

The Bushy Times

Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association

SPRING Newsletter

May 2017

Welcome to the new allotment plot holders who have joined our community in March. There has been a long delay in producing this edition of the Newsletter, mostly associated with the changes in the committee. Phil Iddison, who had been the Chairman for a number of years and who also used to produce the Newsletter, resigned in May 2016. A new Chairman and a new Committee have been voted in at the AGM on the 8th of October 2016.

All plot holders become members of the BPAA automatically, with no additional fees to pay; we look forward to seeing members old and new, your friends and families at our fast approaching Open Day on the 20th of May. If you can volunteer some time helping on the day, it will be much appreciated: home-made cakes and savoury snacks are always welcome and tenants and visitors really appreciate the quality and originality of home produced goods. We usually have a good selection of plants for sale, and it will be great if you can enhance the variety by donating spare plants; please label them when you bring them on Saturday.

Dates for your diary

Volunteer Day - 13th May

Committee meeting - 14th May

Open Day - 20th May 12 noon till 3pm

We shall be holding a Volunteer Day on Saturday 13th May to clear up the Community Area in advance of the Open Day. Please come and help if you can – refreshments provided! We meet at 10:30am in the communal area; please bring gardening gloves and any tools you might need for weeding/cleaning.

“Welcome to the 45th edition of the BPAA Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it. Please feel free to share any stories/successes/pictures with Khrystyna to be submitted in the next newsletter.”

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News from the Secretary



Bonfires

The Council has now decided that bonfires are allowed on the **first Saturday from 9 am -1pm in the month**. They say that this is an interim solution and will be reviewed as part of the new Allotment Strategy overview together with the T & C's (ie including bonfires) – anticipated in about two months or so.

There will be increase in rents for 2017/18. Please see minutes from the BRAG AGM meeting in December, as well as the latest BRAG meeting minutes from April 2017, which features information from the Twickenham and Thames Valley Beekeepers Association at our website (Archives page) or email Robin Hewitt.

A message from the Social Representative

I have taken on a new role in October 2016 after being a plot holder for three and a half years. I can hardly describe my excitement on getting the plot and frustration that followed in terms of trying to find my way in creating a successful plot and keeping up with the constantly multiplying weeds, especially bindweed. However, it only took me a few weeks to work out that my neighbours are not ordinary plot holders, but secret experts, sent to be my guides and problem solvers. Even today, when I look lovingly at the plants at my plot, I remember moments when Rita gave me the Jerusalem artichokes and that exotic plant (the name of which I have forgotten), as well as many useful moments of advice from Chi, Martin, Phil, Rita and many others. I have lost count of the special times we've had as a community, both at the Open Days and at the private festivities.

Sadly there have been some problems on the site with antisocial behaviour by a small minority of plot holders, with some troubling reports of intimidation and open aggression. I know some of you have lost hope that the council will deal with this adequately. But I would like to ask you to please continue reporting any problems you encounter to Pete Lewis, the allotments officer (Pete.Lewis@richmond.gov.uk or 020 8831 6110), and to send a copy of your complaint to a member of the committee. When we know about a problem we do inform the council every time there are new incidents and we do our best to try to ensure action is taken. It is of utmost importance that we keep our allotments a peaceful and friendly environment in which to share the delights of watching things grow.

I wish you a bountiful harvest this summer and many happy moments at our Bushy Park Allotment site, which dates to 1896 when Queen Victoria granted our first Charter. Come and celebrate the success of one of the oldest allotments in Richmond Borough at the Open Day on Saturday, May the 20th.

Yours ever,

KM

RHS May advice

- Gently run your hand over indoor grape vine flowers to pollinate them
- Make sure bees can access caged and cloched fruit flowers to ensure pollination
- Keep a check on late frost forecasts and protect blossom as necessary
- Take softwood cuttings of kiwifruit.

read more: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/in-month/may>

Contact Us

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<http://www.bushyparkallotments.org.uk>