



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

WHAT A PARTY!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Committee is very pleased to welcome Les Jones and Sylvia McKenzie, both of Whaley Bridge, as new members of WBAGS and to welcome back Lee Pickford.

The Committee is sad to report the death of Iain Duckers, who has been with the Society for only a short while. Our sympathies are with his family and friends.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE SUMMER – OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY GARDEN PARTY



Over 40 members attended this landmark event hosted by Derek and Anne Lear at Greenoaks, Taxal. Warm, sunny weather and the beauty of Derek and Anne's garden helped to create a relaxed, festive atmosphere. A magnificent, full buffet with wine was enjoyed, crowned by a huge, delicious, iced celebration cake. This was made by a good friend of the Society, Cath Green. We thank her for her superb skill and creativity. Chairman, Roy Jennings, made a short speech, paying tribute to Bob and Pam Pierce, the Society's founder members. Thanks are due to Rosemary Kellock, who organised the event, and her team of helpers. Anne Lear was presented with a bouquet of flowers. (Did someone mutter something about coals to Newcastle?). Subsequently, the Society made a donation to Derek for his Kenyan charity. There was also a raffle – well it wouldn't be WBAGS without one, would it?

See the Picture Gallery at the end of this Newsletter for a flavour of this most enjoyable occasion.

30 YEARS OF WHALEY BRIDGE ALLOTMENT AND GARDENERS' SOCIETY

A special 30th Year Anniversary Newsletter supplement presenting highlights of the Society's history and activities is being prepared. The Editor would be grateful for the loan of any photos showing the allotments in the early 1980s, the installation of the Fernilee–Audenshaw pipeline at the allotment site, early coach trips, the commissioning of the Store shed, the Millennium party and the 2008 Whaley Bridge well-dressing (featuring WBAGS 25th anniversary). Contact Gill if you can help (phone number below) or GillMWilliamson@hotmail.com

THANKS TO THE STORE TEAM

57 members used the Store this year and takings were substantially up on last year. (We had a summer this year, didn't we!) Many thanks to the Store team, David Osborn, Dave Parker, Gordon Belfield, Roger Wood and Alec Clough. Thanks, too, for the organisation of a successful plant swap, complete with festive bunting! If you have further store needs now, ring David, Dave or Roger.

FUTURE EVENTS

**SOCIAL EVENING Friday, 13th
September at Trinity Church Hall.
7.30pm**

Following on from our most enjoyable "tomato tasting" last year, Margaret Day is organising an "autumn raspberry tasting" as an integral part of this Social Evening. Those with berries to bring should supply about 20 of each type (labelled). The tasting may inform those

planning to buy raspberry canes or raspberries this autumn. In addition to the tasting, members are invited to present examples of other autumn produce (blackberries, apples, etc) they have grown. It has been a good growing season for many and spare produce can be brought along for sale in exchange for a donation to Society funds. The remains of the celebration 30th birthday party cake, currently "on ice", will also be available, so those who missed the Garden Party can have some and toast the Society with a glass of wine or soft drink..



**AUTUMN TALK Friday, 18th
October, Trinity Church Hall 7.30pm.
"Beekeeping" by Paul Wheeldon.**

Paul is a local bee-keeper, who manages the apiary in the New Mills Community Orchard and has given talks to local organisations interested in bee-keeping and the wellbeing of local bees. Refreshments will be served after the talk. **Members £1. Guests £2.**

AGM

The AGM will take place on Friday, 8th November at Trinity Church Hall. 7.30pm. Refreshments afterwards. Details in next Newsletter.

REPORTS OF RECENT EVENTS

**VISIT TO BURTON AGNES
HALL AND GARDENS,
DRIFFIELD 14th July**

24 members enjoyed this excellent trip. On arrival, there was a marvellous view of the Elizabethan hall through the gatehouse, up a drive lined with neat topiary. A 900 year old manor house was on view nearby. The walled garden was

full of interest, including a National Collection of campanulas set out around a central arbour hosting a rose of the Kiftsgate type. The recent sunshine had ensured a profusion of flowers, especially roses and delphiniums, many with spectacular colours. The potager was overflowing with vegetable plants. Water lilies graced a classical pond set in a lawn bordered with topiary. Some of the group visited the interior of the Elizabethan hall and enjoyed its elegant rooms and furniture. The courtyard café served excellent refreshments and there were some interesting plants available for sale at reasonable prices.

TRIPS TO HIGHGROVE

Rosemary Kellock organised two trips to Highgrove this year. These were fully subscribed, as have been all five trips run to date. They were much enjoyed. There is a possibility that a trip might be run next year, depending on the level of residual interest. Further information about this possibility will be given in the Autumn Newsletter.

VISIT TO COTON MANOR GARDENS 17th August

Despite a poor forecast, the conditions were good for viewing this wonderful garden in the grounds of a 17th century manor house. The present garden, set out in 1925, slopes down gradually from the house and is landscaped on various levels. This gives an impressive variety of effects. The garden had a wonderful balance, with plenty of mature trees, streamlets and a couple of ponds with ducks and flamingos. The bluebell wood and wildflower meadow would be most enjoyable in spring and early summer. The stable-yard café and plant sales were both commendable, adding to everyone's enjoyment of this, the last visit of 2013.

SEED CATALOGUES

If you would like to take advantage of the Society's special terms for buying King's seeds, please let David Osborn know. You will then be given one of the catalogues when they become available.

SPARE ITEMS

Joyce Eyre has a good supply of **chipped bark**, which she is happy to offer free to any member who is prepared to collect it. 01663 732003

Annette Derbyshire has an **electric shredder** and a **rain-water butt**. 01663 732366

Dave Parker has a **potting tray and shovel**. 01663 750172 Available for a donation to WBAGS.

Gill Williamson has a **black plastic compost bin 25"x25"x32"**. 01663 733035. Donation as above.

ANNUAL SHOW OF THE WHALEY BRIDGE SHOW AND GARDEN SOCIETY Saturday 7th September, Whaley Bridge Bowling Club 1.30pm

This society is separate from WBAGS and exists specifically to mount an annual show in Whaley Bridge. Details of the various competition categories and guidance about how to participate are available in leaflets at shops and in the Post Offices around Whaley Bridge. Enquiries to Cedric Heathcote 01663 733466 or Lorraine Coverly 01663 733127.



A stroll around the garden to work up an appetite



Party Organiser Rosemary Kellock (2nd from right) and members of the catering team

PARTY PICTURE GALLERY



Founder members John and Pam Pierce



Chairman Roy (right foreground) preparing to toast the founders and members of the Society



Detail of the 30th anniversary cake



Anne and Derek's beautiful garden at Greenoaks, Taxal. It has been developed over 30 years from a walled enclosure of boggy field.



The Lear pinarium....at around 800 feet?

("All that glisters..!")