



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

BUSY, BUSY, BUZZY (?)



Joe and Heather Bush hard at work planting

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are delighted to welcome four new members:- **Neil Dainty** of Birch Vale, **Maureen Clarke**, Lucille Gamble, **Jean Graves** and **Sarah Moran**, all of Whaley Bridge.

We are sorry to report the recent deaths of **Peter Jodrell** and **Len Derrick**. Peter was a valued friend and tradesman to many in and around Whaley Bridge. Len was known by many as the former joint owner, with his brother, of Shallcross Nursery. Our sympathies go to their families and close friends.

Unfortunately, 20 members have not renewed their subscriptions this year and will not receive this or future newsletters. All will be welcome back if they wish to rejoin.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Lindsay Morris has resigned from the Committee. For a variety of reasons, she felt that "the time was right". We thank her for her enormous contribution. Lindsay thanks the Society for the gift of a beautiful white azalea. It flowered for five weeks indoors and she has now planted it in her garden.

Mike High and **Tim Newton** have been co-opted to the Committee.

The **AGM** has been moved to **Friday, 29 October** to avoid a clash with another local event. Same time and place.

STORE NEWS

The store will be open until July 4th on Sundays and also on Wednesdays until June 16th. See the March newsletter for further information or go to our website (see below).

TOOLS At this busy time of year, do not forget the tools you can borrow. See March Newsletter or website and contact **Bob Kellock** (01663 733393) if interested.

DISCOUNTS Please note that Andy's Machine Start is **no longer** offering a discount to WBAGS members.

*******BOOK NOW*******

COACH VISIT TO MEYNELL LANGLEY TRIAL GARDENS AND KEDLESTON HALL. 31st JULY.

What a day of contrasts this promises to be! Enjoy the three-quarter acre, Victorian style garden of Meynell Langley, which displays and trials both new and existing plants (fruit trees, vegetables, herbaceous perennials and bedding), all being grown for sale in the Meynell Langley nurseries.

www.meynell-langley-gardens.co.uk

Move on to Kedleston Hall, back in style to the mid 1700's and change scale from the intimate to the grand. Stroll around the naturalistic

shrubberies, sweeping lawns and Pleasure Grounds.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

See also Diary Notes 2010 and contact **Rosemary Kellock** to book (01663 733393) by 27th July. *****

COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE 19th JUNE

This will be held at the Mechanics Institute between 9am and 12 noon. Please tell your friends. Please tell **Roger Wood** (01663 732112) and **Dave Osborn** (01663 733659) if you have spare plants to give. There will be a cake stall and bric-a-brac stall. If you have contributions for these, please tell **Rosemary Kellock** 01663 733393.

INFORMAL SOCIAL EVENING 13th AUGUST

This will be held in Trinity Church Hall between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Drop in, have a glass of wine or coffee, meet other members, swap news and share ideas. We may have an informal "Q and A" session.

!!!! LAUNCH ON 1ST JUNE OF www.wbags.co.uk !!!!



Mike High (pictured) and **Tim Newton** have been working hard to bring to you our very own website.

This will be available from 1 June. You will be able to place a request for an item to be put on the website, using a link contained within the site. Development will be ongoing. We hope the website will present existing and prospective members with an alternative or additional opportunity to learn more about what our Society offers.

OPENING OF OTTERBROOK

13th JUNE 1pm – 5pm

Mary and Dennis Sharp are opening their garden once again at Otterbrook, Alders Lane (off Buxton Road), Chinley. Home-made teas will be available and home grown plants will be on sale. Profits will go to the National Garden Scheme charities. Parking at the house is limited, so please park on Buxton Road and walk up Alders Lane (300 yards). Toilet available. Tel. 01663 750335.



Mary and Dennis hard at work preparing

ALEXIS BUDD'S OPEN GARDEN

10 JULY 1.30pm ONWARDS

1, The Sidings, Whaley Bridge

Alexis's garden is one of the newer ones in Whaley Bridge and is still at the formative stage. It comprises three terraces. It is a family garden, in terms of food productivity, play areas and ornamental features. There will be the usual refreshments and a raffle. A small charge will be made for entry/refreshments. Fruit and eggs will be on sale. Proceeds will go to a charity of Alexis's choice. Children of all ages welcome. Space is limited in The Sidings, so please leave your car on Market Street and walk over the railway footbridge. A toilet is available. 01663 719913.

VISIT TO THE HIMALAYAN GARDEN, NEAR RIPON 8 MAY

The owner gave us an informative talk about how the garden was developed, then members wandered freely. The colours of the rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and bedding plants were beautiful. There were some very good, as well as some very quirky, sculptures in and around the garden. We had good weather and loaded the coach with plant purchases. A big thank you to **Charles Johns**, one of our members, for bringing this private garden to the Society's notice.

NEW AUTUMN DIARY DATE

The autumn talk will be given by Simon Tetlow of Tatton Park. "The Japanese Garden at Tatton Park." **Tuesday 2nd November at 7.30pm in the Uniting Church.**

Suggestions for speakers are always welcome. Ideas to **Rosemary Kellock** at rosemarykellock@tiscali.com or 01663 733393

FOR SALE

Bosch Rotak 40 Electric Push Mower. Almost new. £60. Contact **Roger Wood** 01663 735304.

AVAILABLE

Freshly cut bamboo canes up to 8' and living willow offcuts up to 12'. First come, first served. User collects. Contact **Steve Woodward** 01663 732647.

MUSINGS FROM PODICEPS CRISTATUS...

We all know pollination is the transfer of pollen in the flowers of plants, enabling fertilisation and fruiting. About 80% of pollination is by insects. The remainder is mainly by wind eg in grasses and cereals. The honey bee pollinates at least a third of all UK crop species – soft fruits, berries, cherries, apples, pears and flowering vegetables.

During the last two years a 15%-25% reduction of the bee population has occurred – a worry to fruit and veg. producers and consumers. Although we hear a lot about lost hive colonies due to Colony Collapse Disorder, some pesticides and infection by the varroa mite, the losses in the UK and Northern Europe are due mainly to seriously adverse weather – two years with wet springs and summers followed by a very cold winter.

We cannot change the weather but we can BEE AWARE of how we gardeners can help. Bees need flowers for sustenance (nectar) and flowers need bees for pollination. We can help bees by growing flowers which provide the nectar they need, especially at the start and end of the bees' honey-producing cycle (March–Sept). Flowers with coloured petals and strong scent attract bees and other pollinators. Here are some examples: **Spring** – bluebells, daffodils, crab apple, flowering cherry, currants, hawthorn, hellebores and viburnum: **early summer** – aquilegia, campanula, geranium, foxglove, potentilla, thyme and verbasicum: **late summer** – aster, buddleia, single dahlias, delphiniums, fuschia, heather, lavender, sedum and verberna.

If you want more information, see www.naturalengland.org.uk and see "advice and information". Also see www.britishbee.org.uk (the British Beekeepers' Association).



E-MAIL Want newsletters by e-mail in future? If so, contact the Editor GillMWilliamson@hotmail.com