

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

July '01

Dear Member,

Delighted to report that our recent coffee morning, as I hoped it would, broke all records! The weather was perfect and the crowds were out in force - at one time most seemed to be in the Mechanic's meeting room! Fears that we would be somewhat understaffed due to our coinciding with the Water Weekend - a happy bonus, that - were completely unfounded as I think even more members turned up to help than usual. Our thanks to everybody who did, plus of course, all those who called in for a coffee etc. and made purchases of one kind or another. Too many to name names but you all know who you were and the final outcome was, after expenses, a magnificent total of approx. £300.

Thanks again to everybody who supported us and you'll be pleased to know that we were provided with more prizes for the raffle than we could use so I won't need to nag you again in September! The raffle prizes went to Mr Hague, Mrs Raybould, Mrs Shirt, Mr Taylor, Mrs Osborn, Mrs Woodward, Mrs Talbot and Mrs Anderson. We even aquired two new members - welcome to Mr Geoff Pearson of Jodrell Meadow and Mr Geoff Howe of Elnor Lane.

Talking of members you may recall me saying in last month's newsletter that over 20 had not yet renewed their subscriptions and at the 'deadline' of the end of June twelve still hadn't so our numbers are, unusually, down. Our thanks to those who are leaving us for their support in the past.

Not sure what to say about the Calke Abbey trip! Obviously the poor weather was a disappointment but we all came smiling through and on the whole I think we enjoyed it. It is certainly an interesting house and the walled gardens are well worth visiting - for me the vegetable one particularly with well over a dozen varieties of potatoes growing away. Our driver perked everyone up by delivering us to a garden centre on the way back where we managed to offload what spare cash we had. Thanks, as usual, to Ethel for all the arrangements.

Our trip to Ashford in the Water and Rowsley last Thursday brought a complete change of weather and I'm pleased to say we all survived - some by taking on board the odd medicinal glass or two at the Grouse & Claret (or whatever it's called). Mr Parker's garden was superb in a really beautiful setting overlooking the village and surrounding hills. Thirty eight members made the trip so obviously midweek outings could feature more regularly in future.

Loads more exciting happenings to tell you about! This coming Saturday, 14 July, Bob and Rosemary Kellock are opening their garden for us from 2pm at 31 Meadow Close (off Meadowfield, turn left at T junction and it's first on the right). Usual refreshments (which include wine) and a raffle, the proceeds going to the RSPCA. At the same time round the corner at 6 Meadowside, new members Graham & Judith Aizlewood will open up to show us how to get the best out of a very sloping site. Refreshment will also be available there and by the sound of it you'll probably need it. (On the same day it seems that members of the Uniting Church have some gardens open in the area so don't be sidetracked!)

On Friday, 20th Ethel Hallam's small but perfectly formed garden at 11 Jodrell Road will be open from 2pm. Entry is gained by producing £1 which goes to the Cancer Research Campaign and includes refreshments. And, if you're in Buxton on Saturday, 21st there are three gardens open from 2pm at Riversdale Lodge, Gadley Lane, 21 Holker Road and 144 Lightwood Road. Entry to all three is only £2 which is in aid of The Children's Society. Teas are available plus a quiz, bric-a-brac and plants for sale.

Still in July, would you believe, is the eagerly awaited trip to Catforth on the 28th. Seats are still available - if you haven't already done so ring Ethel to book or for details. There's also the Derbyshire Gardening Festival at Locko Park, Spondon, Derby on Saturday & Sunday, 14 & 15 (10pm) - 5pm, so you'll have to be quick for this one! If any members do get there and feel it might make a society trip for next year please let me know. We're always open to suggestions.

am?
PTO

Wedding

Provide float

On to August. Make a note of Ron & Joan Macbeth's open garden day on Sunday, 12th at The Dell at the bottom of Elnor Lane from 2pm. Again usual refreshments.

September 8th is the date for our next coffee morning at the Mechanics – the last this year – when all our veg. growers will have all their surplus goodies for sale. Well, I hope they will!

That, by the way, is the Saturday after the Whaley Show on the 1st (I think) when members will have the chance to win lots of prizes by entering their flowers, fruit and vegetables, jams, cakes, needlework, photographs etc. Members were well represented last year (some even won cups) and even if you don't win anything your exhibits all help to make it a good show.

I think that covers most forthcoming important dates of interest. Oh yes! I have an appointment at the dentist's on August 17th at 9.45.

The store will be closing for this season on Sunday, 22 July but we've still got supplies of most of the items on the list so come and beat the rush and stock up now ready for that early start in the autumn – it's on it's way! I can always deliver if you can't make it in person – just give me a ring.

ON THE PLOTS

The longish spell of hot weather recently – when water was running short – followed by the welcome rain has really brought things on including a splendid flush of weeds to the allotments. Grass in places is knee high. At the moment slugs and snails don't seem to be too much of a menace probably due to all the toads there are about. Every time I lift a bit of carpet or plastic covering a compost heap I find two or three – sometimes a complete family. The only problem is I have to cover them up again which means I can't use the compost!

Regular readers will have realised by now that all the above nonsense is building up to my saying that this newsletter will have to do for August as well which will mean a well earned break for our willing band of deliverers and they can go ahead and take their summer holidays happy in the knowledge that yours truly won't be having to do it for them!

And if you're going on holiday too have a good time and I hope you've organised someone to water the hanging baskets – and the cat too if you've got one.



John Howes, Secretary
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