

# The Bushy Times

## Summer Newsletter

August 2018

A very hot Summer 2018 is drawing to a close and we are getting ready for our next Open Day on the 8th of September. We are pleased to welcome our new members who have joined us in 2018.

We would like to draw your attention to a recent case of Lyme disease on our site. If you are unfortunate and get bitten by a tick,



DO NOT REMOVE IT YOURSELF. Go immediately to the A&E and INSIST they remove it straight away. It was reported to us that the A&E will not normally issue antibiotics if there is no target (red circle around the bite), but the target only

appears in 25% of the infected bites. Consider asking for a course of antibiotics as a precaution.

### Central track/alley

The central track/alley has been subject to a number of complaints and we would like to clarify the situation. The Council will not pay for new tarmac and the cost is too high for the committee to pay for the works to repair the road. Therefore we have the following advice for drivers:

- if you drive a van please consider parking in the first car park by the gate or on the main road where the parking is free (heavy vehicles significantly increase deterioration of the road and congest the alley);
- please bear in mind the parking spaces along the alley belong to the plot holders, who sacrificed part of their plot. We therefore urge you to park in the car parks or on the main road;
- when leaving the site at dusk please be cautious and drive slowly - a baby hedgehog was run over on our site last week. This is another reason to leave the car in the car park by the gate or on the main road. Walking will not kill you and will save wildlife.

*"Welcome to the 47th edition of the BPAA Newsletter. In this issue we talk about our next Open Day, latest bonfire regulations, RHS crop news, ticks and a few other issues we would like you to be aware of"*

### News from the Committee



The Council has now decided that bonfires are allowed **during daylight hours on Mondays to Saturdays between 1st October and 30th April**. Please see **page 3** for more information.

Electrical safety checks on the generator and shop installation were carried out this month, paid by the committee with the money raised from the open days. We now have a safety certificate.

Compost and wood chippings areas will be repaired by our own team of volunteers, if you would like to participate, please contact Joseph via email: [joeambaye@gmail.com](mailto:joeambaye@gmail.com)

### Dates for your diary

Open Day - 8th of September 12 noon till 3pm

AGM - 6th of October



# Tomatoes

*Cherry Tomatoes, note from Robin Hewitt*

If you grow cherry tomatoes, either in your greenhouse or outdoors, you might like to know the RHS has just completed a new trial (in an unheated polytunnel). As a result it has withdrawn its Award of Garden Merit (AGM) from 'Gardener's Delight' the old favourite many of us use, as 'the trial plants were variable and the fruit too large'. If a variety of anything becomes too popular it can often lead to variability in the quality of the seed so maybe it is time try something new next year. Of the 46 cultivars trialled the RHS awarded its AGM to 'Bite Size', 'Rosella' and 'Sweet Aperitif' and reconfirmed the AGM for 'Cherrola' and 'Sweet Million'.

If you'd like to read more about this there is a detailed article in the August issue of 'The Garden', which you can find in the shop.

*RHS winners and our own success stories, by KM*

This year RHS Hampton Court Flower Show displayed Chelsea Flower Show award winning tomatoes, which are also resistant to blight. Amongst the finalist Plants of the Year were 'Oh Happy Days' and 'Shimmer'.

'Shimmer' (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) is a red, gold and green striped plum tomato with exceptional taste and high levels of lycopene. It is unique because of its tantalizingly sweet succulent flavour and a thin skin compared with other similar cultivars. It adds colour to salads with greens and golds and its enchanting almost Rugby Ball shaped plum. The size is 1 to 2 oz which is larger than a cherry but smaller than a medium Roma. It produces high yields of fruit through the season. This indeterminate (cordon) cultivar can be grown in the greenhouse but because it has some resistance to blight can also be grown outdoors and in a container.



Tomato 'Shimmer'



Tomato 'Oh Happy Days'



Bryan Basdel's outdoor grown tomatoes

## TOMATOES cont.

'Oh Happy Days' was launched by Pennard Plants at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018, with a quintet from the Brighton School of Music performing the song 'Oh Happy Day' in celebration of this new disease resistant cordon tomato. It is classified as a "junior beefstake" type tomato with 4-5 oz fruit, with good flavor and heavy production reported by Garden Lady (aka C.L. Fornari), who writes:

*'The worst thing about this tomato? The name. You'll have the song, Oh Happy Day, stuck in your head. This 1967 gospel arrangement by the Edwin Hawkins Singers was a hit tune in the late '60s and has been given new life as an earworm (in my mind anyway) because of this tomato. Dear Burpee, I don't know whether to kiss you or slap you!'*

On our own site, tomatoes are amongst the most popular crops, mostly grown in the greenhouses. However, Bryan Basdel (plot 26) has been growing tomatoes outdoors for many years. The secret of Bryan's successful crop is in crop management, and, specifically, in ensuring good air circulation. We will include an article based on Bryan's advice in the Spring 2019 Newsletter. If you have been admiring Bryan's crop walking past his plot, these are the four varieties of tomatoes he chose for their resistance to various conditions and for their qualities: Moneymaker, Alicante, Faworyt and San Marzano. (P.S. *If you would like your favourite tomatoes or your own success story included in the next Newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us with details*).

## BONFIRES

The Council has now finalised its rules for bonfires and these apply to all sites across the Borough. They will be amending the Terms and Conditions to reflect these changes.

Bonfires are only allowed during **daylight hours on Mondays to Saturdays between 1st October and 30th April**. The Council rules also state that bonfires can only be used under the following conditions:

- Only for burning plant matter that cannot be composted (no other materials to be burnt);
- Nuisance must not be caused to nearby tenants, residents, and road or rail users;
- Fires must not be left unattended;
- Suitable means must be at hand to control and extinguish the fire at any time;
- Fires must be extinguished before leaving site;
- Any fire must be extinguished immediately upon request of a council officer.

In particular, it would be good if we remained good neighbours with local residents and Hampton Pool, so it is best to avoid having a bonfire on days when the smoke blows in their direction. Try and avoid smoke disturbing your neighbouring ploholders too if they are working on their plots. It helps if everything you are burning is really dry as it burns better and causes less smoke.

**! Please make sure there is no wildlife hibernating in the piles of leaves/ branches and rebuild the bonfire in a new location, checking for potential hedgehogs, slow worms and toads cosied up under the green waste.**



## Woodland Area

In early September the Richmond branch of the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) will be on site to carry out some pruning and tidying in the small area of woodland behind plots 257 and 258. It is hoped to turn this from a dense thicket with very uneven ground, dead wood and rubbish, into a more accessible wildlife area where the trees that are retained are able to thrive and surrounding ploholders do not have to do constant battle against encroaching brambles! The TCV van will be parking in the main car park and there will be a large shredder there in the second week to deal with the huge amount of woody material that will be produced by pruning.

TCV will be bringing a few volunteers led by Laura Brackenbury their project officer – extra volunteers from the site will be very welcome to join in. TCV run regular work days around the Boroughs of Richmond and Hounslow and more information is available on their website [www.tcv.org.uk/london/richmond](http://www.tcv.org.uk/london/richmond) The dates will be Wednesday and Thursday 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th September from about 10.30 – 4pm. Please wear protective clothing and gloves – tools can be provided or bring your own. For more information contact Laura on [laura.brackenbury@tcv.org](mailto:laura.brackenbury@tcv.org) or 07764655667

## RHS Membership

Just a reminder that the Bushy Park Allotment Association is a member of the RHS Affiliated Societies scheme. This brings us a number of benefits which ploholders can use, of which the main ones of interest to ploholders are:

1. A copy of the RHS's monthly magazine 'The Garden'. This is held at the shop for anyone to read.
2. Newsletters sent by email, which we will review and if of interest, could circulate to ploholders.
3. A free group visit once a year for up to 55 members to Wisley or another RHS garden. If you're interested please let us know and perhaps we can organise this.
4. Free allotment advice from the RHS's specialist advisors where no-one else on site can help. All such requests must be made through the Secretary, Robin Hewitt, who is our nominated contact. He is on plot 68A and can be emailed at [hewitrda@btinternet.com](mailto:hewitrda@btinternet.com). He has used this himself and finds them very helpful.

*We are interested to include advice, stories and news from our plot holders. If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the BPAA Newsletter, please contact Khrystyna McPeake via the contact details below.*

## Contact Us

### Chair

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Visit our website at:  
<http://www.bushyparkallotments.org.uk>



*Reminder: Please don't forget to bake a cake or a savoury dish for the Open Day. We've recieved rave reviews about the cakes baked for the previous Open Day. Keep up the good bakes!*