

# The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

Issue 28

May 2012

## ***PLANT SALE & OPEN DAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY***

Our first open day for 2012 will be held from 12 NOON to 3 PM on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. We look forward to your support: -

- To set-up and run the plant and refreshment sales.
- Donate cakes or other finger food, home baking is very much appreciated!
- Donate any spare plants or seeds, the photo shows part of last year's offerings
- Simply come and socialise, we usually get quite a few visitors who are new to the allotments and it is good to welcome these visitors. We are part of the wider community in Hampton.

We plan to have the back gate next to the Brew House open so that visitors can circulate through Bushy Park.



## ***COUNCIL & COMMITTEE UPDATE***

Notices have been posted about the Thames Water ban on the use of hosepipes to water the allotments. The only exception is blue badge holders who may water their own plot. Since the notices were posted we have had significant rain and the total exceeds the amount that we received in the first 4 months of last year. This should mean that we do not have to do too much watering for a month or two. The notice does have suggestions to minimise water use.

The Committee have assisted the Allotments Officer in carrying out a review of all the plots to identify those that are not being cultivated to the Council's required standard. A total of 24 plots were assessed as being inadequately cultivated. The Council have sent letters to these plot holders asking that they relinquish the plot or get it under cultivation within 4 weeks. These plots will be re-inspected in early May.

We witnessed a fly tipping incident near the Shop. It has been reported to the Council for action to be taken against the fly tipper by the Council.

The council forwarded a request from Imperial College students to interview allotment holders to assist with a project for their MSc course in Environmental Technology. They came to Bushy Park and interviewed 22 plot holders. They were impressed with the allotments and have written to thank all those who answered their questions. They have sent me a copy of their project report and some of their findings are: -

- We value our allotments mostly for exercise, stress relief, food, to connect with nature and as a hobby.
- We were not sure that we are saving money by having an allotment!
- Three quarters of allotment holders spend less than 10 hours a week on site.
- We all grow vegetables (surprise surprise) and two-thirds grow flowers and herbs

## ***INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS***

The Council have asked all the Richmond allotment sites to nominate the top 5 improvements that they would like for their site.

At our last Committee meeting we listed the following, as note in the Meeting Minutes: -

- a) Improvements and repairs to the access road; this was considered by far the most important;
- b) A self-contained solar power system for the shop;
- c) Renewal and relocation of the notice boards;
- d) Refurbishment of the community area; and
- e) An external convex mirror mounted in the footway opposite the vehicle exit.

Since the meeting I have had some informal discussion about changing the keys and locks. There are unknown numbers of keys around for the site and some recent incidents may be the result of non plot holders having keys for Bushy. It is likely that if this action is taken, you would be asked to pay the wholesale cost of a new key; we have a quote of £7 per key. The change could take place at the time of the annual rental payment and you would have to produce your Council invoice to collect the new key.

Please let me know what your views are on changing the keys, either by email to the address below, by contacting any Committee member or personally to me at the site. I am usually on my allotment 308/309 in the afternoon at the weekend.

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 or wish to contact the Committee.