



## WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



### APRIL 2017

A few days of sunshine and warmth combined with April showers and our gardens are springing to life. The store reports a brisk trade as we look forward to the start of the gardening season. All prices have been held at last year's rates so please make use of the store for all your gardening needs.



#### Coming events.

*Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May is our annual plant swap and sale* at the Elnor Lane store from 10 to 12 a.m. If you have surplus stock from your lifting, dividing and potting please bring it along potted and labelled to swap with other members. If you don't have anything to bring come and pick up a bargain for a small donation or just for a chat.

*Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May* we have a talk at 2 p.m at Whaley Bridge Uniting Church given by Jacqueline Iddon of Iddon Hardy Plants. This costs £1 for members and £2 for guests and there will be the usual refreshments and free raffle.

*On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May* there will be a coffee morning at the Mechanics Institute from 9.30 a.m. till noon. There will be a plant stall; donated items including raffle prizes would be appreciated and also offers of help to Rosemary (733393).

Our first trip of the season is on *Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to Don Witton's euphorbia allotment* in Sheffield. The coach will leave Whaley at 9 a.m. Many of you enjoyed Don's illustrated talk last year and were impressed by the range of colour obtainable from this group of hardy plants. We are assured this is the best time of year to view Don's collection and there will be an opportunity to buy plants. We will then go on to Sheffield Botanical Gardens with a brief tour with one of the gardeners from 2 till 3 and the

opportunity to have lunch in the cafe or a picnic. Price including tea and biscuits is £27.50. To book please contact Rosemary by 17<sup>th</sup> May (733393)

#### Allotment news.

It has been difficult to evaluate any improvement to drainage following the work done due to recent heavy rain. Some improvement has been noted but further work will probably be needed.



#### Membership news.

Welcome to Mr Henry Synowiec of Bridgemont who joined us at the social meeting.

As indicated in the January newsletter, the committee has now fully considered the merits of changing our affiliation from NSALG to

A&GC(UK) "Allotments and Garden Council UK" and has unanimously decided to switch once our current affiliation expires in July. This will be proposed for ratification and amendment of the constitution at the next AGM. The new fee and discounted insurance will save the society £340 annually with no loss of benefits apart from the NSALG quarterly magazine. The new seed order scheme will be with Dobies via A&GC(UK). Further details of the scheme will be advised in a future newsletter.

### Recent events.

Just over 30 attended the social meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, of which 2 were guests. Roy welcomed all, especially new members Rose Dickinson, and Tim & Val Crispin. Bob gave the now annual slide show reviewing the four coach trips run by the Society last year. Amazingly the weather was good on each occasion and members were able to fully enjoy the trips. The sunshine helped brighten the photos, providing light and shade, and gave members a feel for what the trips will hopefully be like this year. As usual Bob managed a few candid camera photos to raise a laugh or two and got a decent round of applause for his efforts. It was noted that some members were not able to hear Bob's commentary clearly so next time a portable PA system

might be used. Rosemary had arranged a very appetising mixed buffet which members enjoyed following the slide show whilst chatting merrily amongst themselves.

### Out and about.

Chapel en le Frith Gardening Club have talks on Cacti and Succulents (26.4.17) and Medicinal Trees (31.5.17) Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. at Chapel Town Hall and cost £2 for non-members.

Plant hunters' fairs in our area are on the following dates:-  
23.4.17 Consall Gardens, Wetley Rocks (ST9 0AG)  
7.5.17 Adlington Hall, Macclesfield. (SK10 4LF)  
21.5.17 Cholmondley Castle, Malpas (SY14 8HN)  
29.5.17 Carsington Water, Ashbourne. (DE6 1ST)  
Further details at [www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk](http://www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk).

The National Garden Scheme (NGS) opens gardens to the public to raise money for charity and is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with special openings on 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May. Our nearest open garden on this weekend is Gamesley Fold Cottage – an old fashioned cottage garden with rhododendrons, herbaceous borders and candelabra primulas. There is a plant nursery selling wild flowers and cottage garden plants. The garden is open on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May (1 till 4) and is located at Gamesley Fold, Glossop SK13 6JJ. ([www.gamesleyfold.co.uk](http://www.gamesleyfold.co.uk))

A new local garden opening is Higher Crossings, Crossings Rd., Chapel SK23 9RX open on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1.30 to 4 p.m. offering 2 acres of formal terraced country garden with sweeping lawns with rhododendrons, acers, hostas and herbaceous borders, mature specimen trees and shrubs.

Finally the first RHS flower show at Chatsworth will be held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June and promises to fuse the traditional with the unexpected. I know some of our members have already booked tickets.

### Podiceps Cristatus.

The return of the grebe certainly aroused our readers' interest. His article on the invasive horror that is Japanese knotweed in Whaley Bridge was news to some of our readers. Shoots of this plant should now be emerging and it is easily identifiable.



There is a wealth of information and images available online about this plant and I will happily print information for those who do not have internet access.