



WHALEY BRIDGE *Allotment & Gardeners'* *Society*



MAY 2021

Weather we like it or not!

With a record number of frosty nights, very little rainfall, strong winds and hailstorms we have seen some challenges to our gardening ambitions in the last couple of months. However, everthing has its time and the cherry blossom is finally blooming and the garden turning from the yellow of daffodils to the blue of bluebells. I am hoping to see last year's lockdown projects come to fruition whilst trying not to be too impatient.

If , like me, you need something to look forward to the programme of events for the coming year is attached.

We welcome new members, **Jackie Goodwin** of Shallcross Avenue and **Carol Cade** of Buxton Road and look forward to meeting old and new friends at events.



The **Elnor Lane store** will be open Sunday mornings from 10 till 12

until Sunday 27th June. There is now no need to make an appointment but please respect social distancing advice. There was a brisk trade this Sunday morning with two out of three Daves serving a steady stream of customers.

When attending events please ensure you bring a face mask if required and a supply of hand gel.

Although we are not holding the plant swap this year we will be hosting a **coffee morning and plant stall** outside the Mechanics Institute on Saturday 5th June. If you have potted and labelled plants to donate they can be brought to the store between 10 and 12 on Sunday 30th May or brought to the Mechanics on the day. The catering team will use disposable beakers, plates and flasks and the catering team are permitted use of the kitchen. Any cakes donated need to be handed in to be divided and individually wrapped. Please send any raffle prizes to Bob and contact Rosemary if you are able to help with catering. Roger and David are organising plant sales and all numbers can be found in

the footer. All helpers must wear face masks.



Our first outing is an afternoon trip to 2 gardens near Lymm. Bob and Rosemary have visited these gardens on an NGS open day and recommend them to us. Laskeys Farm is largely accessible and 10, Statham Avenue has some steps to reach the rear garden and some sloping gravel paths. Light refreshments will be available.

A return trip to Breezy Knees near York is planned for Tuesday 27th July.



I think we were all taken aback on our first visit by the size of this nursery and its display gardens and unable to do it full justice when combined with another visit.

With 20 acres to explore and a range of gardens for different aspects and times of year we are sure to pick up some ideas and some unusual plants from the specialist perennial nursery. There is a cafe offering soup, quiche, toasted sandwiches and jacket potatoes at lunch time and light refreshments throughout the day.

Your friends and guests are welcome to join us on these outings.

Save the date of Thursday 26th August for a trip to RHS Harlow Carr near Harrogate. More details to follow. As we are now affiliated as a society to the RHS we can have one free visit each year to an RHS garden making this trip excellent value for money.



One of my personal favourite plants are the candelabra primulas which flourish in the moist conditions of the streamside garden with Harlow Carr having its own named hybrid

varieties. Carr is an old Norse word meaning a fen or boggy woodland so I think this is a classic case of right plant/ right place.

We also hope to take advantage of our RHS affiliation by making a trip to the new RHS garden at Bridgewater Hall next year which opens to the public for the first time on 18th May this year.

Out and about.

There is a plant hunter fair at Capesthorpe Hall on the 6th June. Entry is by prebooked timed tickets costing £3.50.

The NGS are again raising money for charity by supporting the opening of private gardens. Southlands in Stretford is celebrating 21 years of opening for the NGS on Saturday 18th July. I am planning to visit 2 gardens in Crookes, Sheffield on the 24th July. The owners work at the department of Landscape Architecture at Sheffield University and were involved in the planting for the Olympic Park.



They place an emphasis on sustainability, recycling and planning for a changing climate and will be available on the day to talk about their ideas.

Full details of these events can be found online but if you do not have internet access I would be happy to provide you with further information, just give me a call.

Roger Wood has some locally grown plants for sale including
Erigeron Karvinskianus
Verbena Bonariensis
Yellow and dark aquilegia
Achilles Millefolium
Giant Scabious
Hellebore and Linaria seedlings
Red Persicaria.



Don't forget to support **Shallcross Nursery** who give a discount to members and support us with raffle prizes. They specialise in hanging baskets and can refill your baskets as well as having a wide range of plants for sale.

Finally put your feet up.

Join in Plantlife's "**No Mow May**" Campaign. Lock up your lawnmower and let the wildflowers in your lawn bloom providing a feast of food for hungry pollinators. At the end of the month you can count up the wildflowers on your lawn and submit this to Plantlife's "Every Flower Matters" survey. You will get a nectar score for your garden telling you how many insects you are supporting and a vote of thanks from the insects and the rest of the food web!