



WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society



OCTOBER 2019

Coming events

AGM
FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
2 P.M. UNITING CHURCH

Refreshments, raffle, pay subs.
Have your say.

If you would like to become more involved in running the society please don't hesitate to offer your services at the AGM.

Coffee morning.

Saturday 30th November.

9.30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Mechanics Institute.
This will include a sale of potted bulbs in addition to refreshments and raffle. Please add your support with donations of raffle prizes, cakes etc. offers to help via Rosemary are welcome or support us by coming along with your friends for coffee and a chat.

New members.

Welcome to John Taylor and Peter Holder. We look forward to meeting you at events.

Subscriptions.

These have been held again at £5 per member. Attached are details

on how to renew your subscription.

Store news.

The store is now closed for the season but if you need supplies of compost etc please contact David Osborn on 01663 733659. Dobies seed catalogues will be distributed in November. There is a fantastic 50% discount on seeds available and 15% on other items. If you have had a catalogue previously you will get the new one, otherwise request one from David Osborn.

Allotment news.

The working group continues to work with the town council and arrange work parties to ensure that the plot holders are getting a good service. Fly tipping at the entrance to the site is a continuing problem.

Previous events.

Kedleston Hall and Maynard Langley Trial Gardens.

With Rosemary's usual luck, 21 members had good weather for this trip despite heavy rain on adjacent days. On arrival at Kedleston we were given an introductory talk with a brief history of the hall since its completion in the 1760's and a guided tour of the main rooms.

It was built for the wealthy landowner Sir George Nathaniel Curzon who was Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905 as a show case to display his treasures and impress guests. The famous architect, Sir Robert Adam was employed, using local stone and material such as alabaster or Hopton Wood stone for the floor of the Marble Hall.



The pleasure ground are designed for strolling and carriage drives but the National Trust have included large wildflower beds in the lawns which were buzzing with insect life.



Next we visited Maynall Langley Trial Gardens renowned for its

displays of hanging baskets. The owner, Robert, gave us an entertaining tour interrupted by "Morris" the robot mower. The challenges of weather extremes in recent years are revealing which plants can continue to perform in these conditions. I was impressed by the amount of late colour, one of the secrets is an automated drip feed system which supplies dilute nutrients so that the plants are never stressed and nutrients leached by rain are regularly replaced.



You can see more of Bob's excellent photographs on the WBAGS web-site and also at our first social meeting in 2020 which will, as usual, feature a slide show on the previous year's events.

Social Meeting Friday 20th September.

14 members gave up the delights of a sunny autumn afternoon to chat and enjoy an informal garden quiz with Bob acting as quiz master. Six teams competed for the honour of winning a pot of cyclamen hederifolia carried off by Joan Wood and Annette Dunk. Raffle prizes were won by Lesley Berry and Jean Clough and Rosemary provided the refreshments.

Talk, Thursday 3rd October.

Patrick Harding, a freelance broadcaster, author and adult teacher, provided an amusing and educational talk entitled "Mushroom Miscellany" He brought an amazing range of samples with him which he had picked in the last couple of day explaining that this time of year and recent weather provided ideal conditions for hunting the 4500 species found in Britain. Patrick has produced a number of field guides which were available to buy and his wife, who is a botanical artist, brought cards for sale. Many thanks to Roger who continues to find interesting and informative speakers for our group.

Whaley Garden Show.

There were many familiar faces at the garden show and members had entered a range of classes.



Andrea Brennan entered pot plants, shortbread and a vase of annuals and got 3 firsts and a best in show. Jean Clough was successful with Raspberries, beetroot, French beans and grapes as well as knitting and Annette Dunk competed with her speciality of Streptocarpus. One of the trips planned for next year is to Dibley's nurseries with a talk on streptocarpus so come along and give Annette a run for

her money next year.



I'm sure many other members had success at the show and am always happy to receive contributions for inclusion in the newsletter. (aizlewood@sky.com)

Out and about.

Chapel Garden Society has a talk on November 27th, 2 p.m. at the Town Hall, entitled "Preparing for Christmas".

If you haven't yet had your fill of garden visits Wild Thyme Cottage is open on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd November. Woodhouses, Barton under Needwood, Burton on Trent DE13 8BS. There is a collection of over 120 Japanese maples with white bark birch and other ornamental trees amongst large beds of late flowering perennials and ornamental grasses. The emphasis is on a succession of colour and interest throughout the year.

