



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



AUTUMN 2013 NEWSLETTER THE END OF A SUNNY SUMMER!



Hard at work planting tubs on Whaley Bridge Station. See article on second page.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Your Committee is pleased to welcome on your behalf Judy Hardman of Whaley Bridge and Rosie Harding of Chapel-en-le-Frith as new members of the Society.

The Committee is very sad to report the deaths of two members in recent months.

Graham Aizlewood died after a long illness. He was a member for many years, came on numerous coach trips and took part in social events. He will be remembered for his warmth, sense of humour and massive courage in the face of enormous difficulties. Our sympathies are with Judith and her family.

Peter Gregson died very recently. He was known to many people in Whaley Bridge for his role in organising the annual garden show in Whaley Bridge, as a keen vegetable grower and as an enthusiastic walker in the Peak District hills. Peter retained his good humour despite deteriorating health and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our sympathies are with Jane and her family.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions (£5 per member) are due on 1st November. Please give or send Bob Kellock, Treasurer, a cheque made out to

WBAGS. (31 Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7BD.)

SEED ORDERS

Please let David Osborn have your completed seed order no later than the AGM. If you have not got a Kings Seeds Catalogue and would like to benefit from the WBAGS discount, please contact David as soon as possible.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!
Friday, 8th November
Trinity Church Hall, 7.30pm
SAY WHAT YOU THINK!
ASK YOUR QUESTIONS!
ENJOY THE COMPANY OF YOUR GARDENING FRIENDS!



COFFEE MORNING Saturday, 14th December. Mechanics Institute 9.00am – 12.00 noon

In addition to coffee and refreshments being available, there will also be pots of bulbs on sale, likely to flower around Christmas. These will include hyacinths and "Paperwhite" narcissus already planted in attractive bowls. All will be reasonably priced. If members would like to bring home-made cakes and mince pies for sale, these contributions would be very welcome. So too, would help with serving coffee, helping with goods for sale and washing up. Come and meet your friends and buy some

attractive last-minute Christmas presents.

HIGHGROVE VISIT 2014?

Rosemary Kellock is seeking feedback as to whether there is any interest in another visit to Highgrove. She states the position as follows: "There are three aspects of this: (1) The fare will be around £45pp if we go, subject to having 26 participants. If we get say, 15 people, then the coach fare would be such that the price for the trip would be £55pp. (2) The timing would be mid-June to mid-July and therefore I would need to know from anyone interested that this timing would suit and (3) any specific dates within that timing when they would be unable to go. This is because I have to decide at the beginning of February (on the basis of the information received), what is the best option to suit people who want to go and my own availability (Tuesdays to Thursdays preferred). Once chosen, I cannot change the date. I am given approximately two months to pay for the full complement, or alternatively, to state how many seats I want or that the proposed plan is cancelled. I am only prepared to take another visit to Highgrove if it looks as if there would be a good number of people committed to participation." *Please talk to Rosemary about this visit if you are interested.*

AUTUMN TALK

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the autumn talk on "Bee-keeping" will have taken place. A report of it will appear in the New Year Newsletter.

NEW HOME WANTED....

..for surplus three year old soft fruit bushes. There are three blackcurrant bushes and three gooseberry bushes

(Hinnomaki Red, Hinnomaki Yellow and Innivicta). If you are interested, please phone Linden Smith on 01663 733325 or 07769 697202.

RECENT EVENT

SOCIAL EVENING 13th September



Dave Parker and David Osborn

Despite the rain, 20+ members attended. The buffet included wine and the remains of the 30th anniversary celebration cake, which had matured slightly after several weeks in the deep-freeze! There was a selection of home produce, mostly fruits, assessed by our expert member, Margaret Day. There was a huge difference in the size of blueberries grown from bushes in containers (smaller) compared with those grown in the ground (larger). Unfortunately, the raspberry tasting was limited to Margaret's excellent contribution and a small contribution from Rosemary Kellock. It appears not many members grow raspberries, or certainly not the later types. Plenty of other fruits were on display however – Worcester berries, Victoria plums, blackberries – which had all done well this summer. To the amazement of all, Dave Parker and his wife Marian won both raffle prizes!



Joan Macbeth, Annette Dunk and Lorna Moss

CONGRATULATIONS!

Di Howe won the "Best in Show" prize for her Staghorn Fern at the annual show of the Whaley BridgeShow and Garden Society. It is

a truly remarkable indoor plant. Congratulations!

THE STATION GARDEN

Those who travel by train will have seen the delightful planted beds, tubs and hanging baskets reintroduced at Whaley Bridge station in recent years. In the early days of the railway line, there was a staff of 12 at the station and photographs exist of the planting of that time. A few years ago, Friends of Whaley Bridge Station, a team of volunteers, which included several WBAGS members, set out to create new beds in keeping with the original concept. They extended this, however, to include a sensory garden, opened in 2008. There was a temporary reversal of fortunes for the garden a few years later: Much of the work had to be redone as a result of the restoration of the entire station, including the raising of the platform on the Buxton side. The entire station project has been a major enhancement to the local community, however. Much help and support was given to the volunteers to restore their earlier work. David Ross of Kettlethulme offered the project team favourable prices for plants and Network Rail guided the contractors to make good the flowerbed sites in a way that got the second restoration off to a good start. Alison Allerton chose the perennial plants for the longer flowerbeds (incorporating some that had survived from earlier times) and Barbara Pritchard chose those for the sensory garden. Once a month, a group of around a dozen volunteers do the necessary garden maintenance. Local schools take an interest in the station, its development, recent restoration and in the horticultural aspects. On June 15th, many people came and admired the station, the sensory garden and the many flowers along the platform whilst celebrating the 150th anniversary of the extension of the original Stockport, Disley and Whaley Bridge Railway to Buxton.

MUSINGS FROM PODICEPS CRISTATUS...

Meles meles or *mycobacterium bovis* – which came first ??

Deep under the sycamores and holly trees, as the early autumn mist drifted

above Slater's Wood, old Grandpa Brock, settled into his great heap of dry leaves and twigs, and peered myopically at his extended family of boars with sows and cubs, as they scurried about the dark interior of the sett. They were gathering stores of nuts, corn, little bundles of dead snails, earthworms and slugs – preparing for a journey !. Should they move to a new sett further away ?, because news from their cousins in Cheshire had caused great concern: *Bovine T.B* is on the increase again!

Old Brock knew that most cattle farmers linked the cow sickness to the sickness of the badgers, ever since 1971, when a dead badger infected with bovine tuberculosis was discovered on a cattle farm that had suffered an outbreak of the deadly disease.

He recognised that the six week cull of badgers ongoing in Gloucestershire has killed 70% of the target badger population, hoping to verify the data obtained in Ireland...that 200,791 cows were slaughtered in England alone during 2008-2013 incurring a massive cost to the public...that effective vaccination of cows is 10 years away...should we try to vaccinate badgers?...

His granddad told him of the gassing of setts in Wiltshire and Somerset forty years ago, it is only as recently as 1992 that the Protection of Badgers Act has reduced that threat...which animal infects the other is still unclear !....so much conflicting information, so sleepy now...the cubs rolled around singing quietly...

*"There was a young badger from Wales,
Whose sett was invaded by snails,
The shells she all crunched -on escargots
she lunched,*

"Till all that remained was their trails!"

