

The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

Issue 39

December 2014

AGM, SEED SWOP & BBQ

On Saturday 11th October we held our AGM in the Shop car park. Thanks for your support if you attended. The minutes of the meeting are on the boards, website and accompany this newsletter.

A lot of seed was traded at the seed swap. Not all the stock was given away so for those who were not at the event we propose to have another seed swop after our next Committee Meeting which will be on 25th January 2015. The meetings usually end about noon so come along if you would like some good quality and unusual seeds. This year my parsnips were a success grown from my own saved seed with good germination. I have collected plenty of parsnip seed this year as well. If you have spare seeds bring them along for others to try.

Thanks are due to Giuseppe and helpers who made the barbeque that followed the AGM a success.

VOLUNTEER DAY

We planned to organise our first Volunteer Day in November and were pleased to have expressions of support for some communal effort.

We cannot plan for the weather and on the Wednesday beforehand the forecast was for heavy rain around noon through to the early afternoon. As we had promised some food from our bread oven which needed planning and preparation we were concerned that the event would be a wash-out and decided to cancel it by posting notices on the gate noticeboards. As it turned out it was dry on the day. Apologies for the late cancellation and we will try again on Saturday 28th of February 2015, please watch the noticeboards for updates.

TREES ALONG THE WALL

The Royal Parks Tree Officer has been on site to inspect the trees along the brick wall which is our boundary with Hampton High Street. Royal Parks have concerns about the stability of the wall due to the ongoing growth of the trees that are close to it.

The outcome of the inspection is that all the trees adjacent to the wall are to be felled and the stumps and roots will be killed off to prevent regrowth. This will take place during January and the workmen will need access to the tree trunks to do the work. Please clear any items that you have preventing free access to the tree trunks. Royal Parks have confirmed that they can work around the sheds that are close to the trees. The stumps are killed off by inserting Ecoplugs into the tree stumps. These will slowly release glyphosate into the stumps, they are harmless to surrounding vegetation if left undisturbed in the wood.

The trees have become a part of our landscape and I have mixed feelings about losing them. However I know that if I had one of the plots I would be glad that they no longer made a substantial part of the plot dry and unsuitable for cultivation.

SHOW DAYS FOR NEW TENANTS

We have around 30 plots vacant at the moment. Over the last three years the Committee members have been instrumental in welcoming prospective tenants and showing them a vacant plot.

We meet the new tenants at the main gate, walk through the site to the shop where we have a draw of plot numbers for the vacant plots. Committee members then show the new tenants around the plot that they have been allocated and answer their questions. If they decide to take the plot (a few have not!), they complete the Council registration form and purchase a gate key. We also supply a booklet with useful advice pertinent to our site.

Quite often we see the new tenants return the same afternoon to start planning their work.

We are having two show days in January, on Sunday 11th and 18th at 11:00 AM. If you would like to help to welcome and show people their plots, the Committee looks forward to your support. Please let a Committee member know if you are available to help on either of these two days.

A friendly face, sound advice and a demonstration that we are a community supports new tenants and gives them some early contacts for ongoing help and advice.

HOUSEKEEPING

THEFTS

There is some correlation between tenants parties that take place after sunset and crop thefts. As a result of this the Council have instituted a rule that no-one should remain on site longer than half an hour after sunset. Notices to this effect have been posted on the gates. Please abide by them.

Please report any thefts to the Council Allotments Officer using the CONTACT THE ALLOTMENT OFFICER on the website and give Pete Lewis the details of the theft, produce stolen, plot number and date/time as closely as possible. Please also let a Committee member know what has happened. The Park Police have made some patrols but they are not frequent.

If you witness a theft, please report it to the Council or a Committee member, with as much detail as possible. If a tenant or a tenant's guest is found stealing, the Council will take action.

THE SHOP

Giuseppe will be continuing to organise and operate the Shop next year. He will open for business in late January once he has re-stocked the shop.

RATS

In order for the Council to send out the pest exterminators to deal with the rats we need to be able to identify where the rats have burrows and nests. They like to burrow under sheds and into compost bins. If you see them and can identify these burrows and nests please show them to a Committee member so that they can be marked and the exterminators called to the site to deal with them.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Our working relationship with the Council is returning to normal.

LIVESTOCK

There are a number of tenants who keep livestock on their plots at Bushy Park. One in particular has recently given cause for concern about the welfare of their livestock. Pete Lewis has been to inspect the particular plot and issued a warning letter to the tenant.

The Committee have established a sub-committee to monitor livestock and its welfare. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Shelagh Secola, Cleve West or Maria Casey.

In the future any tenants wishing to keep livestock will have to gain the Committee's and Council's approval as required in the Terms & Conditions.

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Phil Iddison - Chair

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Committee

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Please email if you want to go on the newsletter mailing list or wish to contact the Committee or have suggestions/contributions for the newsletter.