



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



Autumn 2014 Newsletter

ALL CHANGE – WIND, WELLIES AND WATERPROOFS!



Gertrude Jekyll rose

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to John Stansfield who has recently joined the Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 6th November
Uniting Church, 2 p.m.

SAY WHAT YOU THINK!

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS!

**ENJOY THE COMPANY OF YOUR
GARDENING FRIENDS!**



With the exception of Gill Williamson, Newsletter Editor, all Committee members have indicated that they are willing to continue to serve in their current roles. This does not stop any other nominations for these positions being made. Nominations should be made with the agreement of the person nominated and Roy Jennings should be informed before the AGM. As stated, Gill Williamson wishes to stand down at the AGM. This is for personal reasons. Judith Aizlewood has indicated her willingness to take on the role of Newsletter Editor, subject to the agreement of members at the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual subscriptions (£5 per member) are due during November. Please complete the attached Renewal of Annual Subscription Form (to help keep records up to date) and give or send to Bob Kellock, Treasurer, cheques made out to WBAGS (31 Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7BD.)

KINGS SEED ORDERS

Please let David Osborn or Roy Jennings have your completed seed orders no later than the AGM.

FUTURE EVENTS

**COFFEE MORNING Saturday 6th
December. Mechanics Institute
9.30am to 12 noon**

Coffee, tea, biscuits, chat and that is only to start with! Once again, we will be selling potted bulbs to cheer you through the winter. After a very successful trial of this activity a year ago, potted daffodils, hyacinths and amaryllis will be available to buy.

There will also be a home-made cakes stall and bric-a-brac. Please come and bring your friends. If you are able to help with serving refreshments, staffing stalls and clearing up, your contribution would be very much appreciated. If you have never helped before and want some guidance on what is involved, please contact Rosemary Kellock.

POSSIBLE HIGHGROVE VISIT

Rosemary Kellock is keen to establish potential interest in a visit to Highgrove in summer 2015, probably in June or July. Please let Rosemary know if you are interested, so she can look into the

practicalities if there are enough people. She will give you further details and you would need to commit yourself by the end of January and pay by the end of February.

RECENT EVENT

SOCIAL EVENING 12TH September

Attendance at the social evening lacked quantity but not quality! 12 members and 2 guests were able to make it. Home-made preserves were brought by David Osborn, Margaret Day and Joyce Eyre. Excellent refreshments were produced by Rosemary Kellock and a glass of wine added to the general enjoyment. David and Margaret discussed with those present the proposed trials of traditional and peat-free composts, which members of the Society will undertake next year. Watch this space and let David know if you are interesting in being a participant. Sufficient compost for the purposes of the trial will be provided.

AUTUMN TALK 2ND October Anne Beswick on "Garden Design"

A total of 19 members attended this meeting forfeiting the autumn afternoon sunshine, but were rewarded by an interesting and relevant talk on the criteria for designing a good garden. There was plenty of useful advice and warnings of things to avoid e.g. letting trees grow too big before deciding to remove, planting in wrong situ, and getting carried away buying plants without thinking if they are suitable. Anne suggested adopting a theme for the garden which would then focus attention on a limited range of plants making it easier to choose and manage.

The theme would need to be suited to the conditions. Things like water features and climbing plants eventually become problems to maintain and in her opinion should be avoided. As a rough guide Ann recommended adopting the 1 : 2 thirds ratio (open space to planted area or vice versa) which is the garden layout usually found most pleasing to the eye, and showed pictures of various gardens which illustrated this. Garden features, ornaments etc should be placed in the most favoured spot for their size to be viewed and fit the surroundings.

Following the talk Anne answered members' questions mostly in relation to their own gardens. David Jeremy had a humorous idea to use his old bicycle as a garden feature, subject to his wife Jean's agreement of course.

Raffle prizes were won by June Irwin, Jean Jeremy (for a friend), and Hilda Burgess.



Peter and Margaret Day washing up

WHALEY BRIDGE SHOW

The Whaley Bridge Show and Garden Society held its annual show on Saturday 6th September. It was well attended and particularly delightful to see how many competitors there were in the young people's categories. There will be no lack of creativity in raising and using flowers and vegetables in years to come!



"The Owl and the Pussycat" created by Toby Pattison.

PLANTING AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

In September 2012, the redevelopment of Whaley Bridge Memorial Park was featured in the newsletter. At that time, the masonry work on the War Memorial had been completed but further hard landscaping and removal of rhododendrons needed to take place before the beds around the memorial could be re-created and planted. This work is now complete. Four types of pink and red roses, all deeply scented, have been planted against a background of striking, white-stemmed birches. The roses are Gertrude Gekyll, Louise Odier, Rose de Recht and Wild Edric.

The Gertrude Jekyll rose was named after a leading horticulturalist of that name. She was influential in the Arts and Crafts Movement, particularly for her combined projects with Edwin Lutyens, principal architect of the cemeteries and memorials of the First World War. The Louise Odier rose was developed in France in the nineteenth century and does well in cooler climates! The Rose de Recht is bright red and flowers every six weeks or so through the summer and autumn. The Wild Edric rose scents the June air and displays a profusion of vivid pink blooms.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The editor gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Judith Aizlewood in the preparation of this newsletter.

MUSINGS FROM PODICEPS CRISTATUS

"Where did you put next year's seed catalogue, luv?"



Autumn is a very special season, when we gardeners, flushed with the success and harvest of this year, plan for next

year! We marvel at the lavish promise of the seed catalogue – *but was it always like this? - Where did these wonders come from?*

About 10,000BC, the great ice sheets that had stifled nature in Northern Europe and North America started to melt. Our land was born and the Roosdyche above Throstledale and Bings Wood was formed. At this time, the Natufian people living in small settlements to the West of the Euphrates and Nile rivers, gathered wild cereals and fruits and started to cultivate plants in a sustainable fashion. From then on, the human race would have to grow its own food to survive!

Cave paintings, rock carvings and archaeological evidence show that vegetable gardens existed in Iran and Iraq around 6000BC and in China and Mexico by 4500BC. Homer's poetry (ca 1000BC) tells of gardens "*full of fruits, sweet figs and bounteous olives*" and also of beet, celery, brassicas and asparagus. As the Roman empire expanded and by ca 100AD, they had introduced their favourite plants through Europe, adding to our menu:- garlic, broad beans, onions, leeks, lettuce and radish, mustard, parsnips and turnips – more interesting than the peas, vetch, wheat and barley that we had to offer before! In the sixteenth century, the New World bestowed even more flavour – capsicum, peppers, maize, marrows and pumpkins, tomatoes and....POTATOES!

So please don't forget what our earliest allotmenteer Thomas Tusser wrote in 1580:

*"One seed for another to make an exchange
With fellowly neighbours seemeth not strange"*

