

## **Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association**

**Issue 26**

**December 2011**

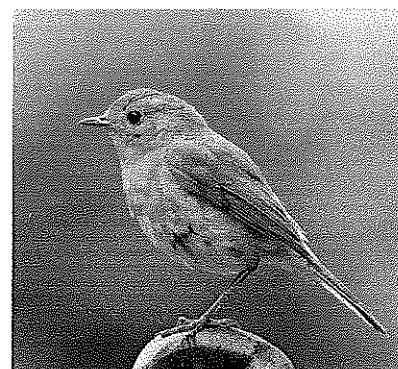
### ***AGM UPDATE***

We had a modest attendance at the AGM, around 30 plot holders. The minutes are attached to this newsletter.

The Committee was returned to serve another year with the welcome addition of Vicky Phillips from Plot 254.

We had several queries from Members in AOB for the Committee to act on next year, thanks for your feedback and support.

Next year we will ensure that the AGM takes place at a time when people with Sunday morning commitments can attend.



### **KEYS LEFT IN THE GATE**

A set of keys were left in the gate in November. They can be reclaimed from the shop. You will be asked to describe the key fob to confirm ownership. In future if keys are found they will be kept at the shop for the owner to reclaim.

### **SEED AVAILABILITY**

It has been a productive year for seed saving. The continuing mild weather has allowed seed to dry successfully on the plants. I succeeded in persuading some attendees at the AGM to take away seeds that I had saved.

In particular I have collected good supplies of runner bean seed and parsnip. I now have 500+ of the former and approximately 200,000 of the latter. I am not joking, I collected 500 grams of parsnip seed which equates to the 200,000. They are a reliable variety called Tender & True. Some have self seeded already around the plant location so they should be viable. There is plenty to supply generous packet full to all and sundry through early February when we are planning another seed Event before seed sowing starts in earnest.

## **INCIDENT REPORTING**

There have been incidents during the year including thefts, harassment and rubbish dumping. If you have information about an incident please pass this to the committee. It is useful to have dates and precise locations such as plot numbers so that we can keep a record and take appropriate action with the Council's help.

## **SUMMERHOUSE**

The summerhouse in the communal garden needs to be treated with wood preservative. It was erected about 5 years ago and need treatment to keep it in good condition. Please let a committee member know if you can give some of your time to join a work party to get this done during the winter when we all (theoretically) have some spare time.

## **MORE BAD NEWS ABOUT BUGS – ALLIUM LEAF MINER**

The RHS reports that the Allium Leaf Miner was first detected in this country in 2002 in the Midlands. I have to warn you that it has now reached Bushy Park.

The adult is a small fly and hardly noticeable. It is not the fly that is the problem but its larval and pupae stages. The larvae bore into the stems and bulbs of leeks, onions, chives, shallot and garlic with potentially devastating consequences. Affected plants often develop secondary infections and rot.

The first sign of an attack from allium leaf miner is the presence of the adult fly:

The grayish brown flies are 3mm long

Before laying eggs the female flies feed by making punctures in the leaves and this causes distinctive lines of white dots on the foliage

Next seen is damage from the larvae:

The larvae are white, headless maggots without legs

These make tunnels in the stems and bulbs of their host plant

NOTE: Similar damage is caused by caterpillars of the leek moth but that pest has creamy white larvae with brown heads and small legs

The Allium leaf miner becomes a darker brown pupae of the same size as the larvae.

But perhaps the most obvious signs of a problem appear when rotting sets in:

Plants affected by both allium leaf miner and leek moth tend to rot due to secondary infections from fungi and bacteria that develop in the damaged tissues

The plants can become deformed with the inner growth bulging out at the side of the plant.

Plants can be protected by covering them with horticultural fleece, or an insect proof mesh such as ultra-fine enviromesh, at times when the adult flies are active and laying eggs (March to April and October to November – two generations a year).

Crop rotation is advisable as adult flies might emerge from pupae underneath the fleece covering if susceptible plants are grown in the same piece of ground in successive years.

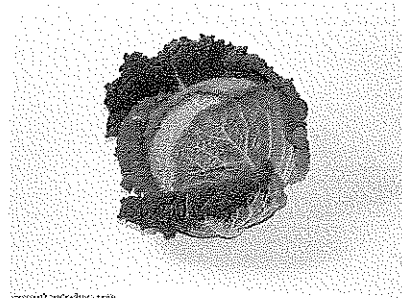
We have several examples of infestations at the north end of the site but some plots do not seem to have been affected. The plants are still edible if they are otherwise healthy, you just have to work around the larvae or pupae!

### **Disease Resistant Plants**

These have been recommended by the RHS as with the withdrawal of various pesticides and the growth of organic cultivation have meant that plant breeders have been working hard to improve cultivars.

Cabbage 'Kilaton' club root resistant for autumn use.  
Cabbage 'Kilaxy' club root resistant with large heads.  
Brussel Sprout 'Crispus' club root resistant.  
Onion 'Sanero' downy mildew resistant. Long storing.

Seeds for these can be supplied by Marshall seeds, DT Brown and Thompson and Morgan.



Phil Iddison  
Chair  
Bushy Park Allotments Committee

[patsy.iddison@gmail.com](mailto:patsy.iddison@gmail.com)

Please email if you want to go on the newsletter mailing list



# BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting: -	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Date & Time: -	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2011 – 11:00 AM
Location	The Shop, Bushy Park Allotments
Minutes prepared by: -	Robin Hewitt (Secretary)
Present: -	Phil Iddison (Chairman), Jenny Bevan (Treasurer), committee members and 28 other plotholders
Apologies: -	Chris Pickard, Ted Leppard
Circulation: -	Committee members, notice boards, Peter Lewis

Item	Minute	Action by
1	<b>AGM of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010</b> The minutes were agreed. Proposed by Brian Blasdel and seconded by John Whitby.	
2	<b>Chairman's report</b> The Chairman referred to his written report available to all plotholders, along with the latest newsletter and accounts. He requested that all plotholders please pass to or check their email addresses with Patsy Iddison. He particularly drew attention to the efforts being made by the committee to welcome new members and get them started.	
3	<b>Treasurer's report</b> The Treasurer referred to the published accounts. No queries were raised and the accounts were accepted by the meeting. She noted that the shop profits funded the barbeque. There was a vote of thanks to Guiseppe de Vai for his sterling work in managing the shop and providing much of the events catering. The Chairman reported that there would be some refurbishment of the kitchen during the winter and that a pergola would be erected outside the shop; this would normally be used for parking but would provide a dry area for use during events if wet.	
4	<b>Secretary's report</b> The Secretary reminded plotholders that the minutes of all committee meetings were put on the main notice boards along with any other notices. Additional notice boards were now mounted on the entrance gates. The minutes would in future also be distributed by e-mail.	
5	<b>Election of the committee</b> The Chairman reported that all committee members had volunteered to stand for another year and proposed they be re-elected. This was agreed by the meeting. He said that the committee always welcomed new members and were particularly seeking a representative for plots at the southern end. Vicky Phillips (plot 254) volunteered and this was agreed by the meeting.	
6	<b>Any other business</b> Several topics were raised: 1) The Chairman requested suggestions from plotholders on what the shop should stock; there was a suggestion book in the shop; 2) He reported that the rubbish bins would go on 17 <sup>th</sup> November and the plot by the vehicle gate cleared by Community Service to enable it to	

	<p>be let; he agreed to put up notices advising that all rubbish must be disposed of off site;</p> <p>3) The persistent problem with dumping and break-ins was discussed and whether the existing keys and locks could be replaced both because of this and because they wear and become difficult to use; the Chairman said this had been frequently discussed at committee meetings but key control is extremely difficult; he agreed to discuss this with Pete Lewis and also to check on the Royal Parks police patrols if any;</p> <p>4) Brian Basdell asked about the latest position on devolution and the Chairman advised that the BPAA committee did not support this for the large Bushy Park site but that some other sites had shown interest; the Council's attitude is not yet clear;</p> <p>5) In response to queries the Chairman advised that the Council was responsible for the locks and the water supply but the walls etc. were the responsibility of the Royal Parks; he confirmed that the water would be switched off during the winter. There was a request that contact details for those responsible for what be posted on the notice board;</p> <p>6) He advised that any problems with invoices or payments should be referred to the Council;</p> <p>7) He advised that we had received a questionnaire from a wildlife organisation. The committee will respond and there may be an opportunity for those interested to participate in workshops;</p> <p>8) Plottolders thought it would be useful to have a BPAA website; Matthew Linden, a plottolder, who is a website designer, offered to assist and he will discuss this with the Chairman; and</p> <p>9) Plottolders advised there were other potential sources for manure in Chessington, but they have no lorry, and Hampton Court.</p>	<p>PI</p> <p>PI</p> <p>RH</p> <p>SS</p> <p>ML/PI</p>
7	The meeting closed at 11.45 with a vote of thanks to the Committee and this was followed by a seed swop.	

# BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting: -	COMMITTEE MEETING
Date & Time: -	27th November 2011 – 11:00 AM
Location	The Shop, Bushy Park Allotments
Minutes prepared by: -	Robin Hewitt
Present: -	Phil Iddison (Chairman), Robin Hewitt (Secretary), Jenny Bevan (Treasurer), Christina Aston, Guiseppe de Vai, Chris Pickard, Shelagh Secola, Cleve West, John Whitby
Apologies: -	Sally Annereau, Ted Leppard, Vicky Phillips
Circulation: -	Committee members, notice boards, Peter Lewis

Item	Minute	Action by
1	<p><b>Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed. All actions complete. The stencils have been found. The plot near the entrance has been cleared and is now tenanted. There is the potential for the committee to get other plots cleared for letting over the winter/spring.</p> <p>It was agreed that JB would purchase an A4 laminator plus sheets for RH to use for notices.</p>	JB
2	<p><b>Actions arising from AGM</b></p> <p>2.1 No action as yet on security. CW offered to obtain parks police contact.</p> <p>2.2 It was agreed there should be a notice posted giving information on whom to contact for certain items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) JW agreed to be the contact for water with his telephone number;</li> <li>b) Plotters would be advised to contact the council for all issues on tenancies and rents; and</li> <li>c) For any other queries plotters would be asked to get in touch with their area representative or email patsy.iddison@gmail.com</li> </ul> <p>RH to draft notice.</p> <p>PI is to issue a new map of areas now that Vicky Phillips has joined the committee.</p>	CW       RH PI
2.3	SS has submitted the wildlife survey but received no response.	
2.4	It was decided to defer any work on setting up a website due to the work involved in keeping it up to date and the fact it could not be accessed by all plotters. PI to advise Matthew Linden and thank him for his offer.	PI
2.5	Following plotter requests, it was agreed to hold the next AGM on a Saturday.	
3	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The Treasurer reported that the BPAA account now stood at £2365.83.</p>	
4	<p><b>Events</b></p> <p>It was agreed to fix the events for next year at the next meeting. First thoughts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Early seed swap in February;</li> <li>b) Plant sale;</li> <li>c) Autumn festival; and</li> </ul>	

	d) Open days and social occasions. SS agreed to investigate the possibility of garden visits.	SS
5	<b>The Shop</b> GdeV reported everything in order. He was maintaining a list of what people would like him to stock.	
6	<b>Liaison with the Council</b> Five plots were let this month to new tenants and a further 5 are to be let in January. Given the confusion over plot numbering all plotholders are asked to display their plot number clearly on their plot. All committee members are asked to re-review their areas and identify any plots that have not been tended this year. The council has removed the rubbish bins and a new padlock has been fitted to the pedestrian gate. The new plot Terms and Conditions are not being progressed at the Council due to the emphasis in negotiating with some sites on devolvement. This is not something the BPAA committee is pursuing nor is it compulsory, but PI expressed some concern that support from the Council might reduce if many other sites became self-governing.	All
7	<b>Communications</b> PI is in the course of preparing the latest newsletter and asked for inputs in the next few days. It was agreed that it should include a message saying that any incidents (eg rubbish dumping, thefts) be reported to the committee.	All
8	<b>Community Area</b> It was noted that the summerhouse needs retreating. PI to include a request for volunteers in the newsletter.	PI
9	<b>Any Other Business</b> PI advised that he was planning to join the Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens as an individual; the cost to the BPAA to join as a society would be too great.	
10	<b>Next meeting</b> The next meeting will be held at the shop at 11.00 a.m. on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2012.	All