



WHALEY BRIDGE Allotment & Gardeners' Society



AUTUMN 2011 NEWSLETTER

SUN AND RAIN - JOYS AND SORROWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Committee is delighted to welcome the following new members: Jemima Lawrence and Joe Taylor (both of Kettleshulme), Jill Malzard, Vivian Shalet, Elaine Storey and Liz Woodward (all of Whaley Bridge.)

Those of you who received the September Newsletter by email were notified of the death of Deryk Thomas. Others may know only that he was very ill at that time. "He will be remembered as a true gentleman, a dedicated family man, hardworking and diligent, perceptive, thoughtful and kind with a gentle nature." (Whaley Bridge Parish Magazine.) Our sympathies go to his wife Katharine and to her children.

It is with great sadness that the Committee reports the devastatingly sudden death of Chris Dunk. The last Newsletter, sent out only a few weeks before his death, reported the "Open Garden" Chris and Annette held in August. Chris was always warm, friendly, caring and active within the community. He loved people to enjoy the garden he and Annette made together over some 35 years. His creativity was bold and immense. Our thoughts are with Annette and her family at this time of shock and grief.



Visitors resting, refreshing themselves and chatting after viewing the garden .



Pickford Place, in the heart of old Chapel, transformed by Chris and Annette Dunk.

AGM

Your Committee needs you to tell it what you want and expect from the Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!
Friday, 4th November
Trinity Church Hall
7.30pm
HAVE YOUR SAY!
SHARE YOUR IDEAS!
ENJOY THE COMPANY OF YOUR GARDENING FRIENDS!



Members may propose candidates (with their agreement) as new Committee members. Please give details to the Chairman, Roy Jennings, prior to the meeting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due in November. Please complete the Renewal of Annual Subscription Form attached and give or send it to Bob Kellock, 31 Meadow Close, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7BD. Annual subscription is £5 per head. Prompt payment helps Bob and saves costs.

SEED CATALOGUE

The deadline is near. If by chance you have not had a Kings Seed Catalogue (society version) and want one, contact

Roy Jennings or David Osborn. Return completed orders to Roy or David at the AGM (latest) or send it to them soon.
Roy: 11 Meadowfield, SK23 7AX
David: 9 Elnor Avenue, SK23 7JR
(Both Whaley Bridge addresses.)

REPORTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

VISIT: BRODSWORTH HALL 18th Sept

The garden at Brodsworth still had a lot of colour, displayed to good effect in the generally fine weather. Two of the most impressive features of the garden were the well-cut topiary and a beautiful old cedar, which had been left to grow naturally. The flower gardens were themed: one particularly striking one was enclosed, with statues and plants in red and silver. The Hall had been left deliberately in a time-warp and the effects of damp before it was taken over by English Heritage were visible. Many of the party listened to a jazz concert and had lunch outside. It was an interesting and enjoyable day.

"WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN" 7th Oct

The talk was given by George Pilkington of the British Ornithological Society. George gave particular emphasis to issues relating to the feeding of garden birds. He also talked about the hazards they face in gardens (cats, spread of disease around feeding areas, loss of worms and other fauna through some toxic garden products). George brought examples of various food-stuffs for garden birds that he had developed himself, identified useful reference books and handed out informative leaflets. After the talk, which attracted some 40 members and guests, refreshments were served and all present were able to chat over coffee and biscuits.

FUTURE EVENTS

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

2nd December Mechanics Institute

9am – 12 noon

Coffee, homemade cakes, tombola, bring-and-buy stall, raffles and good company. Small gifts for the tombola to Rosemary Kellock or a Committee member please.

VISIT TO HARROGATE SPRING SHOW

Sunday, 29th April, 2012

If you have not told Rosemary Kellock of your potential interest in this event, please do so. This will help her to gauge interest.

WHALEY BRIDGE SHOW

Several members exhibited at, and many more visited, the Whaley Bridge Show held on 11th September at Whaley Bridge Bowling Club.

Newer residents of Whaley Bridge may not be familiar with the background to the Show. The first was held in 1876, when Col. Ramsden Jodrell and others founded the Whaley Bridge Show and Garden Society. This was established specifically to set up and run the Show. It has carried on, with a few inevitable ups and downs, through the years. Since early days, show categories have covered horticultural produce, home-making skills such as baking, jam-making and needlework and the fine arts such as painting, sculpture and photography.

Like so many previous shows, this year's was a splendid event. There were almost 100 classes, two-thirds related to horticulture. Nine classes were specifically for children.

The Editor asked Peter Gregson what motivated people to compete in the Show. Peter is a long-established member of WBAGS and is on the Committee of the Whaley Bridge Show and Garden Society. Peter reported a range of motivating factors. Some participants want to measure their abilities against others and to learn from those who are proved to be more skilled than themselves. For others, the competitive streak is dominant and people will take their exhibits for judgement to shows all over the region. The challenge is more personal for other people eg to keep on despite the

growing problems of old age. For yet another group, the Show provides a display-case for items people would be happy to grow or make for other people. Finally, some people participate to support relatives and friends, who put in the effort to make the Show happen.

What about those who attend but do not compete? The pleasures include admiring the exhibits, appreciating the talents of their friends, meeting others for a chat and enjoying an excellent tea!

The Show embraces the activities of numerous groups and aspects of life in our community. It gives great pleasure to many. It is self-financing. Long may it continue!



Peter Gregson – winner of “3 Onions with Tops – grown from sets”.

(Treasurer, Bob Kellock, came second.)

PLANT HUNTERS' FAIRS

This organisation arranges garden events in Cheshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire. Roger Wood recommends them as a source of quality plants at sensible prices. Find the programme of events at www.wbags.co.uk

HELPERS SOUGHT

An army marches on its stomach... and so does the WBAGS membership and its many supporters in Whaley Bridge. We hold two Coffee Mornings at the Mechanics Institute, typically two Social Evenings, two talks and one AGM each year. Tea, coffee and sometimes something a little stronger are served, together with biscuits or small snacks. Rosemary Kellock would like to boost the team which serves members and guests at these occasions. If you would be willing in principle to help with some or all of the events, please will you speak to Rosemary. It is an important role and a good way of getting to know members better.

MUSINGS... by Podiceps Cristatus

In pre-historic times, early hunter-gatherers formed small groups which travelled together and eventually

formed primitive settlements. These were located in regions of good hunting and foraging, often where shelter was available - but always close to a source of fresh water. *Water is life for humans and their livestock, and essential for the growing of food crops.*

Here in England, and generally throughout Northern Europe, the annual rainfall provides enough water for the field crops. 500 years ago as the population expanded dramatically, the flat lands of East Anglia and Somerset – major producers of crops and cereals – became more dependent on water for production during the dry months of the year. With the help of our Dutch neighbours, elaborate systems of drainage were developed, of dykes which would be flooded by the slow rivers, then windmill-driven “lifts” to raise the water to the field level – wonders in their day, and many still in use today !

Further South, in Italy, France and Spain the long dry summers have caused the farmers to find means of bringing fresh water to their agricultural land for the last 2000 years. The Romans built huge aqueducts, allowing water to flow miles over river gorges and round mountains as their empire expanded and large cities were created : *Le Pont du Gard*, the magnificent *Aqueduc de les Ferreres (Tarragona)* remain as lasting monuments to their incredible engineering skills and indomitable endeavour. These Master Builders were followed 800 years later by the Moors, who further refined the control of flowing water from the snow melt of the Sierra Nevada. They irrigated all the low-lying valleys and also cooled their palaces, reflecting the tracery of their stonework. (*Alhambra de Granada*).

Looking at our Todd Brook shimmering down the flume round the front of the reservoir dam and into the River Goyt – I was just wonderinghow could we divert some to fill a dyke along the back of the allotments, before letting it slide quietly down to Mother Goyt ?

