

**WHALEY BRIDGE**  
**Allotment & Gardeners'**  
**Society**

# newsletter

May' 01

Dear Member,

At last we've had a spell of decent weather - if not always that warm. It's certainly been good enough to suddenly bring everything on in the garden. There are some superb tulips around - these are fast becoming my favourite flower at this time of the year (I thought you'd like to know that). And the weather was good for our Swap Shop at the store last Saturday - most of the mud had thankfully dried up and there was a splendid turn out of members bringing, I'm told, an excellent selection of plants. I say I'm told because I spent most of the time actually in the store scribbling out receipts for members' purchases - worth over £132! So a very successful afternoon once again and our thanks to everybody who came.

Members will no doubt have heard the sad news of the death of Bill Wright. Bill, together with his wife Win, had been a member for many years and was a valued committee member where his vast knowledge was used to good effect when the subject of venues for trips came up as he had usually been there at some time. Over the years there can't have been many of our coffee mornings, trips, talks etc. that Bill and Win weren't to be seen at plus until recently they did a regular stint at the store and delivered newsletters. Bill will be missed not just by his colleagues on the committee but also by the many members who knew him. Our sympathies go to Win and family.

Final details of our trip to Calke Abbey and Clumber Park on Saturday, 16 June:- We depart from the usual points (Horwich End PO and Jodrell) at 9.45am and the cost is £9 (£6.50 for NT members - bring your membership cards!) Payment by cheque would be appreciated but is not mandatory! There is a £2 charge for entry to the house at Calke Abbey and a modest charge for admission to the walled garden at Clumber Park. The usual excellent NT refreshments are available at both venues to keep you going. Should our plans be scuttled by any foot & mouth developments we have been promised a Grand Mystery Tour!

Another date for your diary - Ron & Joan Macbeth have kindly agreed to open their garden for us on Sunday, 12 August. Some members will have visited their garden at The Dell, Elnor Lane three or four years ago but following Ron's policy of continual improvement there's lots of new things to see and of course we have lots of new members who weren't with us last time. More details nearer the time.

A reminder of the Coffee Morning on Saturday, 23 June at the Mechanics when we'll need all the usual help. I'll be boring you further in the next newsletter.

Welcome to new member Joanne Simpson of Wharf Road.

## VIEW FROM THE ALLOTMENTS

We're fast becoming a proper little nature reserve on the plots with sightings of goldfinches, tree creepers, a lone long tailed tit plus some geese flew past the other day. Sightings also of new plot holders working away trying to lick overgrown plots into shape which, as I know only too well, ain't easy! Plot holders and the odd passer-by on the allotment have commented on how nice the carpet of attractive small yellow flowers are under the trees. I thought so too until I read an article recently naming it as Lesser Celandine and spelling out how invasive this shadeloving weed is. I've spotted great wads of the stuff in various gardens completely swamping established plants and even spreading across lawns. Once the flowers have died the whole thing disappears until next spring when it reappears only twice as bad. Be warned, be vigilant! As soon as you see it dig it out with as much soil as possible and in to the bin with it. If this is LESSER Celandine goodness knows what havoc the GREATER variety can cause. But you will know all this already of course! (This is the first and probably last in an occasional series of 'Perennial Problems').



John Howes, Secretary  
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