

# **The Bushy Times**

**Newsletter of the Bushy Park Allotment Association**

**Issue 50**

**September 2019**

## ***OPEN DAY– 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER***

Our second Open Day this year will be on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, as usual from 12 noon to 3 PM.** We look forward to seeing you and hopefully having your support, the weather forecast looks good. Home-made cakes and savoury snacks are always welcome, tenants and visitors really appreciate the quality and originality of home-produced goods.

We will have produce for sale. Any excess allotment produce is also welcome on the day. **All profits from the event will be donated to the Shooting Star Children's Hospice.**

## ***AGM – 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER***

The Annual General Meeting of the Bushy Park Allotment Association will be held at the shop on Saturday 28th September at 11.00 a.m.

The AGM will be followed by a lunch with food and drink provided free of charge to plot holders. Please come and join us, contribute to the meeting and meet your fellow plot holders. We are always looking for volunteers to join the committee or help with activities and events – every little helps!

As you will see from the Council news below, there will be a call for significant voluntary effort to develop the new compost/waste facility.

## ***COUNCIL NEWS***

### **BONFIRES & COMPOSTING**

The Chairman reports that following the recent absolute ban on bonfires, representatives of the BPAA met Council representatives on site to discuss alternatives.

Wherever possible, plot holders should maintain their own compost bins to use on their own plots. If you have transport, anything else should be taken home for the usual bin collection or taken to the Council tip. The Council has recognised that this is not always possible and has discussed matters with sites across the Borough. The following general approach has been pursued successfully on another site and was proposed for Bushy Park:

- 1) Plots 33 and 34, about halfway along the track, are currently vacant and it is proposed to convert these into a communal recycling/composting area. We would need to clear the plots and the Council will then take away the material.
- 2) Clearly labelled covered bins will be provided for the various types of waste to be erected by BPAA using material supplied by the Council, covering various categories – a) general compostable, b) with pernicious weeds c) metal d) wood needing chipping. Compostable material would be stored until it can be re-used on site and once one bin is filled another would be started.

- 3) The Council would bring a chipper at regular intervals and then remove any chipped material that could not be composted, plus the weed pile if needed.
- 4) Metal could be collected by a suitable contractor.

The Council also agreed to pay for the supply of scalplings to repair the worst parts of the track, provided we then carried out the necessary work.

As you can see this is quite an ambitious scheme requiring considerable effort on the part of plot holders to get it started and to make it work. Please let us have your views and whether you're willing to help with all that's involved.

## **ASBESTOS**

We agreed with the Council that we would make a list of any asbestos still around on the site and the Council would arrange a single collection for safe disposal. Please let us know if you have any on your plot.

## ***RENT FOR NEXT YEAR.***

No news yet from the council on the rents for next year so we will probably find out when we receive our rent invoices!

## ***HOUSEKEEPING***

### ***THE USUAL REMINDERS***

Footpaths should not be obstructed and are your maintenance responsibility.

Help to maintain the community area would be very welcome, the paved area was tidied by a team of tenants for the Open Day and it would be good to keep it tidy to augment the regular mowing by one of our tenants.

Please do remember to respect neighbours. 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 facilities on site for domestic rubbish disposal.**

Please email if you know of a tenant who is not receiving the newsletter, with their email address, if they have one, to add to the mailing list.

## ***SEASONAL NOTES***

The weather has tested some crops again this year and emphasises the need for diverse crop selection and back-up plans to cope with failures. Some examples: -

- My maincrop Pink Fir Apple potato row gave a miserable yield for the second year running. However, a tuber that I grew in a 30 cm pot of compost gave a modest yield of very clean spuds and I will repeat this next year with a few pots. One of the advantages of pot growing is that you can move the pot to available space during the growing season. Chapmans, next to the railway bridge on Heath Road, Twickenham, sell potato sets in January by weight. You can buy a few or enough for several rows. They have a good selection of popular varieties.
- Peas sown at the end of June avoid the pea moth infestations which can be disheartening.
- The celeriac seedlings that I bought and planted out showed symptoms of mosaic virus, growth was stunted and with the likelihood of transfer to other crops I decided to destroy them. A sowing of

swede seed, as a stand-in, germinated well and after successive thinning is now well established. I hope the rats do not find them!

- It is not too late to sow seeds, mustards, oriental greens such as pak choi, lettuce and radish will germinate and provide a crop. Check the sowing instructions on the seed packet, some lettuce varieties are winter hardy, some are not. If you have some cloches to give protection, beetroot and chicories can be added to the list.
- Don't let your greenhouse or polytunnel stand idle over the winter. I sow broad beans in my polytunnel when I clear out the tomatoes and peppers at the end of October. If you 'pinch out' the lead shots once they have a good amount of flower you will be harvesting broad beans in early May before the new tomato plants go in.

## ***OUR ROYAL CHARTERS***

Bushy Park Allotments have two royal charters. The first from Queen Victoria established the site in 1894, within the confines of her royal park. I have only seen a partial photocopy so do not have the full text. The terms and conditions are of interest.

**The** ground shall not be used for any other purpose than as allotments for the Labouring Classes but until the allotments are granted such parts as are not allotted may be let by the said Local Board for grazing purposes

**No** allotment shall be let by the said Local Board to any person who is not a Labourer residing in the Parish of Hampton aforesaid

**No** Labourer shall have more ground allotted to him than he can himself cultivate in leisure hours and in no case shall he have more than a quarter of an acre allotted to him and it shall not be lawful for him to employ any hired labour in the cultivation of his allotment

**No** allotment shall be underlet

**No** building or structure of any description shall be erected on any allotment except sheds for tools No tool shed shall be erected of any greater height than the Park wall

**The** Local Board shall at all times during the continuance of this Licence maintain in good and proper repair and condition to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Our Works and Public Buildings the fences on the south and east sides of the said ground

A quarter of an acre would have been the size of eight of our standard 5 rod plots, quite a challenge to cultivate in your leisure time! These conditions have been incorporated into the current Terms & Conditions.

The second charter from George V in 1911 extended the site by some 6 ½ acres into the park. It would have added another 190 plots so there was significant demand at that time, plenty of 'labourers' in Hampton! This area reverted to the Royal Park at some point after the 2<sup>nd</sup> world War when demand for plots eased. I will send a transcript of this charter out with this newsletter.

Phil Iddison  
On behalf of  
Bushy Park Allotments Association

Please contact the council via the website for any matters relating to your tenancy or the T&Cs.