



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



OCTOBER 2016

Gardening – Everyone's a Winner.

Coming Events.

We have one final event for 2016 – our **AGM on Friday 4th November 2 p.m. at the Uniting Church.** There will be the usual light refreshments and raffle plus some allium bulbs for sale. New committee members are always welcome and members may, with their agreement, propose candidates. Come and share your ideas, give feedback on the year's events and help our society to thrive.

Recent events.

Our **coffee morning** on 10th September had fine weather and many members took the time to come along and buy bulbs.

The trip to **Harrogate Autumn flower show** on Sunday 18th September was absolutely perfect making up for the deluge experienced on our previous visit.



Fourteen members and guests enjoyed a multitude of plant displays in the various pavilions, band entertainments, garden advice talks, food hall and "Made in Yorkshire" craft tent – something for everyone.



Jane was particularly impressed with the onions after her triumph at the local show.

The plant sell off began promptly at 4 p.m. and we loaded up the coach with our booty before a smooth return journey.

The **social evening** on 23rd September featured a pictorial slide show quiz. Seven teams of three competed with Bob acting as quiz master. There were four multiple choice answers for each of the 24 questions and all teams scored in the mid to high teens – clever lot. Roger Wood's team were the winners sharing a prize of spring bulbs. Dave Parker's

gang were given a round of applause in lieu of a booby prize. Wine, refreshments and a raffle rounded off an enjoyable evening.

Our talk on 6th October was by Don Witton covering "**Euphorbia and other Vibrant Perennials**".



The meeting attracted 23 people who listened to Don, an ex-school teacher, give an entertaining talk about his national collection of Euphorbia grown on his allotment in Sheffield. Don has been passionate about these plants for many years and was visited by Carol Klein and the BBC Gardeners' World team who took 7 hours to film his plot for a 5 minute slot on a recent Monty Don programme. At the allotment open day the following weekend visitor numbers, instead of being the usual manageable 30 to 40, numbered

over 400 with a continuous line of people snaking around the plot.

Don informed us that there are over 2,000 varieties of Euphorbia but he is only able to grow the hardier ones as he is located 500' above sea level. These plants are not for the health and safety conscious as the milky sap can cause skin irritation and the seed pods crack and explode when ripe! Gloves should be worn if taking cuttings to propagate. Humorous stories and jokes were woven into the presentation along with photographs showing how to ensure colour from April to October.



Don's favourite euphorbia is a variety named E.Donni which has very attractive foliage and is named after a grandparent of Monty Don.

Membership news

We welcome a new member Mr Stuart Kaill of Macclesfield Road.

The good news is that I do not have to issue the usual subscription renewal plea – if you have paid your subscription this year, next year is free.

If you wish to buy seeds from the annual **Kings Seed Scheme** the new catalogue is now available and orders should be passed to

the store manager, David Osborn, no later than 4th November (date of our AGM) Please contact him if you want a catalogue (01663 733659) Seed prices are approximately half the normal retail prices so don't miss out on this benefit of your membership. The store still holds some supplies of compost; again ring David if you need some.

Out and About.

The annual **Whaley Garden Show** held at the Bowling Club on 3rd September was well supported with many of our members attending and winning prizes.



Flowers, vegetables, baking and crafts all featured in the show.



The onions were a little smaller than those seen at Harrogate but of course it's the taste that matters.



One of our committee members was seen enjoying a cream tea. I did offer to delete the picture for a small fee but his response was "publish and be damned" so I took him at his word!



Chapel Gardening Club have their last talk of 2016 on 30th November. This is "A Country Walk" by Jane Allison in Chapel Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. £2 for non- members.

Podiceps Cristatus

Regular readers have been asking for news of the grebe. Although I have invested in new high-powered binoculars there have been no recent sightings. Maybe climate change is to blame. I hope for better news next year.

