



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



JULY 2016

The well is dressed and the carnival is over (wasn't that a song?) - time now to concentrate on tidying the garden. Everything is growing fast and there are hedges to trim, flowers to deadhead and bulb foliage to remove between the showers. Paeony "Bowl of Beauty" is living up to its name this year and seems to stand the rain better than most.



Membership news.

It's always great to welcome new members and we have been joined by Barry James of Macclesfield Rd. and Sheila Harrop of High Lane – our fame is spreading.

Many of you will have heard that our committee member, Roy Jennings, has been in hospital for cardiac replumbing. He is home and slowly on the mend and we wish him well with his

recovery.

We are also pleased to report that Pauline Price is home and well after her impromptu hospital visit on the trip to Thrumpton Hall.

Recent events.

Maenan Hall

The visit to **Maenan Hall** on 13th May was a wonderful start to the year's trips. The weather was perfect and the new coach was making its maiden journey. There were 19 present and after a lunch stop at Bodnant we drove a further few miles up the Conway valley. The glorious outlook from the hillside, with views to the mountains across the valley, were a delight beyond expectations.



We were met by the head gardener, Debbie, and her deputy Owen. She gave us an

introductory talk covering the history of the grade 1 listed medieval house which was extensively restored in 1995. The extensive garden is on sloping ground surrounded by woods full of bluebells and other spring flowers. Two ornamental ponds, a folly tower at the highest point and Egyptian statuary add further interest.



The highlight was a walk through the dingle to the dell with glorious azaleas, rhododendrons, pieris and other colourful shrubs in full bloom in a perfect setting amongst natural rock outcrops.





Bodnant certainly has a secret rival on its doorstep.

The plant swap on 15th May was well supported.



Some vintage tools also found a new home.



The coffee morning and plant stall the following weekend also proved popular.

The trip to Thrumpton Hall on 27th June was eventful but enjoyable. The owner provided a tour of the hall with its priest hole and carved grand staircase made of elm from the estate.



Unfortunately the owner, Miranda Seymour, was unable to cater for lunches as arranged so Rosemary made last minute plans to lunch at a nearby garden centre and visit Felley Priory in the afternoon.



The topiary bounded lawns and herbaceous borders were nearly at their best and the variety of planting was a delight.



A further bonus was the good variety of plants on sale.

Caught on camera?

For more of Bob's excellent photographs visit the WBAGS web site.

Coming events

The store closes on Sunday 10th July but any further orders can be directed to David Osborn on 01663 733659 or Dave Parker on 01663 750172.

We have visits planned to the Dower House and Melbourne Hall on 16th August departing at 8.45 a.m. £30 to be paid by 1st August and to the Harrogate Show on 18th September departing at 8.30. £30 to be paid by 30th of September.

We also have a coffee morning with bulb and plant sales on Saturday 10th September. Offers of help and items for the stalls and raffle would be most welcome.

A social meeting on 23rd September at 7.30 p.m. at Holy Trinity will include wine and light refreshments, a raffle and a light hearted quiz.

Our next talk is on 6th October at the Uniting Church at 2 p.m. Don Witton will talk about euphorbias and other vibrant perennials.

Out and about.

Chapel gardening club have talks on "Feathers, flowers and Fungi" on 27.7.16 and Geoffrey Smith will talk about "Behind the Scenes at Chelsea Flower Show" on 31.8.16. Both at Chapel Town Hall at 7.30 pm. £2 charge to non-members.