



# WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



## SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

### REMEMBERING JOHN HOWES...

“ A delightful man who loved his allotment and was for many years the mainstay of the Whaley Bridge Allotment and Gardeners’ Society” (*wording on bench*)

#### MEMORIAL BENCH IN MEMORY OF JOHN

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011 WBAGS celebrated the placing of a memorial bench beside John’s former allotment. John was one of the Society’s founding members. He worked tirelessly and selflessly over many years to build up the Society. His inimitable good humour and wit enriched all he knew. Mary said “He would be tickled pink by the bench...”

Many thanks to members Mike High and Peter Cavanagh, who set up the bench on a robust concrete base. Special thanks also to Maurice Hackney of Gawsforth, who gave his time and expertise to ensure a highly professional result.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Very sadly, Victor Thornley died of cancer in late July. We send his family our sympathy.

We are delighted to welcome into membership Fran Allen, Jacky Baker, Diane Berresford, Ken Frodsham, Anne Leyland, Sandra Morgan, Carole McKellar, Wendy Savile, Barbara Stringer, Jane Wallwork and Lee Waterman

We send our warmest regards to Deryk Thomas, who is seriously ill.

#### CLOSURE OF THE STORE

The Store has enjoyed good sales, with takings a little up on last year. What a debt we owe to David Osborn (our Store Manager) and his team Gordon Belfield, Dave Parker and Roger Wood. Rain or shine, one or more of them has been at the store on 15 Sunday mornings and 12 Wednesday evenings this summer. A big “Thank you”! There are still a few bags



Mary Howes, Heather Bush and Cynthia Whelan relaxing on “John’s bench” at its inauguration ceremony

left of Levington Compost and John Innes No 1 and No 2. Contact David Osborn if you are interested. Also contact David (soon) if you would like to receive a copy of the **Kings seed catalogue** and benefit from the **club discount**.

#### BEATRIX POTTER ART EXHIBITION

**Lyme Park Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
WBAGS members and families can request free invitations for this attractive exhibition of original paintings and manuscripts by Beatrix Potter. If you are interested, contact Gill Williamson by 14<sup>th</sup> September.

[GillMWilliamson@hotmail.com](mailto:GillMWilliamson@hotmail.com) or phone.

#### EVENTS COMING UP

##### WHALEY BRIDGE GARDEN SHOW

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September Whaley Bridge Bowling Club**

Schedules of competition classes available from local stores and offices. Speak to Peter Gregson if you cannot find one. Show opens 1.30pm. Prize-giving and auction of goods at 4.30pm.

##### BRODSWORTH HALL, SOUTH

**YORKSHIRE Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September**

To restore – or not to restore? This is your chance to decide. The Hall was built by the fabulously wealthy Thelusson

family and reflects their passion for sporting activities. It also reflects the gentle decline of the property during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which English Heritage has decided to leave exposed. The gardens, however, have been extensively restored. Their original splendour as “a collection of grand gardens in miniature” has been re-established. The Dolphin Statue, the original focus of the formal gardens, now flows again. The flower garden has a fine selection of period bedding plants. The restored summerhouse offers wonderful views. There are statues, a fern grotto planted with unusual specimens and a wild rose dell. The colours should be fabulous in mid-September. There are still places available. Please contact Rosemary Kellock as soon as possible if interested.

#### TALK “GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE”

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm at**

**Trinity Church Hall** Talk by George Pilkington, British Trust for Ornithology. Coffee and biscuits afterwards. Members £1 and non-members £2.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at**

**Trinity Church Hall.** As usual, after the AGM, there will be a chance to socialise over a glass of wine, coffee and nibbles. Please ensure the date is in your diary and try to attend.

#### HARROGATE SPRING SHOW

Rosemary Kellock would like to know who might be interested in joining a possible WBAGS coach trip to the Show on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. Please contact her in the near future so she can establish the level of potential support.

#### HIGHROVE VISIT 2012

If you have not already told Rosemary Kellock of your potential interest in a

WBAGS visit to Highgrove June/July 2012, please give her a ring. She can then keep you informed of evolving plans.

### BEFORE THE JULY DELUGE!



Special congratulations to David and Irene Osborn on the appearance of their delightful garden in mid-July

### REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

A wealth of offerings took place for members to enjoy this summer!

31 took part in a trip to **Hebbs Farm and Norwell Nurseries** in June. At Hebbs Farm they were greeted by the waft of roses and the good things went on from there. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century garden had been re-created gradually, now offering a series of "garden rooms" displaying wonderful peonies, delphiniums, flowering shrubs and trees (to name but a few). At Norwell Nurseries, the plants had been propagated by the owners Andrew and Helen Ward. They were generous in sharing their considerable know-how. Their own garden alongside the nursery was also a joy to behold.

For something completely different, the Society held a **Social Evening** for members in July. 31 attended (is it a magic number?). Margaret Day had arranged a blind potato tasting of Maris Peer potatoes grown by three members.



Margaret Day, Joan Wood and David Osborn discussing the merits of the three sets of Maris Peer potatoes included in the "blind tasting".

Those voted "most tasty" were grown by Annette Dunk. Six further types of potato were brought by Jean and Alec Clough, so members could compare them for flavour and texture. Other

items brought and shared were unusual tomato varieties, Worcester berries, lemon verbena syrup, edible flowers and recipes. All this was enhanced by wine, coffee, snacks and good conversation.

A day out to **Highgrove** took place in late July. The variety in each of the themed gardens was massive and the trees were interesting as much for their age as their potential usage after felling. Although a long day, everyone felt it was very worthwhile. The coach came back laden with plants from the Highgrove nursery. There is already a waiting list for a further visit in 2012!

From kings (well potentially) to castles... In August a visit to **Cholmondeley Castle** took place, incorporating a rare opportunity to enter the castle itself, as well as to explore the gardens. The gardens were colour-themed to some extent and very well-tended. The castle tour included the chapel (with a short organ recital) and a lot of information about the family and their choice of furnishings. The Head Gardener was on hand to advise about plant purchases, which was appreciated.

Last chronologically - but by no means least - our members **Chris and Annette Dunk** opened **their garden** to members of Chapel Gardening Club and to WBAGS members. The flower gardens incorporate the footings of some former working buildings in the heart of Chapel. There is also a vegetable garden, a meadow and a pond. It is a wonderful story of vision, endeavour, artistry and natural beauty being brought together over more than 30 years. Thank you, Chris and Annette.

### BUYING WATER PLANTS.....?

Roger Wood can recommend an excellent supplier.

### OBSERVATIONS AND MUSINGS.....by Podiceps Cristatus

*"Water, water everywhere...but is there enough to drink?"*

The old grey heron flew slowly across the reservoir in the early morning mist, on one of the last days of Summer .. soon it would be September – the start of Autumn. His head was stretched upwards in mid-flight, allowing him to settle carefully onto the blue buoy –

No.4 – one of the sailing club race markers. This perch was not for fishing - his feet were way too high above the water for his sharp bill to stab down into the water – no, it was for enjoying the sunshine, for preening, and for *Thinking Great Thoughts....* about "his" reservoir water : Where did it come from? Will it go away like last year? He'd heard about lakes that were now dry in the East.... If one considers that our planet is surrounded by its own atmosphere of mixed gases and water vapour, and that outer space is a vacuum, then you reach a surprising conclusion :- the amount of moisture on Earth and around Earth is constant. So this means the water those pre-historic animals drank millions of years ago is the same water that falls as rain today ! ... but will there be enough for a more crowded world?

The swallows told the heron about the great Sahara which they fly over every year; where people have to dig deep wells to find just enough water to stay alive - not always enough for the crops... The heron caught an eel once which had ridden the Atlantic ocean currents and told him about the huge Amazon which drains a jungle the size of Australia, to discharge trillions of gallons of fresh water every day into the salty sea ... The Canada geese told the heron of meeting bar-headed geese which flew over the great deltas of the Indus, the Ganges and the Mekong rivers. Over 800 million people depend on that flood water... Then a fisherman told the heron that of all the fresh water in the world about 8 parts was used by people, about 20 parts was used by industry and the rest of the hundred parts was used in agriculture to feed the people...

And the heron wondered : how will Man find water to drink if 98 parts in every hundred of all water on Earth is salty?



Podiceps Cristatus



The old heron at No 4

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