



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



OCTOBER 2018

I hope you are enjoying the lovely autumn colours. It seems to be a great year for fungi; hopefully you won't be invaded by the dreaded honey fungus.



Coming Events

Coffee morning on Saturday 17th November.

9.30 a.m. to noon. Offers of help appreciated or just come along to support the society. There will be bulbs on sale and donations of cakes and raffle prizes are needed.

AGM

**FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
2 P.M.
WB UNITING CHURCH**

Last year the committee outnumbered those attending the meeting. Please try to come along and contribute your views about the society. There will be the usual refreshments and free raffle. It is also an opportunity to renew your subscription unchanged at £5. A revised renewal form is attached with

this newsletter giving details of new payment options.

Store news

David will shortly be distributing the Dobies seed catalogues – contact him if you would like a copy. A 50% discount on seeds gives you the opportunity to try something new. I am enjoying some late colour from annual seeds which all gave great germination rates and have provided a late season nectar bar for insects.



If you require any store supplies out of season please contact David Osborn on 01663 733659.

Allotment news



Some progress has been made on the wet plots by making raised beds to improve the drainage and adding bark chippings to improve the paths.

Dave Dugate managed to grow this magnificent 12 foot sunflower on his allotment this year.



Please send pictures of your horticultural triumphs for inclusion in the newsletters.

Recent events

Visit to Biddulph Grange 23rd August 2018

Rosemary arranged yet another good weather day apart from a short spell of light drizzle and 18 members visited this formal high Victorian garden described by the National Trust as "full of

intrigue and surprise. Fascinating information on the visionary owner, James Bateman, was provided who expended the entire family fortune in the making of this garden.



Report on TALK by Alan Clements on Cascades Garden, Bonsall. 4th October 2018.

The talk, entitled 'Jungle to Paradise' attracted a good attendance (around 35). Roger had made all the arrangements but unfortunately was unable to attend and as a result missed a very entertaining afternoon. Alan Clements gave a colourful description of how he and his wife acquired the house and garden in 1996 after being inspired following visits to Tibet where he had an audience with the Dalai Lama, and Japan and India where he again consulted Buddhist monks on the 'meaning of life', having lost his daughter to a kidney disease. He learnt the benefits of meditation and to revere nature which on his return caused him to visit iconic gardens such as Heligan, Hidcote, Bressingham etc and study the gardening gurus Beth Chatto, Alan Bloom etc. After completely re-landscaping the garden it was given the name Cascades due to the numerous small waterfalls

fed by the local stream. The 4 acre site was badly overgrown and needed much excavation with mechanical JCB diggers to tame the wild gorge. The garden has evolved over the last 20 or so years and is now a haven of peace in an idyllic natural limestone cliff setting with the stream and old corn mill leat running down its length. The talk was well illustrated throughout. Alan's passion for Japanese garden design has added to other influences all blended into the natural landscape which can be enjoyed from wooden seats at strategic points giving different views into the garden rooms. An earlier small structure still existing is the 'Gin & Tonic' hut which Alan now uses regularly following his retirement from business. The garden is just a hobby. Due to a recent violent storm there has been severe flooding through the valley floor causing not only damage to the garden but also to tools, equipment and records kept in the house basement. It is hoped all will be restored and safeguarded against future floods.



Report on WBAGS Social meeting 21st September 2018, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity church

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the number of members attending were a disappointing

14 following an electricity power cut affecting numerous households in the Elnor Lane area and some atrocious stormy weather throughout the day resulting in flash floods. Nonetheless those present had an entertaining evening with the third annual Gardening Quiz which was conducted light heartedly by Bob. The teams did very well and Dave Osborn and Judy Hardman were worthy winners. Plant prizes were awarded, the booby prize in an old Tate & Lyle syrup can to Sue Mellor and Lorna Moss. The raffle prize was won by guess who- Dave Parker yet again, (the man is a genius at it). Refreshments followed and most got away before another brief downpour.



Membership news.

We extend our sympathy to Rosemary Wignall on the untimely death of her husband Robin, well known to our members as a keen walker. A donation is being made to Blythe House in his memory.

I am collecting used stamps to support local National Trust landscape projects. Just cut them out with a margin of approx 1cm. There is a collecting box at Footsteps.