

COMMITTEE NEWS

Bushy Park Allotment Association

www.bushyparkallotments.org.uk

1st August 2024

A warm welcome to our new tenants!

You may have seen us showing people around the site earlier this year. We were able to get 35 vacant plots tenanted in early spring and many of these are already starting to change quite dramatically as clearing, digging and cultivation takes place.

The council have been very active in this area recently and with support from the committee have been able to identify, clear and let plots to a growing number of enthusiastic newcomers. A further 26 plots were let this month and more viewings are planned for September and October to get as many vacant plots tenanted as possible before winter. This should be a real benefit to the site going forward.

Please make our 'newbies' feel at home and offer your support and advice to help them settle in.

Would you like to get more involved?

Our Bushy Park Allotment Association Committee is looking for additional support for both the community on site and the committee itself. If you think you can help and would like to get involved please get in touch.

Whether its open days, showing prospective tenants round on viewing days, helping to deal with waste and rubbish (if you see some and can deal with it every little helps), supporting neighbours with pruning and digging, sharing excess produce and spare plants and seeds, or feeding back to committee members with site issues and ideas, we are looking for an extended team of 'go to' people. We are the biggest site in Richmond and Wandsworth and need some additional 'hands on deck'.

So, whether you've been here for years or have just arrived, if you think you'd like to get more involved, we'd love to hear from you. To find out more, please contact us via the Newsletter editor – phil.iddison@arcadis.com.

Cleaning up the site:

Our new(ish) allotment officer at Richmond Council has been arranging for various areas of the site to be cleared including the car park at the bottom near the pool. This has been recently cleared of woody waste and plastic bins among other things, creating 6 or 7 additional car parking spaces. Please respect this space and keep it clear going forward so tenants can use it for parking. We have many tenants for whom the ability to park on site is necessary.

In addition, many of you have commented on the number of plots that are either overgrown or covered in rubbish. A number of the most overgrown vacant plots have been strimmed and cleared ready for new tenants to take on. This is a work in progress.

The Council have spent several thousands of pounds strimming down overgrown weeds and brambles; removing hazardous glass; dealing with wasp nests; as well as piles of wood and rubbish which have accumulated over several years. You will have seen the 'no fly tipping' notices going up across the site and are asked to respect the hard work that has been taking place.

As you will know and as a gentle reminder, you are essentially responsible for removing any rubbish or other waste you have found or accumulated on your own plot and taking it to the various waste disposal facilities provided within the Borough.

Once again, please respect the work that is taking place and avoid dumping waste.

Additional woody waste collection:

To support the above, an additional woody waste collection from the woody waste area at the centre of the site has recently been agreed with the Council. This is for the benefit of us all, but especially to support new tenants arriving on site by giving them somewhere to put the woody waste they are not easily able to compost as they go about clearing the plots they have just taken on. As soon as dates are advised, notices will go up on gates and notice boards.

Numbering your plot.

You are reminded to number your plot. This is extremely useful not just for the orientation of us tenants but also assists with the work of the Council and the Committee. New tenants in particular will find it easier to find their way around. If you're unsure about your plot number please refer to your bill or contact a committee member. Creativity is encouraged, of course, but a simple legible and visible number will suffice too

Dates for your diary:

An Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 28th September at 11am in the Community Garden area near the shop. Everyone is welcome. This is your chance to share ideas and find out more about what is going on on site.

We are planning to hold our Autumn Open Day Event on either the Saturday 19th or Saturday 26th October. This will be confirmed closer to the time and may be subject to the weather but 'save the dates' and we'll see you there.

Don't forget to watch "The Chelsea Detectives"!

You will remember the filming that took place in June on our site for 'The Chelsea Detectives' a British Police TV Drama. To find out whose body is found on one of our Bushy Park allotment plots, watch Series 3, Episode 2, on Amazon Prime. The new series starts November and Episode 2 is expected to air late November/early December.

Greenhouse repairs.

If you have a greenhouse on your plot that needs repairing, Ros is a greenhouse specialist who uses second hand recycled glass to replace broken and missing panes. He has successfully repaired several of the

greenhouses on site at Bushy Park Allotments and offers reasonable prices. You can contact him through Tony on 07946 417418. Just text Tony your plot number and how many panes of glass you need replacing. Once a number of jobs are identified, Tony will collate and arrange for Ros to come over and price each one. You can then decide whether to go ahead or not.

Compost, canes and fertiliser.

The site has a small shop located in the car park at the top of the site near the communal area. Here you can buy compost/well rotted manure, bamboo canes, fertiliser etc. The shop is usually 'open' on a Saturday and Sunday morning and is run by Guiseppie who you can find on plot number 85 or contact on 07796 090354. Either find him on his plot or text him details of what you are looking for so he can let you have prices and availability.

Fresh straw/manure.

You will have seen piles of stable material, basically straw or wood shavings in the car parks and near the woody waste area in the middle of the site. This is brought in from the local stables and is available free of charge to all tenants so please go ahead and help yourself whenever you need some.

Can you help with tree and shrub pruning?

Do we have anyone on site who can help with tree and other substantial pruning jobs? If you are able to provide pruning assistance to other plot holders at a reasonable price and would like your service included in the next Committee news, please contact the newsletter editor.

Rats

Several tenants have reported issues with rats to the Council. We understand that the Council are going to take action.

Shed break-ins

There were at least 20 sheds broken into either late on Saturday night 13th July or early morning, Sunday 14th. It appears to have been principally vandalism and probably a search for resaleable items like power tools. The incident has been reported to the Council and they have asked for the Park Guard patrols to be increased for the next few weeks.

News from the Council

Inspections – will start next week spread over several mornings.

Water turn off will likely be end of September/first week October (to be confirmed)

Main woody waste collection will be mid-October to mid-November (will be confirmed)