



WHALEY BRIDGE *Allotment & Gardeners'* Society



SEPTEMBER 2021

It is good to finally have some society events to report and we have to thank Rosemary for organising recent outings.

Our first event was a return visit on 27th July to **Breezy Knees** nursery and show gardens near York. Thanks to Bob for this report.



With the addition of two guests we had a 25 seater coach for just 17 of us allowing people to space out. Despite a forecast of possible rain and late afternoon thunderstorms we enjoyed a good number of sunny intervals and only had rain on the return journey. Arriving at noon we used the facilities before entering the 20 acre site which is thankfully on level ground with plenty seats for people to take a break.



A pictorial guide gives a route visiting all 20 themed gardens. Since our first visit 10 years ago the garden has expanded considerably. There were numerous other visitors but plenty of space and quiet areas. The flower beds were quite spectacular with many interesting features like the humorous "Stonehedge" and giant 15 foot wellington boots, a fountain display and wildflower meadow.



Recent additions include a large lake and arboretum.



Our second outing was to the RHS garden at **Harlow Carr** on the 26th August. This was a popular trip and our affiliation to the RHS giving free entry kept the cost low. The weather was dry, albeit cool and cloudy until mid

afternoon when sunshine favoured the return journey. It was evident that it was the summer holiday period as the cafe and tea shop were busy and seemed short staffed. The most colourful areas were the main borders running down to the stream-side walk. Two large figures built from fruit and vegetables were an added attraction along the main concourse.



Amongst other features there was a kitchen garden, an alpine house and recently introduced sub-tropical garden and walks by the stream side or in the adjacent arboretum.



To add to the entertainment a bird of prey expert gave a display featuring a barn owl, eagle owl

and falcons. The children were willing participants and adults were occasionally surprised by a bird landing on their head!

Membership news

A warm welcome to three new members, Pam Baker of Disley, Joan Casey from Newtown and Jenny Watkins from Marple.

Sadly our longstanding member Jo Bush has died. He was known to many as a trustee of Footsteps and through his involvement in politics. At Heather's request a donation has been made to the Alzheimer's Society.

Diary Dates

We have four more events in 2021. On **Friday 17th September** we have a social meeting from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Uniting Church with a talk and slideshow by Bob about wildflowers seen on a holiday in 2019 to the Picos de Europa.



On **Thursday 7th October** from 2 till 4 p.m. Maureen Sawyer will

be giving a talk on the importance of foliage in the garden.



Entry £2 members, £3 guests.

Southlands was created by artists Maureen Sawyer and Duncan Watmough and was awarded BBC garden of the year for the North of England in 2000. It is regularly open under the NGS scheme.



We have a coffee morning at the Mechanics Institute on **Saturday 30th October** from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Please support this if you can as either a helper or attendee.

Our final meeting of the year is the AGM on **Friday 12th November** 2 till 4 p.m. at the Uniting Church. Please come along with your ideas for next year and contact any committee

member if you would like to become more involved in the running of the society.

An invitation.



I am hosting an open garden at 6, Meadow Close, SK23 7BD on **Friday 3rd September** from 1 to 5 p.m. in aid of Chapel en le Frith Mobile Physiotherapy Society. Entrance is £1 and this includes a ticket to our 50th anniversary prize draw with exciting prizes including an opportunity to tour the Peak District riding pillion on a motortrike! There will be light refreshments on sale and an opportunity to meet and socialise.



Finally for a riot of autumn colour you could visit dahliaholic Geoff Hoyle's open garden on Saturday 4th or Sunday 5th September, 11 till 4 p.m. at 39, Osborne St., Bredbury, Stockport. SK6 2 DA