



JUNE 2018

Feeling hot, hot, hot.

After a slow start to the growing season we are now contending with parched ground. Stephanie has found a time-saving solution to watering her patch.



Recent events.

Lea Rhododendron Garden and Forest Garden Centre. 17th May 2018

22 members joined the first trip of the year on a marvellous day when the rhododendrons and azaleas were at their peak.



Members wandered around the hillside paths sheltered from the bright sunshine and cool easterly breeze enjoying the microclimate as much as the plants. In 1935, at the age of 68, John Marsden-Smedley built the garden inspired by visits to Bodnant and Exbury Gardens. Using skilled craftsmen from his estate, paths and view points were built using the abundant stone from the old quarry which dates back to Roman times. Soil was brought from other parts of his estate to enrich the sandy beds. The garden was further developed by the Tye family from 1959 and now extends to 4 acres.



After the obligatory tea room visit and plant sales we travelled on the Forest Garden centre in Darley Dale for lunch and shopping.

Talk on RHS Bridgewater 19th April 2018

Over 30 members attended the first of the year's talks by Sarah Witts, the garden manager. Work on developing the garden, which has been derelict for many years, is ongoing but will not open till 2020. It is situated on the Worsley New Hall estate south facing towards the Bridgewater canal. Sarah's presentation included historical photos and plans showing how the walled garden and estate were originally set out. The owner at that time (c 1840) was Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, who built the Victorian Worsley New Hall, now a ruin. He was extremely wealthy having amassed a fortune from coal and the cotton trade but the garden suffered from changing times and neglect after the 1st World War. The land is now owned by Peel Holdings and is leased for 999 years jointly to the RHS and Salford City Council. Currently a team of Berkshire pigs is helping to clear the ground along with students and local volunteers. There are currently 10 staff to be increased to 30 by 2020. Some remnants are being retained – an ice house, octagonal fountain, bothy and head-gardener's cottage. Overall costs are estimated at £32 million with £2 million spent to date. We look forward to making a visit when the garden opens.

Plant Swap 27th May 2018

Many thanks to all who contributed to and participated in this annual event.



Coffee Morning 2nd June 2016

A well stocked plant stall, including leftovers from the plant swap, contributed to a healthy total of £388 raised.

Garden party.

Many thanks to all those WBAGS members who supported my garden party raising £387 for the mobile physiotherapy service.

Store news.

The last opening days are Wednesday 4th July and Sunday 8th July. Further orders can be directed to David Osborn (01663 733659)

Membership News

Welcome to Ruth King, Eva Adshead, Janet Clay, Hilary Harmer, Jean Hutton and Gerri Ross who have recently joined the society. Looks like the ladies are taking over in the garden!

Joyce Eyre, an enthusiastic member of the society till ill health prevented her

attending the outings and social events, has died aged 83. We extend our sympathy to her family and Bob has made a £25 donation in her memory on behalf of WBAGS to the air ambulance service.

Coming Events

Trip to Arley Hall and Gardens Tuesday 17th July.

Arley Hall is well-known for its pleached lime approach, walled garden and herbaceous borders. A tour of the hall is included in the price of £28. There is a café serving hot meals and snacks and a picnic area. The coach will leave Whaley Bridge at 9 a.m. and depart from Arley at 4 p.m. Bookings to Rosemary (733393)



Trip to Biddulph Grange Thursday 23rd August.

We leave Whaley at 9.30 a.m. to visit James Bateman's Victorian masterpiece with plants from around the world. A visit takes you from an Italian terrace to an Egyptian pyramid via a Himalayan

glen and Chinese garden. A series of tunnels, hedges and rockwork divide the garden making hidden surprises. There are 400 steps in the garden some of which can be avoided. The dahlia walk should be at its best.



There is a self service tea room, gift shop and plant centre. The cost is £18 plus the admission price of £9.05 for non National Trust members. (Don't forget your card).

Out and About.

Chapel garden society have talks on 25.7.18 by Jacqueline Iddon on "Shades of Autumn" who gave us a demonstration of container arrangements last year and on 29.8.18 Barbara Wilkinson presents "Herbal infusions and medicinal properties" Chapel Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. £2 for non-members.

The 4 themed quadrangles at New Mills school will be open for the NGS on 7.7.18 (10 till 5) and 8.7.15 (1 till 5). Admission £5. Refreshments, including cream teas, are in aid of Kinder mountain rescue. The school was highly commended for their entry at RHS Tatton in 2017.