

The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

Issue 44

April 2016

OPEN DAY & PLANT SALE - 7th MAY

Our first Open Day this year is on **Saturday 7th 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 and originality 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.

There will also be some preserves on sale, mostly from allotment produce but also a couple of marmalades,

RENT FOR NEXT YEAR

We have had notification from the Council that the rent will rise from £15.30 to £ 16.0 per rod when the invoices are issued in October. Once again there was no consultation from the Council about this rise. The standard five rod plot will now cost £80 full price and £40 for the concession price. Out of Borough tenants will continue to pay double price with no age concession.

THE COUNCIL

The Committee's relationship with the Council has hit rock bottom over their lack of appropriate responses and action to recent incidents.

In one case a shed was stolen from a plot by a tenant and re-erected on his plot. Photographic proof of this was sent to the Council.

The Council's Terms and Conditions state: -

1.8 Tenants found taking produce, plants, plant material, or other items, from a plot without permission of the tenant of the plot concerned will automatically have their tenancy agreement terminated.

The council did not terminate the tenancy.

More recently there have been instances of violence and verbal abuse. These have been reported to the council.

The Terms and Conditions state

1.9 Tenants must not cause any undue annoyance or disturbance to other tenants or residents of houses adjoining the site. Any verbal abuse, threats, or threatening behaviour

towards any other person on site will be investigated and may result in immediate termination.

We await confirmation of the Council's follow-up actions but in at least one instance of violence they do not appear to be taking any action.

We will keep you informed of any developments. Do continue to report incidents that you have witnessed such as theft, abuse.

NEW TENANTS

The Council let 5 plots to new tenants on 16th April and will send us their contact details to add to our mailing list. In the meantime if you see a new neighbour, do introduce yourself and welcome them to Bushy Park allotments.

HOUSEKEEPING

Bonfires are permitted until the end of May. Please do not burn plastic or any resin or chemical impregnated wood products such as MDF, decking boards. These release toxic fumes into the air and your soil.

Footpaths should not be obstructed and are your maintenance responsibility.

Thank you for your cooperation in managing the rat infestation. Please report any rat activity to a committee member, Henry or 'Sainsbury' John. John is in charge of setting the traps and monitoring them. So far this year 50 rats have been dealt with. It is an ongoing task, they move around the site to find the best food sources. They are particularly fond of compost bins as a ready source of food. I have stopped putting pumpkin seeds in my bin as they seem to find them with alacrity!

Help to maintain the community area would be very welcome, the paved area needs weeding and the grass cutting. This is currently done by one committee member but is a job that could ideally be shared.

With the advent of the summer BBQ and party season, please do remember to respect neighbours. In particular if you are using the community area, you and your guests are not permitted to go onto the adjacent plots. Please make guests and children aware of this requirement. Please also clear up after your festivities as we do not have any rubbish disposal facilities on site.

NEOLITHIC FLINT TOOLS

I have found a number of Neolithic flint tools on my plot. I wrote an article about one rather unusual tool for a food journal and will send it out with this newsletter.

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.