



BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2020

1. Introduction

The 2019/2020 year has been difficult for many plotholders, with winter flooding affecting many plots at the south end of the site and the arrival of Covid-19 in the spring. The weather has also been rather erratic with alternating hot and dry periods and cold and wet ones.

Your committee has held its meetings every 2 months as usual and the financial statement for the year will be posted on the notice boards and the website. Copies of this report will be sent out to all on the email list, posted on the notice boards and some paper copies will be available in the summerhouse.

2. Impact of Covid-19

The lockdown began in March and many plotholders may have been shielding for a period. Fortunately the allotments remained open and those still tending their plots welcomed the opportunity and recognised that the guidelines should be followed to ensure they continued to be so.

Sadly the Open Days this year have had to be cancelled but a successful Plant Sale was held for plotholders and thanks are due to all who participated.

This year's AGM had also to be cancelled but it is hoped that this report, the newsletters and website have kept you informed.

There are now a higher number of neglected plots than usual, which clearly affects neighbouring plotholders. The Council has not been carrying out inspections as they consider they do not know which plotholders are shielding and thus unable to work their plots. However they have agreed that if we report neglected plots to them they will contact the plotholder to find out their position. Please report the plot numbers or plotholder names of any near you to the committee and we can forward details to the Council. Please make sure your own plot is clearly numbered so that the right people are contacted.

3. Woody Waste

Following the Council's bonfire ban, thanks to the heroic efforts of Joe Ambaye and volunteers a woody waste collection area has been installed and erected in the middle of the site. The Council has paid for the materials and agreed to empty the area at regular intervals. Unfortunately some plotholders have dumped everything and anything, so

although the Council has cleared the site once, it will not do so again unless it is manned at times when it is open.

4. The Shop

The shop is run as a separate enterprise by Giuseppe de Vai and is open when he is around. You can find him nearby on plot 86.

5. Flooding

Intentions to arrange a face to face meeting with Royal Parks management to clarify the specific detail of what caused the flooding of 50+ allotment plots at the beginning of the year, and what provisions can be agreed for the future to further manage the Longford River's vulnerability to increasingly extreme weather, have been stymied and delayed by both the Covid lockdown and the appointment of a new manager for Bushy Park. It is hoped to have some progress to report over the next month or so and before the impending winter weather.

6. Communications

Many thanks to Phil Iddison for preparing and emailing out regular newsletters. The secretary maintains the website <http://www.bushyparkallotments.org.uk/>. This contains an archive of all the newsletters, minutes and advice notes.

7. Committee

Our Chairman, Joe Ambaye, resigned in May and has not been replaced. Thanks are very much due to him for the woody waste works and representing us on the borough allotment group (BRAG). Your committee currently comprises Christina Aston (treasurer), Bryan Basdell, John Carrig, Robin Hewitt (secretary), Vicky Phillips, David Wright and Gillian Wilkinson and is far smaller than it has been in the past. Some of us have served for many years, are getting on in years and would like to hand over to newcomers.

The committee, with help from a few long-standing volunteers, looks after all the communal areas on the site, liaises with the Council, organises events and keeps plotholders informed through newsletters and the website. We appeal to plotholders to volunteer to be on the committee, which needs a new Chair, social representatives to arrange events and representatives of various geographic areas of the site currently unrepresented. We also need plotholders to participate in work days to maintain communal areas of the site and ensure that the woody waste area can be reopened.

We have a number of good ideas for site repairs and improvements but have insufficient numbers to carry them out, so would appeal to plotholders to help look after the site for the well being of all plotholders. Please contact the secretary if you are willing to help.

8. Question and Answer

In the absence of the AGM Q&A session, please send your comments to the committee at secretarybpallotments@gmail.com. and we will endeavour to reply to them all.