

WHALEY BRIDGE
Allotment & Gardeners'
Society

newsletter

DECEMBER 2000

Dear Member,

Just in time, I hope, for a final reminder of our last event of a fairly busy year, namely the coffee morning on Saturday (16th) at the Mechanics and as usual at this festive time it should be a good one. Everyone seems to be full of good cheer just before Christmas so our aim is to keep it that way! As I mentioned last month, as well as the raffle we will be having a Tombola and need lots of decent small prizes. Ideally, we could do with them by Thursday and they may be left with Ethel Hallam at 11 Jodrell Road, Charles Johns at 134 Macclesfield Road or at 6 Rock Bank or give me a ring and I will collect if necessary.

We plan to provide mince pies in addition to the usual biscuits so if anybody wishes to make some please feel free to do so – not forgetting that we'd also appreciate cakes etc. for the cake stall. I don't know why I'm telling you this – you all know better than me what's required! However, it would great if our helpers could sport something seasonal like Father Christmas hats, tinsel or strategically placed holly. We look forward to seeing lots of members on Saturday either helping or buying and, sorry to keep mentioning it, paying subs!

Members' seeds have arrived now and if by the coffee morning you have not received yours I will be at our store on Elnor Lane between 10am and 12noon on Sunday the 17th when you can collect them and at the same time purchase your supplies of compost so you'll be ready to swing into action as soon as the weather improves! And, dare I say it, you can also pay subs. Again, ring me if you cannot collect and I'll deliver. I do have a packet of Petunia seeds left over so if anybody out there ordered two and has only received one or ordered one and hasn't received any let me know and I'll get it to you. Potatoes, by the way, will arrive later – if the growers can get them out of the ground that is!

Our former allotment chums, Harry and David, who you will recall recently upped sticks and moved to Bollington or thereabouts have a petrol mower going free to a caring home. Apart from being particularly good on moss I know nothing else about it but if anyone is interested you can ring them on 01625 574178. By the way, Mrs Berry is still stuck with her Cape Gooseberries – if you can help her out please do. Like most of us she condemns healthy plants to the compost bin only as a last resort.

Plans are at this very moment being made for next year's exciting trips. Possible venues are Catforth Gardens up Preston way and Ashford Nurseries near Litchfield. One innovation which we hope will find favour is a proposed mid-week half-day outing so those who can't make weekends are not excluded. Details to come next month.

ALLOTMENT JOTTINGS

Consternation over the sad looking onions on the plots this autumn was caused, according to my extensive research, by an attack of downy mildew but while the top growth looked a real mess the actual onions seem edible – unlike those of mine hit by the dreaded white rot. Of course, as usual, I'm blaming the weather although this time I gather it's not 'El Nino' but global warming. I've just noticed 'nino' is almost an anagram of onion. Is that significant do you think? Anyway, whatever it is I wish it would stop.

Finally, as is right and proper at this time of the year, I must thank all those who have supported the society during the year and, on behalf of our chairman, John Pressman and committee, wish all our members a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



John Howes, Secretary
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