



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER ON DROUGHT AND HORNETS...



Drought! 7 weeks and 2 days in...
(Remember?)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Society is pleased to welcome into membership Morwenna Brooke, Kirk Brough, Eileen Heyes and Jim Morrison of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Lesley Brooks, Dave and Jean Dugate, Andy Fox, Rob Huggins, Kay Winter and Betty Pearson of Whaley Bridge, Diane Berresford of Chinley, Kay Sutton of Pott Shrigley and Jackie Fairbrother of Doveholes.

17 members did not renew their membership this year and will not receive further communications. All will be welcome back on payment of a subscription!

DISCOUNT

Strikes Garden Centre have withdrawn their discount. They have now started a "Garden Club" and will offer our members a preferential membership deal. Please apply to Bob Kellock (phone number below) for the relevant application form if you are interested.

EVENTS COMING UP

COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE

Saturday, 11th June Mechanics Institute
9.00am – 12 noon

Please bring spare plants and packs of seeds to the Mechanics Institute and let Rosemary Kellock have small gift items suitable for a tombola (or similar) in advance. Home-baking items and those

you have made from your own produce are also particularly welcome. Our Coffee Morning and Plant Sale coincides with the Whaley Water Weekend and we hope to welcome many visitors. If you need help or advice relating to transporting plants, please contact Roger Wood (phone number below).

CLOSURE OF THE STORE

Please remember that the store closes on Wednesday evenings on 29th June and on Sundays on 3rd July (after business on each occasion). If you have some needs after that, please ring David Osborn. (Phone number below.)

SOCIAL EVENING 15th July Trinity Church Hall 7.30pm

Following our enjoyable social evening on 11th March, we have decided to hold another one. Coffee, tea, wine and nibbles will be available. Please bring spare seeds in small packs to swap. There will be a "potato tasting" also. Three members are growing Maris Peer potatoes. You will have a chance to sample them and see who has grown the best-tasting ones!

This is a chance to meet old friends, welcome new members and exchange tales of the joys and tribulations of the growing season.

VISIT TO CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE AND GARDENS Thursday 11th August. Depart Whaley Bridge 10am

Rosemary, our Social Secretary, has arranged a rare opportunity to view the interior of the Castle for those who wish to do so. The Gardens surrounding the Castle provide a lovely mix of colour and height. There are six different gardens including a temple water garden, a rose garden and a terrace and lily pond garden. Attractive walks can be taken through woodland and around the lake.

There are still places, so if you would like to take part, please contact Rosemary (phone number below).

www.cholmondeleycastle.com

VISIT TO BRODWORTH HALL AND GARDENS Sunday 18th September

Enjoy this family home left in a Victorian time-warp and view the recently restored Victorian gardens in their early autumn splendour. Again, contact Rosemary for further information.

VISIT TO HIGHGROVE

Rosemary asks that all those going on the trip this year pay her by 11th June latest. On the day of the trip, please bring photo-identity and an original utility bill or other official document linking you with your home address. Security procedures at Highgrove are rigorous.

REPORTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

TALK ABOUT THE RESTORATION OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN AT TATTON PARK 31ST March



34 members attended. The talk was beautifully illustrated and we learnt a lot from Simon Tetlow's extensive knowledge. The components of the Garden were transported to Tatton from their original site at the great Japanese British Exhibition held in London in 1910. The Garden is unique. At the Exhibition, the Japanese created an integrated

showcase of the many types of garden which existed in Japan at that time - moss, stone, mountain and water. It fell into disrepair in the 1950s. The restoration was undertaken with the support and guidance of Professor Fukuhara from Osaka University. Further developmental work has continued since the restoration was completed. Non-Japanese elements, which were already present in the site used for the garden, have been removed. Vistas have been opened up and surprise views created. Worth a visit or repeat visit.

VISIT TO FELLEY PRIORY 10TH APRIL

The spring weather was perfect, and 30 members thoroughly enjoyed this very attractive garden. The daffodil meadow was slightly past but still impressive. There was much else to admire, especially the topiary yews, the magnolias, fritillaries, and of course the marvellous spring blossoms. The garden complimented the 16th Century old brick and stone house beautifully. The catering staff provided excellent refreshments and the nursery and plant sales kept us busy in the afternoon. Easily found, just off the M1 north of Nottingham, this venue can be recommended.



June Irwin admiring the massive magnolia flowers.

PLANT SWAP 22ND MAY

The sky was grey and the wind was cool. Attendance was poor by comparison with last year, when we were particularly lucky with the weather. Nevertheless, a lot of plants changed hands. Numerous types of tomatoes were swapped, as members decided to try different types. David Powell of Fernilee donated squash plants and some of these found a new home with Jean Clough of Chapel, who had a corner to fill. Most of the plants left over from the Plant Swap will be on sale at the

Coffee Morning on 11th June. We hope the weather will be kind and support plentiful.

www.wbags.co.uk

Our website is now one year old. Happy birthday! If you don't use the internet, www.wbags.co.uk just has to be a reason to get connected! (No computer? The Library has computers.) Many congratulations and thanks to Mike High for making it such an attractive and useful site.

RHODODENDRONS - BEAUTY OR THE BEAST?



May 2010

Well managed rhododendrons can be a joy in gardens and parks and their showy splendour has caused delight to many this spring. When the management goes, however, the picture evolves less favourably.

Taxal Moor, above Whaley Bridge, has had wild rhododendrons increasing in number for many years. They look lovely for a fortnight in May but spread like wildfire. They squeeze out the moorland vegetation and make crossing this Access Land more difficult. Natural England has a grant facility for their clearance through its Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme. Taxal Moor is now being cleared of rhododendrons under its auspices. The project will take three years. As Arthur Slack, the owner of Taxal Moor states, "at present it looks like Armageddon up there but the heather and other moorland plants should regenerate quite quickly once the remains of the rhododendrons are cleared". Their seedlings will be removed and heather may be given a little help by seeding.

The main reason for the clearance is environmental rather than economic. Mr Slack says that a farmer seeking the optimum economic use of the land

would plant grass seed. A picture of the same view will be printed in May 2012.



May 2011

HORNETS

In addition to the problems caused by seven weeks without rain, Joe Bush found a hornets' nest attached to the roof of his shed in early May.

Hornets can contribute much to pollination and are effective at controlling many harmful pests. Go to www.Plantpress.com (then Wildlife/search/hornets) However, they have a painful sting. If you have a hornet's nest and would rather not have one, contact High Peak Borough Council for help on 0845 1297777.



Joe's hornets' nest

RSPB "MAKE YOUR NATURE COUNT"

RSPB scientists are trying to gain a greater understanding of how garden birds and wildlife are doing this summer. Fewer summer migrants are returning to the UK year by year and the RSPB would like to understand this better.

Between 4th and 12th June, they are undertaking a survey, rather like their Big Garden Birdwatch held in January each year. However, they are looking at a broader spectrum of garden wildlife on this occasion. If you are interested in taking part, you can either do so entering your data online at www.rspb.org.uk/naturecount or telephone the RSPB at 01767 680551 to request information about the survey and the relevant form for completion.