

N/L July/Aug '08

Dear Member

Our eagerly awaited Garden Party to celebrate your Society's 25th Anniversary at Joan Macbeth's house attracted 80 members who I know thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The garden looked a picture as did the superb spread laid out in the buffet tent. How our Social Secretary Rosemary does it I just don't know. Our thanks go to her and her band of 'assistants' who made sure everyone had their fill!!

Not to be outdone the wine dispensation station also did good business judging by the empties about at the end. It was a wise move to up the original 'sale or return' order. Not much was returned I can tell you.

Joan was thanked by Chairman Roy Jennings for allowing us to take over the garden and was presented with a real wooden trug filled with flowers. Husband Ron would have been delighted with the turn-out. The lucky raffle winners were Audrey Hill, Glynn Whitehead, Muriel Pressman and Leo Goddard. Thanks to Michael Healey of Shallcross Nursery for donating the attractive filled hanging baskets.

There are still a few places available on our final two trips of the season. You will of course have details in your diaries but a reminder that the outing to Gresgarth Hall at Caton is this coming Sunday, 10th August. The cost is £15 which includes coach fare and admission. There are no catering facilities at Gresgarth and food is not allowed to be consumed on the premises so we will call in at the Lancaster Services for a spot of lunch en route. Details from Rosemary on 733393.

Finally, on Sunday, 14th September we go to the popular Harrogate Autumn Show. Sunday is the final day of the show when they sell off all the plants etc to the public and should be a good opportunity to introduce something new to your gardens!

Cost for this trip is £20 which also includes fare and admission. Again, ring Rosemary for details and departure times or to book your tickets.

A late item for your diaries folks! Roger Wood, our new 'talks arranger' has er... arranged a talk for us to be given by Anthony Norman from Conquest Nursery on Tuesday evening, 21 October at the Uniting Church in Whaley. Subject is 'Colour in the Leaf'.

Details to come in the next newsletter or you may ring Roger on 732112 or Rosemary who will fill you in. Norman Conquest, as Mary calls him, has given us a couple of very entertaining talks in the past and this promises to be another.

The store has now closed but we still have supplies of composts, particularly ericaceous in 40ltr and 75ltr sizes – a must for your acid loving plants plus we have plenty of Lawn Weed & Feed. You can give me a ring and I'll open up the store by arrangement so you can make the odd purchase and be one jump ahead of everybody else next year!

I apologise to members who were not completely satisfied with the Clover growbags this year. I'll make sure we're sent better ones in future.

The response to my request for helpers to assist with running the store next year was well received and we have enough members to organise some form of rota so you'll be pleased to hear there'll be new, but not necessarily better looking, faces to attend to your every need. Hopefully 'strong man' Dave Parker will be on duty as usual encouraging customers to buy more than they need – it has been known to work!

A good turnout of members helped to swell the numbers visiting the Lear's garden at Greenoak, Taxal recently. The magnificent sum of £1000 was raised most of which will go towards young Justin's continued schooling in Kenya. Taxal church was also a beneficiary.

PTO

Our long serving member, Victor Thornley from Start Lane, has a large collection of cacti/cactuses which he would like to dispose of to a good home. Throwing them out is proving to be a problem as they keep attaching themselves to his gloves and he's fed up with having to keep purchasing new ones. (Gloves that is). I've suggested he try sturdy leather ones rather than the woolly ones we stock in the store. A prickly problem you'll agree. If anyone would like to start a cactus collection or add to an existing one give him a call on WB 733232.

By the way, don't forget it's our AGM on Friday, 7th November at the Trinity Church Hall and the Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday, 12 December at the Mechanics. More exciting details to come nearer the date!

Seed catalogues from the National Society will be with us again soon and will be distributed to those who ordered last year, allotment holders and new members as usual. If you don't fit into any of these categories and would like a copy give Bob Kellock on 733393 or me on 733579 a ring and we'll make sure you receive one. These are quality seeds at substantially reduced prices to Society members so why not take advantage and save a bob or two?

ALLOTMENT SCENE

On the allotments the recent first serious sighting of the cabbage whites means summer has finally arrived! I began to think they were giving us a miss this year but no such luck.

The waiting list for plots continues to grow and it must be depressing for anyone who is on the list taking a walk through the site to see the odd one or two that show little or no signs of being cultivated when they would probably give their right arms to get their hands – or hand – on one.

Suddenly we seem to have about half a dozen local cats around the place. Their food preferences don't include what we're trying to grow so there's more available for the slugs and snails. My compost bin has acquired a resident toad who I understand should be eating ~~at~~ all the slugs but there's no sign of that happening as yet unless reinforcements are being called up as it eats them!

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