

The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

Issue 41

May 2015

OPEN DAY & PLANT SALE - 9th MAY

Our first Open Day this year is on **Saturday 9th May, as usual from 12 noon to 3 PM.** We look forward to seeing you and also hopefully having your support. Home-made cakes and savoury snacks are always welcome and tenants and visitors really appreciate the quality of home produced goods.

We will have a good selection of plants for sale. This year I have produced a catalogue of the plants that I have propagated and it accompanies this newsletter. I also expect that other tenants will donate spare plants, please label them when you bring them on Saturday,

RENT FOR NEXT YEAR

We have had notification from the Council that the rent will rise from £14.20 to £ 15.10 per rod when the invoices are issued in October. There was no consultation from the Council about this rise. The standard five rod plot will now cost £75.50 full price and £37.75 for the concession price.

TREES ALONG THE WALL - LOGS - WOODCHIP

The Royal Parks tree work along the wall has been completed. There was a minimum of disturbance to plots and we benefited from a substantial supply of logs and woodchip.

Henry has converted some of the large oak logs into rustic benches and tables which are set up around the shop car park. Many thanks to him for all his efforts in organising the logs and woodchip and wielding his chain saw to good effect.

VOLUNTEER DAY- 31st MAY

Our first Volunteer Day was held on 28th February. Thanks to all who came along and helped with the clear up. I arrived back from holiday to see the car parks and area around the shop looking really good.

We plan to hold another Volunteer Day after the next Committee Meeting on Sunday 31st May. It will start at 12 noon and one of the projects is to do work on the Community area. The committee members will not have any excuse to lend a hand!

NEW TENANTS

We had viewing mornings on 22nd of February and 22nd of March and sixteen new tenants signed up to cultivate a plot. They are on plots 2, 17B, 22A, 51, 54, 54A, 79, 115A, 131B/132B, 181, 267A, 289, 303, 304A, 305, 306A. Do make them welcome if you see these new faces.

HOUSEKEEPING

The toilet pump is broken. This has been reported to the Council and in the interim it is probably better to use the Pool toilets. The Council's service agreement has changed and we are now responsible for cleaning the toilet. It is a chemical toilet and works differently to the normal flush toilet. Please read and follow the instructions and make sure that your family members are familiar with them.

We have some etiquette rules that may not have been communicated to all our tenants. One is that vehicles coming into the main gate have right of way over those who are leaving the site. If you are leaving, have just opened the gate and another vehicle pulls in to the entrance, please reverse back to the bend in the road and let the other vehicle enter. It is not safe to make the entering vehicle reverse out onto Hampton High Street. When you are leaving pull forward so that your car is visible to people who are approaching to enter so that they can stop and let you pull out.

Bonfires are only permitted up until the end of May.

I arrived at the car park on Tuesday and found paper plates and plastic cups strewn around the community area. If you have a party you are responsible for clearing up after yourself, particularly if it is an impromptu get together with nobody in charge!

The annual inspections have started.

PLANNING AHEAD

I aim to have some vegetables available year round. The winter and spring months present the most challenges and inevitably the choice becomes limited. However there are some vegetables that you may have overlooked or opportunities that you may not have realised: -

- Carrots will keep well if left in the soil. I collected out last edible carrots on 15th March.
- Broccoli – Purple sprouting broccoli is a long term crop that takes up to a year from sowing to harvest, but that harvest is in March/April when it is really welcome.
- Beetroot – we harvested our last beetroot on 11th April, it did not have the young beetroot flavor but made a good risotto.
- Parsnips and leeks are classic winter vegetables that can be harvested through to March and April.

This year I sowed broad beans and peas in my poly-tunnel and have just picked the first peas, the beans will follow on soon. So think about planning ahead for next winter.

Phil Iddison - Chair

Bushy Park Allotments Association Committee

patsy.iddison@gmail.com

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.

