

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

OCTOBER 2006

Dear Member,

Over the years of writing your newsletters, for various reasons, some have been more difficult to write than others. This one is the most difficult.

Many of you will know by now of the recent sudden death of our committee member Ron Macbeth. Ron was a great character as any of you who were fortunate enough to meet him at Society functions will know. He was always in good humour and was full of enthusiasm for any ideas that came out of our committee meetings although he would soon tell us if he thought they were rubbish.

I can think of only a few of our functions that Ron, accompanied by his wife Joan, was not present, keeping members amused. A former salesman he was often at the store on Sundays urging members, usually successfully, to spend more than they intended. Also a great gardener he always provided a splendid selection of plants that he'd propagated himself for sale at our coffee mornings and plant swaps and he and Joan twice invited the Society to visit their immaculate garden at The Dell of which he was justly proud. A man of many interests he was due to appear at the Royal Albert Hall on the same day as our AGM singing with the Chapel Male Voice Choir of which he was a member.

It goes without saying that Ron will be greatly missed not just by his colleagues on the committee but by all of us in the Society and our sympathies go to Joan and family. Members may wish to make a donation to Cancer Research UK or Coeliac UK at Williamson's Funeral Directors on Market Street.

I have also to report the death of our member Don Crow of Chapel and formerly of Linglongs Avenue. Don had not been in the best of health for some time and our sympathies go to his family.

Members will know that Ethel Hallam, our Social Secretary, has been ill for some time and was recently diagnosed with lung cancer and at the time of writing is waiting to have radiotherapy and a course of chemotherapy. I know you will all wish Ethel well and we trust that the treatment is successful.

The Whaley Bridge Bowling Club was the setting for another successful annual Garden Society Show. As usual, Cedge Heathcote showed some tremendous prizewinning Dahlias and other Society members were among the prizes. Needless to say I can't remember them all so I won't name any (except Peter Gregson who took the Garden News Top Tray prize - as I promised I would!)

This is the last newsletter before the AGM on Friday, 3 November at 8pm. The venue, as usual, is the Trinity Church Hall on Buxton Road and with various changes taking place it could be a lively meeting.

The announcement that your secretary intends to stand down didn't elicit one phone call from a member volunteering to take over. This despite me spelling out the duties involved and how your committee is always on hand to advise and assist when necessary. However, there's still time so if you're looking for an exciting and worthwhile way to involve yourself in the running of YOUR Society ring me on 733579.

A reminder that subs, still only £4, are due at the AGM. Also, a reminder that I need your completed seed order and cheque by Saturday, 4 November. These can be delivered to the AGM but please keep separate from subs, you know I'm easily confused. Orders may also be delivered to me at Rock Bank or handed to any committee member or newsletter deliverer. When filling in your order form it helps if you would indicate the items required in the order they appear in the catalogue.

Yet another reminder - it's our coffee morning at the Mechanics on Saturday, 16 December where we will be having a festive Tombola so now is a good time to start collecting small but desirable items for it!



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