



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



AUGUST 2016

“Enjoying the fruits of our labours.”

Recent events.

Report on the trip to Melbourne Hall and Dower House Garden.
Tuesday 16th Aug 2016.

The day was warm and sunny. The trip was enjoyed by 23 members and guests and started with a guided tour of the Dower House garden (an NGS garden), given by the relatively new and young head gardener, Sean. He gave a short introductory talk with background history of the house as the present owners Griselda Kerr and her husband were away at the time of our visit.



After a welcome tea break in front of the large elegant house we viewed the garden which is on a south facing slope looking across a large lake, Melbourne Pool. Most of the garden has only been developed by Griselda over the past 20 years. There were multiple features, including a

rose tunnel and herb garden adding interest and colour to the well kept herbaceous borders dropping from the house, a terrace and surrounding mature woodland. The setting of the house is idyllic with very attractive views down to the lake.

During the interval before the guided tour of Melbourne Hall some took refreshments or visited the beautiful parish church dating back to the 12th C (Norman architecture).



We had two guides for the Hall and were given a wonderful tour covering the detailed history of the house, family, and garden. We learned that Melbourne, Australia got its name from the then prime minister Lord Melbourne (a favourite of Queen Victoria). Following the tour we were free to enjoy the large garden with its lawns, vistas and long lumpy yew borders, lake and

the most celebrated feature, the impressive ‘birdcage’ wrought iron arbour (1706 - Robert Bakewell).



The unusual hexagonal Muniment Room was a dovecot originally and is a survivor of the C17th garden.

Frequent planes flying low into East Midlands airport and noise from the nearby motorway and Donington Park Races didn't cause a problem and it was evident that everyone felt this was a very rewarding trip.



Don't forget you can view many more of Bob's photos on our web site and you are also welcome to add your own contributions.

Caught on camera.

This rare and endangered species was spotted at Tatton Flower Show. Although not in bloom it was instantly recognisable. (Probably by the hat!)



Coming Events.

Our last coffee morning of the year is on Saturday 10th September at the Mechanics Institute. We will have bulbs and home produce on sale. Donations of raffle prizes, cakes and produce are welcome. Please come along and support your society or just to enjoy a coffee and chat.

Our final trip of the year is to *Harrogate show on Sunday 18th September.* The coach will leave Whaley at 8.30 a.m. Rosemary needs you booking and payment by 3rd September. As this is the last day of the show you may be able to pick up a bargain in the sell off.

On Friday 23rd September we have a social meeting at 7.30 p.m. at Holy Trinity. This will be a light-hearted quiz with refreshments and raffle.

Don Witton will be giving a talk at the Uniting Church on Thursday 6th October at 2 p.m. focussing on euphorbias and

other vibrant perennials. Ideas on filling the late gaps in the borders are always welcome.



Out and about.

Chapel gardening club have a talk on Wednesday 31st September at 7.30 at the Town Hall by Geoffrey Smith giving information from behind the scenes at Chelsea Flower Show.

Kevin Pratt will be giving a talk on Wednesday 28th September at the same time and venue called "Don't go to sleep during winter". Hibernation or migration both sound like good plans to me.

Speaking of hibernation I can't wait for the local badgers to go to sleep. They're fattening up on windfall apples at the moment and seem to be using a JCB on the lawns.



Finally don't forget the horticultural highlight that is the **Whaley Bridge Garden Show.**

This will be held at the Bowling Club on Saturday 3rd September. Programmes and schedules are available from local newsagents, post offices and Footsteps. Exhibits can be staged till 11 a.m. on the day of the show. The afternoon event is followed by a lively auction of produce.



There are classes for everyone – vegetables and flowers, arts, crafts and photography, baking and preserves. Children and grandchildren can enter their own classes with many prizes to encourage them sponsored by the Rose Queen Festival.



All your knobbliest vegetables can be turned into amazing creations with a little imagination.



We encourage all WBAGS members to support our local show.