



**WHALEY BRIDGE**  
*Allotment & Gardeners'*  
**Society**



**NOVEMBER 2020**

The committee have decided to produce an additional newsletter even though we have no past events to report and no definite plans for the future.

Rosmary intends to make the 2021 programme of visits a rerun of what was missed this year so trips will probably be to Chirk Castle and Dibleys, Breezy Knees nursery and Southport Flower Show. It is not yet possible to make bookings or plan transport so we will keep you informed as the situation unfolds. Similarly talks and socials will be planned as the situation allows under whatever constraints are current at the time.

Those of you who requested the seed catalogue should have now received it; your 130 page catalogue has a huge range of flower and vegetable seeds all at 50% discount including organic and heritage varieties. I'm going to try growing trailing begonias from seed next year.

Welcome to a new Whaley Bridge member, Mrs Delia McCabe.

Sadly, longstanding member, Morwenna Brooke, recently passed away after a long battle

with cancer. Some of you will have had the opportunity in the past to visit her lovely garden on Crossings Road in Chapel with its view across a glorious meadow of buttercups.

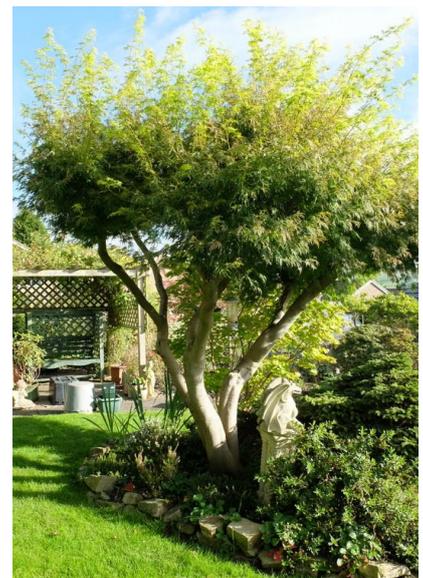


Committee member, Bob has now vacated his allotment and turned his attention to his garden. He writes, "Like many I have been spending much more time than usual in the garden. We have lived in our house since 1972 and the garden has changed many times, from virtually nothing to being overstocked and overgrown and always a DIY project. Mistakes have been made of course, the biggest being the wrong choice of trees. I've lost count of the number that have had to be taken out because they have outgrown their situation. I clearly remember we had a small "forest" tree in our front garden. It really looked good in the front lawn for a few years then just

had to go and was removed by a local farm tractor which literally tore it from the ground.



Since then there have been other trees that have lasted 10 years or so before replacement but eventually we got the present small cherry tree which is just about right, a nice deep pink blossom with deep red leaves throughout the summer.



The latest problem has been an

old acer in an island bed in the back garden. It is probably 40 years old and although a slow grower it has developed three trunks which have forked into substantial boughs at head level. Two years ago we had it pruned but the canopy rapidly recovered becoming very dense.



Some drastic action was needed and with great trepidation selective limbs were removed at each major fork. It looks much better now, almost a cloud pruning effect, and we hope it recovers next year."

Visualising the eventual height and spread when choosing a tree for our gardens is not easy when we pick up a small potted sapling from the garden centre.

Another committee member, Roy Jennings, writes "During lockdown I built a bug/bee house.



It was made using an old plant basket filled with bamboo canes, pine cones, bits of wood, broken pots, part of a brush head, moss and straw. This was mounted on an old bird table and a roof added. It is frequently visited by blue tits and coal tits, probably looking for spider eggs. Recently a great spotted woodpecker visited who, bewildered by what it had discovered, spent its time throwing the contents onto the garden.

Roy's allotment shed was a refuge during our glorious sunny summer and was reproduced in cake for his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday."



Will we see you or Margaret on Bake Off next year?

Roger Wood writes that he has been growing plants over the summer in the hope that we could have a coffee morning later in the year.



Now it looks as if he will have to nurse them through the winter. He currently has more than 60

plants of Verbena Bonariensis and Erigeron Stallone plus about 20 yellow aquilegia and lots of pots of crocosmia Lucifer. He is happy to sell them at £2.50 each; contact him on 01663732112. Other plants will be split in the spring such as large hostas which can be reserved now.

Roger has been enjoying the fabulous autumn colour from his terrace especially on misty mornings when he never tires of the ever changing view across the valley.



he neighbours include sheep and three inquisitive alpacas who escort passing walkers down the path and through the gate as some of you may have experienced.



Roger's fruit and vegetable garden is still producing good crops particularly of autumn raspberries. Best wishes to all our members from the committee, stay safe and well and let's look forward to

better times to come.