

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

JULY 2000

Dear Member,

Phew, what a scorcher! Our trip to Flore coincided with probably the hottest day of the year so far but I don't think it spoiled a splendid day out in a really 'picture book' village with some delightful gardens to explore. Most members took advantage of a small but extensively stocked nursery returning as is usual on our outings with carrier bags containing all sorts of exotic plants. Ethel's arrangements worked like a charm and I think it's safe to say everyone including, I was pleased to see, some new faces enjoyed themselves.

Hopefully our next day out at Wollerton Old Hall Gardens on Saturday, August 5 will be equally as good and there are still a few seats left (ring Ethel on 734436 to book). As mentioned previously the gardens are being opened specially for us which means we have to pre-book our lunch requirements. Everyone who books will receive a specimen menu which should be completed and returned to Ethel, or to me if more convenient, by July 20 (not payment). Unfortunately picnics are not allowed in the gardens but those who wish to bring their own food can eat on the coach as usual and to make life easier for Ethel return your menu anyway indicating that you will be bringing your own. We'll be visiting Bridgemere on the way back where as well as loading up with more carrier bags of plants we can take afternoon tea etc. Sounds like an excellent trip to me at a bargain price of only £8 which also includes a talk on the Wollerton gardens. Departure is from Horwich End PO and the Jodrell bus stop at 9am.

Many thanks to all who supported our coffee morning last Saturday - by helping, providing items for sale or the raffle, or calling in for a coffee. Considering the gloomy weather the morning was a great success raising, after expenses, about £200. We had a good selection of plants for sale which went for £70 with very few left over which was pretty good I thought. Lucky raffle prizes were won by Mrs Popplewell, Mrs Pressman, Mrs Brown, Mrs Walton, Mr Thomas and the lady from Piranha (a little something to get her teeth into). Our next one is just before Christmas so can we start putting aside smallish items for tombola prizes.

Before all this of course we have the open day at Mr & Mrs Morten's garden at 18 Hockerley Lane to look forward to on Saturday, July 15 from 2pm until around 5pm. Refreshments will be available and of course there is no admission charge but the proceeds of the raffle and any welcome donations will go to Christies Hospital. As I have mentioned before we could do with another garden to visit this summer and I do know there are some nice ones out there so don't let modesty prevent you from opening up yours. The idea is to spend a couple of sociable hours enjoying the garden and raising some cash for the charity of your choice. You won't become a social outcast if there's the odd weed about - so give me a ring if you can help.

Sad to hear of the death of Mick Oldham who I know did gardening for some of our members. No fool Mick, most of those lived within easy striking distance of one of our local hostleries! Our sympathies go to Barbara and family.

The store will close on Sunday, July 23. We have supplies of most of the items on your price list so make sure you have all you need for the coming months by stocking up now (I don't want to get into trouble for over-ordering!).

A few weeks ago I went to Dunge Valley Gardens and introduced myself to the owner fully expecting to be welcomed with open arms for putting so much business his way via our members clutching their membership cards for 10% off. Much to my surprise he said that he hadn't seen any of our members and because he had so many special offers he wouldn't give a discount anyway. So, to all those who have been under the impression that they could follow my 'welcome letter' advice and go and snap up some bargains - forget it! It's still a pleasant spot to visit if you haven't already done so.

It's a pleasure to welcome yet more new members. Peter & Jane Gregson of Rock Bank, Mrs Barbara Cox of Netherfield Road, Chapel and Mrs Suzanne Hartley of Bridgemont.

A year or two ago we had a trip to Harrogate for the Spring Flower Show which judging by the feedback was enjoyed in spite of pretty awful weather. Is there any interest from members in going to the Autumn Flower Show on Saturday, September 16? There are too many things going on to list here but those who went last time will know what to expect. For our veg. growers there are the National Onion, Potato, Leek and Carrot Championships. How can you resist! If enough people ring me (to give Ethel a break) by Saturday, July 15 to make it worthwhile we'll go ahead and organise it. Admission costs £7 plus coach fare which will depend on numbers.

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Finally, members will be pleased to know that a double sided newsletter hasn't become the norm and will revert to the usual format next time!

John Howes, Secretary
6 Rock Bank WB 733579

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