

The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

Issue 29

July 2012

OPEN DAY 21st JULY

We plan to follow up on the modest success of the Plant Sale Open Day with our next open day for 2012 which will be held from 12 NOON to 3 PM on Saturday 21st July. We look forward to your support: -

- Help on the day to set up, assist with the food and other stalls and clear up at the end.
- Donate cakes or other finger food, home baking is very much appreciated!
- Donate any spare plants or produce for sale to visitors
- 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.

WEEDS & SLUGS ETC.

We are all struggling with weather conditions that have been perfect for weeds, a severe test for some crops allied with an explosion in the slug and snail population. I have regularly been finding 100-150 slugs to cull on each visit. I have lost count of the plot holders who have bemoaned the loss of entire groups of seedlings. However we are resilient and some crops are thriving.

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Thames Water ban on the use of hosepipes has been lifted. Please use water responsibly, thanks to the wet summer to date the burden of watering is now concentrated on greenhouses and new planting.

We continue to assist 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. Five more plots received warning letters at the end of May and there are a further 20 plots that have minimal or no cultivation that are due for inspection. The process has been successful either in encouraging people to make good use of their plot or to terminate the tenancy so that the plot can be re-let.

On the 23rd June we let six plots to new tenants around the site so look out for new neighbours.

There have been more tipping incidents, rolls of carpet and chairs in the south car park, a child's car seat at the north gate and a load of green waste near the Shop. Please do **NOT** bring material and dump it in the hope that someone might make use of it. If you do see items being dumped please give the Committee any details and take a photo if you can.

COMPETITIONS

The details of the Borough Allotment Competition have been posted on the notice boards. Nominations will be forwarded to the Council.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL – SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2012

Looking farther ahead we will be holding the Autumn Festival on 8th September. Apart from the usual Open Day activities we will be running the following competitions and will have modest prizes to the winners and runners-up

- Best plot
- Best Novice plot

These two categories will be judged by a small independent group of tenants in early August.

Other competitions for your produce will be: -

- Tallest sunflower competition (*entries to be notified by 31st August*)
- Largest pumpkin (*entries to be notified by 31st August*)
- Best display of fruit and or vegetable on a tray
- Best flower display
- Best jam and chutney/pickle made from Bushy Park allotment produce

We will be judging the jams and chutneys in advance so will need your entries by 31st August. There will be a limit of one pot of jam and/or chutney per tenant, please label the pot with your name and plot number and give it to a Committee Member.

If you have a winner's cup from last year can you please return it to a Committee Member.

Phil Iddison - Chair
Bushy Park Allotments Committee

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Please email if you want to go on the newsletter mailing list or wish to contact the Committee.