

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2002

Dear Member,

Despite the very occasional shower which sent visitors scurrying with their drinks (various) to the shelter of the Macbeth conservatory the weather for Ron and Joan's recent 'open garden' afternoon was ten times better than last year and prompted an extremely good turnout raising a splendid sum of just over £100 for Blythe House. Ron's garden looked immaculate as usual as were the Charlotte potatoes he provided for a fun 'guess the weight' competition. Agnes Jodrell's guess of 3lbs15oz (we'll have no metric nonsense here!) was the closest to the actual weight of 3lbs13oz which was from just one root so Ron's not bad at veg. either! Raffle winners were Mrs Dooley, Mrs Hallam, Mr Thornley, Mrs Whitehall and 'Jack'. If you'd like to open up your garden next year let me know as we're working on another programme of exciting events for 2003 at this very moment!

Hot news of members' successes at the Whaley Show on Saturday! Unfortunately limited space means only the 1st prize winners get a mention but a good number of members' exhibits were 'placed'. We swept the board with pot preserves (Suzanne Hartley and Mary Howes), Judith Sumner's painting was Best in Show, Ethel Hallam took first *and* second for embroidery not under glass, Mrs Parkes' single rose impressed the judges as did Janet Stores' ladies spray. Janet O'Donoghue snapped up the computer generated photograph prize and the whole Bristol family took prizes in various classes. Needless to say Cedge Heathcote cleaned up with his Dahlias. Apologies if I have missed anyone – there was such a tremendous turnout that it was easy to miss things. The organisers certainly deserve praise for putting on such a splendid show every year. Before I forget (as if I could) the William Boston Memorial Cup for four white potatoes has, after two years, been snatched back by top grower, Mr Townend, who was a worthy winner I have to grudgingly admit. Following a success this year your secretary will now concentrate on the marrow section – another veg that can give a satisfactory result with little skill involved!

Mention of Janet Stores reminds me that she took a praiseworthy third place in a highly competitive Decorated Hat section at the recent Bakewell Show – and at her first attempt too.

Mention of Bakewell reminds me that there's an event at Bakewell that sounds like a good day out called the Derbyshire Autumn Gold Garden Festival on Sept 20/21/22. This is the 5th year so it's obviously a popular show with lots going on. You can phone 01423 866788 for a brochure or visit www.gardenfestivals.com.

Mention of lots going on ...this is very contrived and very silly, but there should be lots going on at the AGM on Friday, November 1st at the Trinity Church Hall kicking off at 8pm. Members will recall our treasurer told us last year that the society's funds were such that we could perhaps look at ways of spending some of the surplus. Your committee have been giving some thought to ideas put forward last year and will report progress at the AGM. One idea that has taken shape is to negotiate a discount for members at the tool hire centre in New Mills rather than the society purchasing machinery which could give rise to difficulties regarding storage, maintenance and insurance etc.. We would then reimburse the hirer with a percentage of the cost on production of the invoice. We would also purchase a selection of hand tools which we would loan out. Let any committee member have suggestions for these or let us know at the AGM. Next year sees the 20th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the society and a garden party on the lines of our successful Millennium party was also suggested. Ethel, our social secretary, has done groundwork on this and will have some details for us. Nobody contacted us with other ideas and nobody requested a copy of the balance sheet! We'd hate you to miss out on splendid raffle prizes, tasty refreshments and convivial company so, see you on the 1st!

PTO

For those unable to attend in person there'll be full coverage in the November newsletter of course.

Unlike me not to mention subs! You'll know, of course, that these become due at the beginning of November and the AGM is the ideal time to pay up – still a snip at £2 - leaving you to sleep easy in your beds for the next twelve months. And if you've ordered seeds through the society you can also give me your order plus payment. We'll even bring our rubber stamp along to save you having to write our long title on your cheque.

Mention of seed orders – oh no, not again – reminds me that catalogues will have been sent out with this newsletter to allotment holders, those who ordered last year and new members. If you don't figure in these categories but would like a copy let me know. Ordering through the society brings in a bit of cash to help swell the coffers which in turn will be used for your benefit.

The Whaley Show, by the way, also proved a fruitful occasion for recruiting new members and we are delighted to welcome Mr Crow from Linglongs Avenue, Mrs Muir of Park Road and Mrs Hill from, and we're breaking new ground here, Doveholes.

A trip out which you may fancy is on Sunday, 20th October at Weeping Ash, Glazebury nr. Warrington tel: 01942 266303 for details. It's one of the Yellow Book Scheme gardens with mixed borders, pools and island beds. Plus there are 'apple days' at Quarry Bank Mill, Wilmslow on Sunday, 29th September, 11am to 4pm (information and advice) and at the National Wildflower Centre, Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Liverpool on Wednesday, 23rd October, 11am to 4pm. Tel: 0151 737 1819 for details and directions (sample freshly made apple juice!). There's also a Festival of Apples at Reaseheath College, Nantwich on October 19th and 20th. Tel: 01270 613211 for information.

Whilst on the subject do we have among our 150 odd members one who knows about apple trees and can give me some advice on pruning mine? Give me a ring if you can help – please!

And I know you're all putting aside suitable goodies for our Christmas coffee morning tombola!

ALLOTMENT VIEW

As I write we have a really good spell of warm sunny weather – hopefully warm enough to ripen all the remaining tomatoes which, at least for me, have been the best ever. How much green tomato chutney can you eat?

This is also ideal weather to get the beds that have become vacant turned over before the rains come as they surely will!

Apart from being a good hunting ground for the neighbourhood cats there's still no signs of activity on our overgrown plots. Luckily the neighbourhood cats haven't been able to get their claws on our tame young robin!



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