

The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

Issue 34

August 2013

OPEN DAY - 7TH SEPTEMBER

Our next Open Day will be on: -

- **Autumn Festival** **7th August 2013** **NOON TO 3PM**

Once again we look forward to support, however you can help us for the Autumn Festival Open Day. Home-made food is much appreciated. If you can supply a cake, cookies or some other delight it will undoubtedly be welcomed.

We have reduced the number of competitions this year as last year only a few people entered the competitions. We will therefore have two competitions on the day which will be for your allotment Fruit & Vegetable display and your Allotment Flower display. Entries in the latter have been quite inventive in the past. I look forward to some interesting entries.

The judging for the awards for Best Plot in two categories, Traditional and Modern styles, and also the Best Newcomer Plot was carried out earlier in August and the results will be announced at 2:30 at the Open Day.

The date for the AGM and BBQ for tenants is 12th October.

THEFTS

A number of thefts have been reported to the Committee. Soft and tree fruit have been the main targets for the thieves. Whilst some loss might be to birds which can be voracious, fruit has disappeared from fruit cages and netted trees. Additionally some trees/bushes have been stripped completely with no evidence of fruit damaged by the birds left lying on the ground. This is devastating for tenants who have put a lot of time and effort into tending their plots, only to lose whole crops.

You should only enter another tenants plot with their permission. Many tenants help their neighbours and friends to water and harvest when they are away on holiday and this is one of the mutual benefits of our community.

However if you see anyone taking produce from another tenants plot and you believe that they do not have permission please report the incident to the Committee or Peter Lewis. We will investigate and if there is adequate evidence of theft the Council will take action and terminate the tenancy if they are a tenant.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Plot inspections are under way and any that are not being cultivated adequately will be reported to the Council for their inspection and action. The new Terms and Conditions that will be issued by the Council with the rent renewal notices in October will contain a definition of cultivation and also a provision to terminate tenancies where there are repeated failures to maintain cultivation as happens on some plots. Making an effort once a year will not be enough.

If you have problems with the standpipes please report them to Pete Lewis at the Council, his contact details are on the gate notices.

BBQ & PIZZA OVEN

You may have noticed that Henry has constructed a brick barbeque on the edge of the Shop car park. He has had support and material donations from many tenants. Like the community area and summer house (newly treated and tidied up), the barbeque will be for tenants use. If you wish to use it please let Giuseppe know and your name will be added to the calendar in the shop.

Not content with a barbeque, a wood fired pizza/bread oven is now being constructed for the community. This was inspired by tenant's private pizza ovens on the site.

SEED SWAP

There will be an informal seed swap at the AGM. It is really worthwhile saving pea and bean seed and easy also to collect tomato seeds. Bring any spare seed along to the event to share with your fellow tenants

This year I have grown tuberous chervil from roots that I bought in a Paris market. The bees and other insects had a feast when it was in flower and as a result I have a jam jar $\frac{3}{4}$ full of seed. This will be available at the seed swap for any one keen to try. Check it out on the internet.

BUTTERFLIES AND BEES

It has been a fantastic year for bumble bees and butterflies. Whilst the cabbage whites have caused some damage, the sight of all the brightly coloured butterflies is a treat. The bumble bees have outnumbered the honey bees this year and taken over their pollinating role that is so essential for our crops. They have had a steady feast of nectar and pollen from your crops and also tenants' flowers such as lavender and globe artichokes.

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.