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

Dear Member

JUNE 2005

Pleased to report another very successful coffee morning and thanks go to all those who came up with really mouthwatering cakes and splendid plants and everyone who helped. Raise your glasses to the lady from the opticians who won first prize in the raffle. Other winners were Mrs Berry (Sheila), Mrs Aldous, Dr Pearson and Mrs Gregson. Weather was good so we could tout our wares on the street which always helps and there were very few plants unsold..

One unusual plant that wasn't snapped up is a fine Hibiscus donated by Mrs McPeake from Kettlehuhne. The feeling is that these are a bit tender for our area but should do well in a conservatory or greenhouse. It's in a pot and shouldn't get too big so if anyone is interested in giving it a home and has £5 to spare give me a ring. First come first served.

Our Plant Swap at the store also went well, helped by the fact that there wasn't a puddle in sight! Thanks to all who brought plants and to those who used the occasion to buy from the store.

Our trip to Harlow Carr this coming Saturday is fully booked and should be a good day out. There are still seats available for the Wednesday, 6 July outing to Oswaldtwistle Mills (phone me on 733579) and Ryton Organic Gardens on 23 July (phone Ethel on 734436).

All our trips this year depart from the Jodrell at 9.30am so please be at your pick-up points at Buxton for 9.00, Chapel and Board etc at 9.15 and Horwich End for 9.20 at the latest. Of course, you'll want to be a few minutes earlier to make sure you don't miss the bus, won't you! Other items for your diaries and some good news is that the annual pilgrimage to Otterbrook in Alders Lane, Chinley doesn't clash with any of our events so you'll be able to visit Dennis and Mary Sharp's superb garden (as seen on TV!). The garden is open on Sundays, 12 and 26 June between 2 and 5pm, admission is £2 and there are plants and home-made teas for sale. It's all in aid of the National Gardens Scheme and last year the Sharps raised a magnificent £600 plus for the NGS charities. Park on Buxton Road, Chinley and take a leisurely stroll down Alders Lane. There's a Flower Festival at the Uniting Church on the theme of 'Creation' on 7-9 July with live entertainment and refreshments available throughout the day on the 9<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Also, if any members have plants or produce for sale a table can be set up for this. Maybe some members would like to get together and do something on those lines. Ring Sue Rowlands on 733454 for further details.

Members will have been sorry to hear of the death of our member Walter Booth of Goyt Road. Walter was a keen allotment gardener and a founder member and former chairman of the Society. One of the quiet, pipe smoking school of gardeners it was always a pleasure to leave the spade behind and go and have a chat with Walter. Our sympathies go to his wife Kathy and family.

Sorry to say that quite a few members have not renewed their subscriptions this year. Whether it's due to the increase in subscriptions or other reasons I'm not sure. Maybe they've just forgot although I keep putting out reminders in the newsletter. Of course, I know what it is!! They don't read the newsletter!

We still have a reasonable supply of most items on your list at the store especially the John Innes range of composts and Humax peat. Our supplier had no Levington plus JI so we haven't either. What we do have that nobody seems to buy is Phostrogen moss killer and lawn tonic. You simply mix this with water and apply it via the watering can. I've used it and it's less bother than fiddling with a spreader. Gardening Which? rated it very highly.

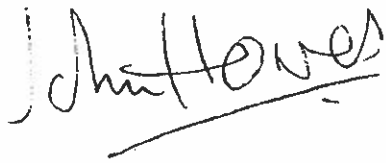
My remarks re giving up Nature Notes brought a flood of pleas urging me not to drop it from the newsletter. Well, one member said I should continue to include it! So....

#### NATURE NOTES

The saga of the wren continues. It (or they - one wren looks to me very much like another so there may be several or just one that moves around a lot) keeps appearing and occasionally disappears into the leaf mould bin. It's either nesting or it's just a bolthole to get away from its partner for a bit.

#### VIEW FROM THE ALLOTMENTS

Everything is bursting forth into life on the allotments with a vengeance now. It's was panic stations for a time because we seemed to have been behind with everything but it all gets done eventually and soon catches up after a spell of decent weather. We have flowers on the broad beans and tomatoes, the blackcurrants, strawberries, apples and blueberries are forming - and the wet spell we've had has provided a good show of slugs, snails and weeds.



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