

## WHALEY BRIDGE ALLOTMENT & GARDENERS' SOCIETY

### **Annual General Meeting**

Please note, our AGM will be held on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm** as usual at **Trinity Church**, Whaley Bridge. Do come along if you can, there will be light refreshments, including wine, and a raffle following the meeting. Remember this is the opportunity to have your say on how the Society is run. Note that it's 'time for change' and I am giving up the job of (interim) newsletter editor now that another of our members, Gill Williamson of Linglongs Avenue, has offered to take over the task. The present committee have already seen a sample of Gill's work and I'm sure we'll all be pleasantly surprised when she takes up the reins for the next newsletter.

For your information, all the present committee are prepared to stand for re-election with the exception of Mary Howes who has decided to stand down. Our thanks to her for all the work she has done over the years whilst on committee. She knows all the ropes of course and has thankfully agreed to continue helping out at Society events as usual. Much appreciated Mary.

**Should any other members feel they would like to stand for committee please let Roy Jennings, our chairman, know in advance of the AGM.**

### **Kings Seed Order (via NSALG)**

The annual seed order is now being organised by David Osborn and Roy Jennings. If you wish to order and haven't yet had a catalogue please speak to David (01663 733659) **urgently** as all orders have to be received no later than the Nov AGM. Seed prices are far lower than you would find anywhere else and the Society also gets a small commission, so do **think about it**.

Alternatively, Roger Wood (01663 732112) has a supply of Shelley Seeds 2010 catalogues should any member be interested. While the prices are not as good as Kings, they were recommended for quality by our speaker David Hampsey last March. Phone Roger if you would like a copy.

### **Coffee Morning-Mechanics Institute, WB**

Following on shortly after the AGM is the Xmas Coffee Morning on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November** at the Mechanics Institute. ( Yes, I know, Xmas seems to get earlier and earlier each year ). Hopefully it will be a fine weather day, encouraging members and friends to come along and support this event which helps raise funds for the Society. There will be lots of Xmas paraphernalia on sale so don't go buying stuff at inflated prices elsewhere. Should you be free and like to help out with the catering or by donating tombola/raffle prizes, please have a word with Mary Howes (01663 733579).

### **Autumn tidy up**

Autumn is the time of the year we should consider **splitting plants** that are getting too big for their position. Roger Wood has offered to help any member who has surplus split plants to pot them up and store them with a view to selling them next year at the annual plant swap/sale or coffee mornings. All takings would go into the Society's funds. You can phone Roger on 01663 732112. Likewise, please let him know if you have any large plant pots (around 10") you don't want.

### **Nature Notes**

See attached.

**Signing off** as (stand-in) newsletter editor I thank you all for your tolerance whilst I've been at the helm (so to speak). Amazingly, I've not had to walk the plank, been clapped in irons, pilloried or even had any custard pies thrown at me yet, and I'm sure my successor, Gill Williamson, will endear herself to you even more with her new style of newsletter. So here's wishing her all the best.

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# WHALEY BRIDGE ALLOTMENT & GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Newsletter- October/ November 2009

Dear Members,

Well this year's events are now drawing to a close and overall I don't think we can complain. In general, support for events has been fairly good although numbers were low for the **Birmingham Botanical Gardens** trip which caused Rosemary to cancel the initial coach booking and instead have a smaller coach from Golden Green Garage. Nevertheless it turned out to be a really nice day with plenty of sunshine and a light breeze so all those who went had a very good day. There was quite enough to see and do, with tropical and subtropical glasshouses, Mediterranean house, and Arid house with giant cacti and other desert plants, and of course the themed gardens which were both interesting and attractive and included an aviary. To our surprise we found the National Bonsai Collection ! (quite impressive) and also a small Japanese garden. Refreshments were always on hand as well as plenty of seating for those wanting a rest to enjoy the view and jazz band. It certainly lived up to it's description as an 'Oasis of Delight'. Raffle prizes went to Annette Dunk, Graham Aizlewood and Alan Kendrick. Sorry if you missed it.

## Autumn Talk

Simon Tetlow, Assistant Head Gardener at Tatton Park gave a talk on the restoration and development of the Kitchen Garden at Tatton. This covered history of how the Estate was run with numerous servants, gardeners, gamekeepers etc who learnt 'on the job' at a young age, progressing up through the ranks to the top job eg Head Gardener. In the early days rich estate owners vied with each other and apart from aiming to be self sufficient they wanted to entertain and impress wealthy visitors. We were told how large ornate glass houses and heated walls came into popularity in the Victorian era, enabling exotic fruits such as pineapples to be grown as well as extending the growing season for many other things. Currently Tatton Gardens are being restored to their former glory and one of its large greenhouses is being re-erected and lovingly repaired. The garden can now produce enough fruit and veg for the café outlet and any seasonal surplus is sold to visitors via the shop. Simon's enthusiasm was very evident, spurring members to visit Tatton and witness the progress being made.

## Whaley Bridge Annual Flower Show- Sat 12<sup>th</sup> September

This event has I gather from Peter Gregson been run for the last 100 years by the Whaley Bridge Show Society. Currently held at the WB Bowling Club, it attracts a lot of local interest and some of our members enter produce, etc for adjudication in the various competition classes. This year Joe Bush entered apples in the fruit section and won 1<sup>st</sup> prize. But Joe admits the plaudits really should go to our late founder member, John Howes, on whose old plot the apple tree grows. There were a few other successes for our members, Julie Longden won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes for her needlework and also 1<sup>st</sup> prize for her jam, and Alison Allerton won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for her blackberries (plate of soft fruit). Yours truly was coerced by Rosemary into entering a rather large courgette (a modest marrow really) which amazingly won 1st prize in the 'novice' class (I don't think there were any other entries in that category). It's now destined to become marrow and ginger jam. If there were other members who won prizes then please accept my congratulations. Its worth entering next year just for the fun of it all.

## Membership

A warm welcome to new members John Savage, Susan Watson, Sandy Crolla & Raechael Coe, all of Chapel-en-le-Frith. Phew ! At this rate we shall soon see membership topping the 200 mark for the first time ! I know some of the aforementioned have allotment plots at Chapel and are quite interested in using the Elnor Lane store which is good news.

## Renewal of membership

As you all know, the annual subs of £4 per member are due in November. Not a vast amount to pay for the benefits of membership, so I'm optimistic members will respond by paying up in good time. As Treasurer and Membership Sec, I like to keep the records up to date as far as possible, so prompt payment from members is very helpful. With your co-operation the need for regular reminders via subsequent newsletters will be minimised. You can renew at the AGM or pop a cheque (payable to WBAGS) in the post to me (see address below). I can of course take your cash if that's more convenient. Just fill in the tear off slip on the attached renewal notice and return with payment. Thanks.