

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

OCTOBER '01

Dear Member,

Autumn is certainly with us now – windy, plenty of rain of course, the trees are gradually changing colour but there's still some warmth in the sun when it does come out. There's been frantic activity on the allotments with plot holders harvesting the last of the beans, courgettes, potatoes etc. before the frosts arrive and also getting some digging done when it's not too wet. There'll be boxes and drawers full of tomatoes all over the place as we desperately try to get them to ripen. You can only eat so much chutney!

Splendid news, as usual, from the coffee morning front. Thanks to those members who joined in, either helping, making cakes etc., bringing produce from the allotments or turning up for a coffee, it was yet another successful day. I gather it was standing room only at one time and of course the decent weather did help to swell the numbers. It was good to see many of our newer members in attendance too. Our helpers like to hear how we did financially and will be pleased to know we took just over £200 which is excellent and our thanks go to them for all their efforts. We do seem to have very successful coffee mornings! Among the raffle winners were Mrs Stafford, Mr Plant, Mrs Heathcote, the lady at the florist's shop, plus somebody at the Fruit & Veg shop (I've forgotten who else).

I wish I could report in the same happy vein the news from our talk by Dr Furness last Friday when from a membership of around 160 an embarrassing total of twelve turned out. It was a shame as Dr Furness is a very entertaining and knowledgeable speaker and he showed some brilliant slides to accompany his talk. He also brought a wide selection of plants for sale. I don't know what was going on in the village that night, certainly there wasn't much of note on the box that I could see. No Alan Titchmarsh or Charlie Dimmock. Perhaps the title 'Sex among the Flowers' deterred some of our more sensitive members - and there was I urging people to arrive early to make sure of a seat! Oh well, we'll keep trying. We plan a visit to his recently enlarged alpine nursery at Calver sometime next year so perhaps we'll have a better response then. Mrs Ainscow was the lucky raffle winner – well, maybe not so lucky as she doesn't eat chocolate.

On a much happier note I bring good news of members' successes at the recent Whaley Show – almost too many to mention! It was certainly a good show and Suzanne Hartley, Joan and Ron Macbeth, Irene Osborn, Dr O'Donoghue, Anne Parkes, Ethel Hallam and Janet Stores all entered items in various classes and most won prizes. 'Cedge' Heathcote took the honours as usual with his superb dahlias and it's a welcome and congratulations to Brian Bristol, our new member from Linglongs Avenue, who won Best in Show in the photography section. My apologies if I've missed some as I'm sure I have. Oh yes, the William Boston Memorial Trophy for 4 potatoes is back on the mantelpiece at Rock Bank. Unfortunately there was a non-winner at the same address!

Welcome also to Maurice Parker of Jodrell Meadow who has joined us.

And to wrap up what's been a fairly busy year we end with the AGM at the Trinity Church Hall at 8pm on Friday, 2 November and as subs for next year (still only £2) are due you can pay these and sleep easy in your beds for the coming twelve months. You can bring your seed orders as well to save the trek to Rock Bank. If for some reason you can't make the AGM you may also leave subs and seed orders with Charles Johns at 134 Macclesfield Road or Ethel Hallam at 11 Jodrell Road. Please make sure you indicate your name and address so we know who it's from! We're always open to suggestions for trips, speakers, gardens to visit locally, items for the store which we don't already stock and any other thoughts or ideas - so feel free to come and let us know. And of course there are refreshments and a free raffle. What would our functions be without a free raffle!



John Howes, Secretary
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