

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2003

Dear Member

Unusually, only good things to say about the weather – certainly as far as our coffee mornings this year are concerned. Just as in June our September coffee morning in warm sunshine meaning that we could operate outside the Mechanics as well as inside. This always helps to attract extra customers all eager to part with some of their hard earned cash! So much so that the take on the day amounted to around £260 and our thanks go as usual to members who parted with some of theirs and everybody who turned up to help (no names - everyone did a splendid job). Unusually, only two or three members made cakes to sell. The lucky raffle winners were Jack Hallam, Mrs Elaine Bennett, Ivan McDonagh, a Mrs Welsh, Mrs Joanne Kennedy and John Coverley.

We even signed up two more members and it's a warm welcome to Roger Wood of Start Lane and Roy Forrest of Reservoir Road. It would also have been nice to extend a welcome to Mr Oakes and Mr & Mrs Bush but they've been members for a long time – as have Mr & Mrs Plant.

Seed catalogues are going out now to allotment holders, those who ordered last year and new members. Nobody has rung me as yet to ask for one but please do if you'd like one. There's an amazing selection of flower and vegetable seeds plus onion sets and shallots and seed potatoes to choose from.

Readers will have spotted that this newsletter covers October and November. That's because I'm saving up all the really big stories from the AGM to fill up the December issue when normally there's not much to say except "Here's wishing you all a Happy Christmas". Even I can't pad that out to fill a sheet!

The date for the AGM is Friday, 14 November at the Trinity Church Hall starting at 8pm. Advance news is that our Chairman, John Pressman, has decided to retire after 12 years of loyal service to the Society in the post. I doubt, however, that John will cease to be involved altogether. If anyone out there wishes to fill the vacant hot seat let me know.

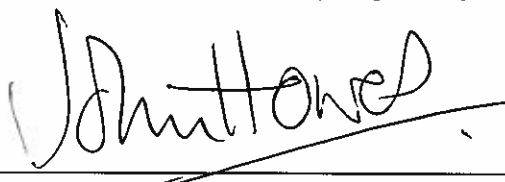
Subs become due at the AGM and are still held at extraordinarily good value at £2. About the price of a pint I'm told. However, members will appreciate that our costs rise every year - photoprinting, stationery and postage (we post 20 newsletters a time), room hire etcetera and even our affiliation fees to the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' have gone increased.

Of course, members will also appreciate all the benefits they can take advantage of should they wish (lots don't, surprisingly). I needn't spell these out of course but you know I'm going to! We usually run three trips each year at reasonable fares (on which we usually lose money by the way), a good selection of products for your gardens from our store with free delivery where necessary, an excellent seed catalogue from King's via the National Society, members' open gardens, the plant swap/sale and the odd talk, our free gazebo and hand tool loan scheme, the discount on tools hired from Speedy in New Mills (we even give you 10% back when you give us your receipt) and I'm sure I've forgotten something.

You'll gather from the above that your committee will be asking the floor to sanction a modest increase in subs from 2004. If you feel strongly about this or any other matter come and air your views, kick out your present officers or just come and enjoy a convivial evening with decent refreshments and the usual raffle.

Too many of our members did really well at the Whaley Show to mention by name. OK, I've forgotten a few and I can't give credit to some and not others. You'll know who you are though!

To fill a space, some observations at the end of summer. Hardly any ladybirds and wasps, lots of various butterflies – especially, you might know, cabbage whites. Not too much hassle from flies when mowing the grass (that's me mowing, not the flies) and not too many slugs except in my Picasso potatoes.



John Howes
6 Rock Bank, Whaley Bridge
WB 733579
jay_howes34@hotmail.com