

W. B. Allotment & Garden Soc

NEWSLETTER May 08

At last I think I detect an improvement in the weather, certainly there must be if the sudden burst of activity on the allotments is anything to go by. Of course, the reason could be the recent letter from the Town Clerk's office requesting the annual rent which shows a hike from (only) £5 to £20. There have been mutterings from plot holders but I don't hear of anyone not renewing their lease so there can't be too many serious complaints. The suggestion that we might paint all our blue water butts a nice shade of green is a different matter and was greeted with due amusement!

Thanks to the efforts of Bob Kellock behind the scenes we now have a path of tarmac planings taken from local roadworks snaking its way through the site which make it much easier to walk along. (Good bit of recycling this). Our thanks go to the Community Service lads for doing the bulk of the physical work over several weekends with the wheelbarrows and shovels. Hopefully we can now quietly return to the virtually unknown backwater we've all enjoyed in the past to spend the hazy, lazy days of summer that's going to be glorious this year!

On the subject of allotments there's a report of an interesting sighting from Mike High who was startled to spot a heron on his plot. I wonder who was the more surprised! Last year we did have some duck activity and one wonders what will be next. Fish perhaps?

There are still seats available on the trip to Consall Hall on Sunday, 18 May. I understand the 75acre gardens boast spectacular views, lakes and good paths with plenty of seats. The cost of the trip is £20 per head and includes admission plus a good buffet. Departure is at 10am from Whaley and we should be back by 5.30pm. Contact Rosemary on 733393 to book and she would appreciate payment by 10th May as she has to pay the admission and buffet costs in advance.

Please note the store will NOT be open on the day of this trip but WILL be open the day before (Sat).

Before that though it's time for our annual Plant Swap at the store on Elnor Lane at 2pm on Saturday, 10th May where you can bring any spare plants you have to either swap or sell – proceeds from any sales are usually donated to the Society. The store will be open for sales of composts and fertilizers etc.

Quickly following on from that it's our Coffee Morning at the Mechanics on Saturday, 31 May. The usual help from members will be much appreciated. Cakes will be especially welcome and we expect to have a good selection of plants courtesy of member Roger Wood. Given a decent day weatherwise it could be one of the all time great Coffee Mornings!

Rosemary is now taking bookings for our Grand 25th Anniversary Garden Party at Joan Macbeth's garden at The Dell, Elnor Lane on Saturday, 14 June. Admission is limited to 60 and is by ticket only at £10 per head so ring Rosemary now to book yours, We'd hate you to be disappointed and bear in mind it's another twentyfive years to the 50th!

Whilst you are booking for the above Rosemary will give details and take your bookings for Gresgarth Hall on Sunday, 10th August and the Harrogate Autumn Show on Sunday, 14 September. This is the final day of the Harrogate Show where all items are sold off so some bargains may be had.

Michael Healey who now runs Shallcross Nursery on Elnor Lane is offering a 10% discount to members on all sorts of goodies. His speciality is hanging baskets, tubs etc. So why not pay him a visit.

Sadly, we've reached the point where we have to assume that those who have not renewed their membership no longer wish to remain in the Society. We thank them for their support in the past. We are pleased however to welcome new member Mrs Doney of Whaley Lane.

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