

WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society

May 2019

My garden has turned from yellow to purple and blue in a matter of days this spring with a mass of bluebells filling the hedge border. I have been plagued by lily beetles this year and am perfecting my hunting technique with a jam jar and teaspoon.



Store news.

The Daves report brisk business at the store, they reordered growbags after a run on stock only to sell out again at the next opening.

Allotment news.

An application has been made to the Tesco "bags of help" scheme to fund further improvements on the allotments.

Membership news.

A warm welcome to four new members – Mrs Christine Smith and Susan Ingham from Furness

Vale, Mrs Angy Bovill from Kettleshulme and Alan Pickford from Whaley. Our thoughts are with Christine Brooks following the recent death of her husband David.

Donations from the society have been made to Whaley Hall in memory of our late chairman Bob Pierce agreed by Pam his widow, to the Buxton Mountain Rescue team and to the Appeal to build a Christie cancer care centre in Macclesfield.

Recent events.

The talk "Banquets for Bees and Butterflies" was well attended. Jane Allison had taken most of the photos herself showing a wide range of common species and how bees and butterflies gather nectar from flowering plants and in doing so transfer pollen from one plant to another. Around two thirds of what we eat is from plants pollinated by these insects so it is important we use our gardens to encourage them and compensate for habitat loss elsewhere. We can plant nectar bars and make insect hotels; mining bees like hollow bamboo and colonies of bumble bees like to hibernate in nooks and crannies and even compost heaps. We are urged not to be

too tidy and to sow mixes of native flower seeds, red flowers attract butterflies and yellow ones bees. Countrywide the bee and butterfly population is declining due to diseases and parasites, farming practices and habitat loss. Jane showed photos of a list of her top plants for pollinators but also urged us to consider the caterpillars and their food plant needs, let's all have a small patch of nettles in our gardens.

19 members and guests enjoyed our first trip of the year to the Harrogate Spring flower show on 28th April. After torrential rain during the previous 24 hours we were treated to a fine spring day. The show was busy but there was plenty to see and do indoors and out with food, crafts and floristry on show as well as excellent displays from the nurseries.



The range and quality of plants

for sale was excellent.



Rosemary timed our departure so we could bag some bargains from the sell-off.

Coming Soon.

There is a further opportunity to bag a bargain at our **Plant Swap** at the Elnor Lane store on Sunday 26th May 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This is closely followed by our **Coffee Morning** at the Mechanics Institute on Saturday 1st June which will also have the usual plant stall. Donations for the plant stall and raffle, home baking and helping hands on the day are all appreciated.

Our next outing is to **Tilston Open Gardens** on Saturday 8th June leaving Whaley at 9.30 a.m. There are still places available on the coach and the cost is £27. Let Rosemary know if you want to come.

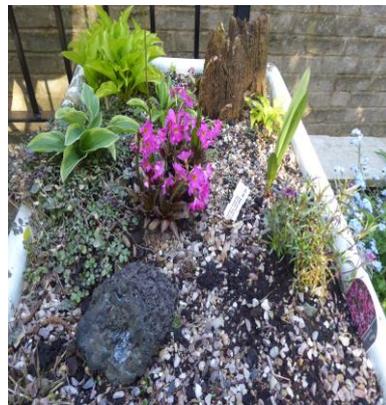


Included in the approximately twelve gardens open in the village is the opportunity to visit the gardens of Stretton Old Hall featured in Gardeners' World in 2018. Don't miss what promises to be an excellent day out.

A date for your diary.

The second talk of the year is not in your diary of events but will be on **Thursday 3rd October**, 2 p.m. at the Uniting Church. Roger has booked the mycologist Patrick Harding who will present a "Mushroom Miscellany". The cost is £2 for members and £3 for guests. Patrick has written a number of definitive field guides to fungi and identifying edible mushrooms.

Out and about.



If you still have little gaps in your garden you may like to visit the East Cheshire Alpine Garden Society Show after our coffee morning on the 1st June. This is being held at Bramhall Village Club till 3.30 p.m. with alpine plants for sale. Admission £3 ph (2, Melbourne Rd., SK7 1LR)

Shallcross nursery on Elnor Lane has a wide range of plants for baskets and tubs as well as perennials. You can obtain a discount on production of your

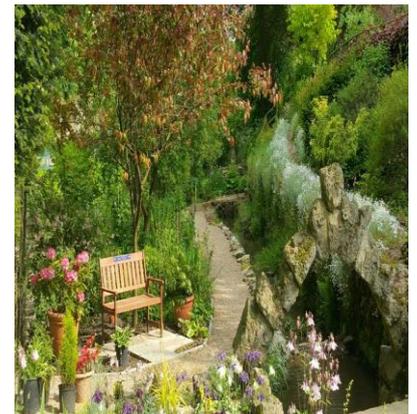
membership card. They always support us with raffle prizes so it's good to return the favour.

Chapel Gardening Club have a talk on May 29th 2 p.m. at the Town Hall by Barbara Wilkinson entitled "Herbs for Summer, how to keep cool."

There is a plant hunters fair on spring bank holiday Monday 27th May at Carsington Water (DE6 1ST)

The National Garden Scheme have open gardens on 27th & 28th May at Higher Crossing on Crossings Road in Chapel (SK23 9RX) I went last year and would recommend a visit. Tissington Hall gardens are open on Monday 27th May (£6) and are celebrating over 75 years in the NGS.

Cascades garden at Bonsall is open on Sunday 16th June for the NGS (£5) DE4 2AH. The owner, Alan Clements, gave us a talk "From Jungle to Paradise" describing the making of this garden last October. I am happy to offer a lift on this day (733070)



This 4 acre garden has a stream, pond, ruined corn mill and old lead mine. We were told about the devastation caused by flooding last year so it will be interesting to see how the garden has recovered.