorway and a splendid pub to boot. Don't miss this one! Phone Ethel to book.

On the subject of open gardens there's even more good news. Dennis and Mary Sharp are opening their garden, always popular with members, at Otterbrook, Alders Lane, Chinley on Sundays 23 and 30 June from 2pm and Ron and Joan Macbeth have again volunteered to open theirs for us in August, the date to be finalised. The visit last year was almost a total washout and only a handful of members, quite understandably, turned out. Ron tells me that after 17 years in the making the final piece of the jigsaw will be fitted to the garden in good time for our visit. Highly recommended!

Some organic gardens within reasonable reach for you to visit:- 'Millcroft', Millbridge, Castleton on Sat/Sun, 15/16 June and again on 3/4 August, 12.00 – 4.30pm; Hough Lane, Alderley Edge on Sat/Sun, 3/4 August, 12.00 – 5pm and 35 Heyes Lane, Timperley, Altrincham on Sunday, 4 August, 2 – 5pm. I have more details of these if you're interested.

It's our eagerly awaited plant swap/sale at the store on Saturday, 11 May at 2pm and it's your chance to pick up the odd interesting or unusual specimen as well as off-loading some of your spares. And of course a golden opportunity to make a purchase or two from our wide range of gardeners' requisites at the same time! Regular visitors to the store will not need reminding that after the slightest drop of rain it is advisable to wear sensible footwear – not that it will rain of course!

We were sorry to hear the news of the death of our member Mrs Shirley Fidler of Alders Farm, Chinley and formerly of Whaley.

Surprisingly, as I thought there would be more, only half a dozen members responded to my suggestion of receiving the newsletter by e-mail. Two of those are sent by post so at least we've made a modest saving there! E-mail me at the address below if you'd like to 'sign up'.

A recent committee meeting agreed to the suggestion that allotment holders may like to get together occasionally to swap seeds, plants or 'know-how', organize an 'open day' or a sale of produce if we have a glut (!) – that sort of thing. We thought it was a reasonable idea until only four plot holders turned up! However, rather than forget the whole thing we decided to see if there is any interest from the general membership for meetings where we can chat about things other than vegetables, manure etc.! So, we've arranged to meet on Tuesday, 14 May at the White Horse, Horwich End at 7.30pm. There's a back room where the 'music' is turned off! Come along if you're interested.

A warm welcome to new members Mrs Garlick of Shallcross Avenue, Mrs Eaton of High Street, New Mills, Mrs Allcock of Hockerley Avenue and Mr Belfield of Horse Fair Avenue, Chapel.

Joyce Eyre has a considerable amount of netting she doesn't want. I think it's called chain link – the sort that goes round tennis courts (that's where it came from in fact) and apparently can be cut down if 7ft is too deep for you. I could be sued under the Trades Descriptions Act if I said it was in pristine condition but if you'd like to have look at it ring Mrs Eyre on 732003.

The more I get to know members the more impressed I am by the breadth of knowledge there is around apart from, obviously, flowers. Bird life and natural history generally, photography, local history, goats and, no doubt, much more. (Geoff Howe kindly put me right following my piece about crows flying around in pairs. They are, of course, jackdaws.)

But here's a challenge. Do we have a member, or know of anyone, who is knowledgeable about winemaking (not drinking – there'll be plenty of those, I know) and feels competent enough to judge a proposed new wine section at the Whaley Show in September. If anyone can help please ring Jane Coverley on 733127.

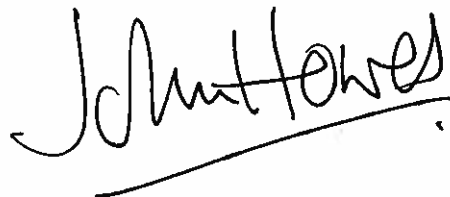
ALLOTMENT NOTES

It's that time of the year when the allotment rent demand drops through the letter box! It's still a reasonable £5 and not much to pay for the enjoyment you can get from the plot – not to mention all the fresh veg. of course. At least one plot holder is not renewing his rental which is good news for the Kellocks (he wasn't a member so he won't be reading this!) so we'll be having a new neighbour in due course. Whoever it is will have his, or her, work cut out!

There's the usual good show of our old friend the lesser celandine and although not rarities nice to spot a yellow wagtail and a goldfinch also a thrush which you don't see too many of these days.

Regular readers will already know that all these ramblings are just padding to make this a 'double header' – whatever that means – and the next newsletter will appear in June.

IMPORTANT! If you booked for Llangollen by leaving a message on the unfortunate gent's answerphone whose number I wrongly included in a previous newsletter and you haven't since contacted Ethel – please do so now to confirm (or otherwise) your booking. I hope this doesn't cause problems for any of you – see paragraph two!



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