

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

JUNE 2000

Dear Member,

Well, what a month! And for once I am not talking about the weather although as usual we've had just about everything again....a couple of weeks hotter than normal prompting mutterings on the allotments about needing 'a drop of rain' and then what do we get? Two weeks of well above average rainfall, hail, thunder and lightning ending up with two good days but with frost at night. Yours truly was out at 9pm each evening after hearing the weather forecast covering his early potatoes and tomatoes with newspaper and fleece (see last month's newsletter) only to find, rather annoyingly, that those who hadn't bothered had luckily suffered no ill effects either!

No, I'm talking about a really good month enjoyed by our members. Firstly the plant swap - we must have had four times as many people up as last year with some splendid plants. I'm not sure of the exact numbers as Mary and I seemed to spend most of the time in the store taking money in return for goods - more than £100 in fact plus over £20 in donations for plants. Thanks to everyone, including some new faces, who helped make it such a successful afternoon.

And the millennium (that's definitely the last time I use the word) garden party! Sixty one of us got together to enjoy a drink or three plus an excellent buffet and of course to toast the new millennium (damn) proposed by our chairman, John Pressman. From the comments I heard it seemed everyone had a good time and is thinking of reasons to do it again (we'll be 20 years old in a few years time!). The star prize of a bottle of Moët & Chandon was won by Karen Simpson, a box of chocolates went to Mike Brunt and Mrs Kennedy took home a cyclamen plant. Thanks go to the Rev. Neil Smith for the buffet and yet again to Ethel Hallam for organising it all.

Mention of Ethel reminds me of the brilliant inaugural well dressing down by the canal which I'm sure you will all have seen by now. Not only Ethel, who is well dressing chairman, but several of our (mostly) lady members were involved in what was a really time consuming project for several months. Looking at the new Whaley guide I see that quite a few of our ladies play leading roles in various associations locally. I don't know how they manage to fit it all in and still get their husbands' meals on the table as well!

Don't forget the coffee morning on Saturday, July 1st at the Mechanics. Old hands know what's needed by now in the way of help on the day but for our newer members we need cakes, preserves, books and as many plants as we can rustle up - in fact anything saleable. Plus prizes for the raffle. Kick off is at 9am.

The trip to Flore on Saturday, June 17 will depart at 8.30 from Horwich End Post Office and the Jodrell. The cost, which includes a stop for coffee and Danish pastry to keep us going, is £8.50 and payment by cheque will be appreciated. Seats are still available on the trip to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens and Bridgemere on Saturday, August 5. Ring Ethel for details or to book.

Members who missed the visit to Mr & Mrs Sharp's superb garden at Otterbrook, Alders Lane, Chinley last year have two opportunities to put that right this summer when the garden is being opened under the Yellow Book scheme. Dates are June 25 and July 9 from 2pm to 5pm and entry is £1.50 the proceeds going to charity. Park on the main road and wear stout shoes for the walk up Alders Lane. We still need another garden for our members to visit by the way.

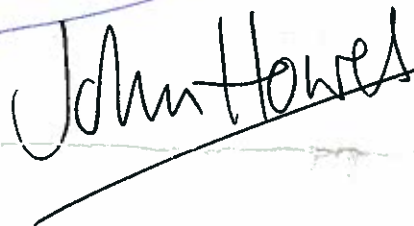
For good healthy bedding plants at 'car boot' prices members should contact Charlie Marshall on 732523 (evenings) or he can usually be found on his allotment at the rear of 36 Goyt Road.

Janet Langman's hardy perennial nursery at Top of the Plane, Ashboume Lane, Chapel is open for business every weekday except Friday from 4pm. A donation to High Peak Hospice allows visitors a stroll round her garden which we visited last summer.

The time is rapidly approaching when we have the unpleasant chore of writing to those who have not paid their extremely modest subs for this year, reluctantly assuming they no longer wish to retain their membership. If your membership card says 1999 and not 2000 you may well be hearing from us shortly although I'm sure it will only be an oversight and it's not too late to cough up!

On a more pleasant note we welcome four new members :- Mrs Linda Hooley of Shallcross Avenue, new and I'm pleased to say keen allotment holder Roy Jennings of Meadowfield and the Reverends Neil Smith and David Hall both of Whaley Hall.

year to pay.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Howes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

John Howes, Secretary
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