

The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

Issue 32

May 2013

2013 – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The dates for this year's Open Day events are confirmed as follows: -

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| - Spring Plant Sale & Open Day | 11 th May 2013 |
| - Summer Open Day | 20 th July 2013 |
| - Autumn Festival & Open Day | 7 th September 2013 |

Help in setting up ahead of each event and clearing up afterwards is always welcome and for the Plant Sale do bring along any spare seedlings or plants. Home-made food is much appreciated by fellow plot holders and visitors at all our Open Days. On these days the Shop car park is closed to provide space for our tables and stalls.

A date for the AGM and BBQ will be confirmed later in the year.

SHOP FACILITIES

Over the winter John Whitby has transformed the facilities in the shop into an efficient and hygienic condition for use on our Open Days. We had some materials donated and John had assistance from various tenants. Thanks to all those who helped

COUNCIL LIAISON

The potholes in the track are still high on our agenda. We are working on ways to repair the potholes on the access road with Council assistance. In the meantime thanks to those tenants who have taken the initiative to find material to fill some of them.

We have held three viewing days for prospective new tenants already this year and welcome 15 new plot holders as a result. We currently still have 6 more plots to tenant immediately and a further four that require tree and scrub clearance which we are trying to get Council assistance.

ODDS AND ENDS

Ray Brown had an interesting find on his plot whilst digging. He unearthed a 1905 gold half sovereign. I imagine that the tenant who lost it many decades ago searched hard for it. It was probably the equivalent of a year or two's rent.

Fragments of pottery and clay pipe stems turn up quite regularly. I have been lucky to find several prehistoric flint tools such as scrapers and part of an arrow head. Keep your eyes open.

Bonfires are alright until the end of May when they must stop and hopefully be replaced by barbeques!

We have joined the RHS as an affiliated society. We will let you know more about this in the next newsletter.

THEFTS

Several thefts have been reported. A new incinerator bin was taken from a plot and a wheel barrow from another plot. It may be worth marking possessions such as these which are left in the open with your plot number or name to make them less attractive and more traceable. Otherwise keep items out of casual sight. Fruit and even fruit bushes have also been stolen. If you witness any thefts please report them to the Council or Committee so that action can be taken.

STABLE COMPOST AND WOOD CHIP

The bins for stable compost and wood chip at each car park are for communal use and to be shared by all the tenants. Wood chip deliveries have been suspended as far too much had been delivered to the Shop area bin. When this has cleared we will arrange deliveries to suit demand.

If you make use of these facilities, please keep them tidy and if you have spare energy and time, help by moving material from the front of the pile to the rear of the bin. This helps the people making the deliveries.

SAFETY

Have a look around your plot and see if you can improve safety: -

- Bottles on the tops of canes can avoid injury particularly to eyes
- Removing trip hazards such as water hoses, I have to admit that I leave the hose along the path but do try and keep it to the side

If you are working late or there are few people around make your presence known to your neighbours. I make a point of letting my neighbours know when I am leaving if they are likely to be left on their own. It is all part of keeping our community as safe as possible.

Phil Iddison - Chair

Bushy Park Allotments Association Committee

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Please email if you want to go on the newsletter mailing list or wish to contact the Committee.