



LATE AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER

TIME TO REAP THE REWARDS!



Annette Dunk, Maurice Lomas and David Osborn (background) await the arrival of visitors to the coffee morning.

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to Malcolm and Sue Brand, Tanya Shaw and Janet Thompson, all of Whaley Bridge, who have recently joined the Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place on **Thursday, 6th November at 2pm at the Uniting Church**. This is the first time the date has been announced, so please make a note in your diary. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

STORE NEWS

This summer, the Store generated sales of around £1600. This is broadly the same as last year.

Enormous thanks to David Osborn and his team, comprising Roger Wood, Dave Parker, Gordon Belfield and Alec Clough. As well as the usual task of selling gardening supplies, working hard to produce and display plants for the Plant Swap and Coffee mornings, this summer has also seen completion of much unglamorous work on the maintenance of the store building.

We all know that the need for gardening supplies does not fall neatly between the official opening and closing dates of the

Store. If you are short of something, please speak to David Osborn or Dave Parker, who will try to help.

SEED ORDER

Members can order Kings seeds and benefit from a WBAGS discount. Those who ordered seeds through this scheme last year will be sent a catalogue automatically when these arrive during September. If you did not order last year, please contact Roy Jennings or David Osborn to request a catalogue.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE June 14th

This event was a big success. Those who attended appeared to have had a very enjoyable time. In addition, the net proceeds of the morning were just under £500. The greater part of this came from the plant sales. The refreshments team were run ragged by the large numbers of visitors and the home-made cakes stall tempted many a sweet tooth. Very many thanks to all the helpers. If you have never helped out at one of these coffee mornings, please consider doing so. They provide helpers with a good chance to meet new people and to consolidate acquaintances. Speak to Rosemary Kellock if you would consider helping for the first time at the December Coffee Morning (see Future Events).



(Left to right) Roma Coley, Alison Berry and Rosemary Kellock setting out contributions for the home-made cakes stall.

One of the reasons for holding Coffee Mornings is to enable the Society to make donations to local charities and other organisations. The Society has recently donated £50 to Whaley-Chapel Community First Responders and £50 to Footsteps (drop-in community centre in Whaley Bridge). The funds in the case of the latter are earmarked for refurbishing the tables.

VISIT TO CARTMEL AND YEWBARROW HOUSE AND GARDENS 18th July



The Cumbrian Food Market at Cartmel

Rosemary Kellock reports on the visit as follows:

"The weather was set fair apart from thunderstorms rumbling up the country, which happily didn't affect us. This proved a very popular trip with 47 on a comfortable modern coach (Golden Green). Initially we visited Cartmel with its very impressive 800 year old priory and the small but very attractive Cumbrian Food market being held that day. Getting the large coach through the centre of Cartmel to the racecourse car park was quite a feat but after a short drive to Grange over Sands we arrived at the narrow lane up to Yewbarrow House; this was deemed too awkward for the coach and so most of us had a steep climb uphill. The house owner Mr Jonathan Denby was present and brought the less vigorous up the road by car.

The elevated house and garden overlook beautiful Morecambe Bay and Mr Denby explained that the garden benefits from being south facing, with over 40 inches of rainfall a year. It is well sheltered by mature trees and has its own microclimate enabling exotic plants to thrive. Situated on limestone, the drainage is very good and most plants overwinter well. The Dahlia trial beds were very colourful and we were impressed by the opulence of the garden features, a modern orangery with pool, a Japanese hot spring pool, walled Victorian Garden and numerous interesting sculptures, including a Italianate terrace and Victorian kitchen garden, throughout the 4 acre sloping site. Altogether this turned into a very interesting and varied day out."



A pleasant, sunny visit to Yewbarrow House.

VISIT TO SHREWSBURY SHOW 9th August

By contrast with the previous trip, this one only attracted 13 people! The show had everything that could be expected – and more! Numerous displays and events were linked to commemorate WW1. The brass bands were superb and cameras had to be at the ready for a rapid fly past of the Red Arrows. Apart from the large, floral marquees and pavilions there were numerous stands for societies, traders and exhibitors. Some show goers were dressed in costumes inspired by the period, including representations of the armed services and suffragettes. One of the most poignant and stunning displays was a WW1 life size trench scene made of paper and cardboard, created by students from Birmingham City University. There were lectures on gardening topics, cookery sessions, show-jumping, dog display teams, giant Punch and Judy characters, penny-farthing bikers – in fact, almost everything that could possibly be imagined! Our members were duly sated by the time they re-boarded the coach. As they say not much further north than here "it was a grand day out..!"



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL EVENING Friday, 12th September at Trinity Church (downstairs) Room. 7.30pm

Wine and nibbles will be served. In addition, please bring examples of any chutneys and preserves you have made for people to try. (Please bring the recipe as well, since your offering may be popular!) During the evening, a proposed plant trial comparing peat-free compost and traditional compost will be announced and participation invited.

AUTUMN TALK

Thursday, 2nd October at the Uniting Church. 2pm

Anne Beswick, Styal Designs will talk about "Garden Design"

Anne is an award-winning and experienced designer. She lectures at the Wilmslow Guild, at Macclesfield College and for the National Trust. In addition, she writes for a number of publications including The Times, Ideal Home, Amateur Gardening and the RHS's magazine "The Garden". All are welcome. Members £1 and non-members £2. Refreshments will be served after the talk.

WHALEY BRIDGE SHOW AND GARDEN SOCIETY Saturday 6th September 1.30pm

The annual show takes place at the Bowling Club. Contact Loraine Coverley for details. 01663 733127

TALKS AT CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH GARDENING CLUB

All talks and slide-shows are held at Chapel Town Hall. They are free to members of the Chapel-en-le-Frith Gardening club and cost £3.00 for non-members. For further details, contact Mike and Trisha McKinna 01663 750119.

27th August Ian Greenhaigh. Talk on "Dahlias".

24th September. A Gardeners' Question and Answer Evening. The panel will be John Steedman, Sam Youd and Jeff Turner. A special invitation has been issued to members of WBAGS for this event.

MUSINGS FROM PODICEPS CRISTATUS....

"It's an ill wind...."

As we suffer the after-effects of hurricane Bertha's dying rage, and our weather men and women, even with all their satellite info., are reluctant to forecast confidently more than four days ahead, we might reflect that, here in the UK, we are blessed with a climate that is *wildly unpredictable, - yet comfortingly bland !!*

Predictable means dramatic!, like the American mid-West, (baking summer / freezing long winter, and tornadoes in May and June..) or the Tropics (giant storms which batter the coast regularly...) *Our weather, like our wildlife, rarely tries to kill us!*

We are squashed between a huge body of water: the Atlantic, and an enormous land-mass: the Eurasian continent. In addition we lie in the path of two of the climate system's great "conveyor belts": the Gulf stream in the Atlantic, and the jet stream in the upper atmosphere –it is this combination of energy which makes life difficult for the Met.Office. Yet the Atlantic helps to keep us temperate,- we are at the same latitude as Newfoundland, but we don't have their winters!

Maybe a climate makes a people? Restrained Britain is built on damp summers and mild winters. As Tacitus the Roman historian recorded 2000 years ago: "The British sky is obscured by continual rain and cloud" and he went on to say: "Britons themselves bear cheerfully the conscription, the taxes, and other burdens" – perhaps because we had so much practice with our weather?

