

BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE REPORT 2023 - 2024

1) Your Committee Members:

A number of changes have taken place over the spring/summer of 2024.

Phil Iddison and Hugh Munro have resigned from the committee, and John Wade, as many of you will know, passed away recently. Sarah Horrell has become Acting Secretary. Several new members are in the process of being recruited and roles are being reviewed. Debbie Joy-Smith joined us at the July committee meeting, and a number of additional people are proposing to join at the next Committee Meeting 29th September. These include: Anne Perry, Victoria Reid, Claire Harrold and Anne Grant.

As the AGM is taking place before the next Committee Meeting, membership will be confirmed and roles will be appointed at the meeting on behalf of the Association and advised once they are in place.

Phil Iddison and Riitta Lehtovara will continue to run the Newsletter and the website.

Committee membership:

October 23 - March 24	April 24 - September 24	Prospective
Giuseppe de Val - Chair	Giuseppe de Val - Chair	
Hana Malcekova	Hana Malcekova	
Sarka Bokova	Sarka Bokova	
David Wright	David Wright	
Sarah Horrell	Sarah Horrell - Acting Secretary	
Noel Burke	Noel Burke	
Julie Batten	Julie Batten	
Phil Iddison - Secretary & Newsletter	Debbie Joy-Smith	
Hugh Munro		Victoria Reid
John Wade		Claire Harold
Ritta Lehtovara - website		Anne Grant
		Anne Perry

2) Committee activity this year has included:

Events:

A Tenants Social Event on the 14th October 2023

A Site Meeting on the 16th March 2024

The Spring Open Day and Plant Sale on the 11th of May 2024

The filming for The Chelsea Detective, a British Police TV drama, on site w/c 3rd June

The AGM to be held on Saturday the 28th September 2024

An Autumn Open Day is being planned for either Saturday 19th or Saturday 26th October subject to weather.

Council liaison:

In addition, over the summer, liaison with the Council has continued. Changes to the woody waste area have been negotiated and introduced to help clear treated wood as well as green wood prunings.

An additional collection of green woody prunings in September has been agreed, the car park at the pool end has been cleared, and a number of the most overwhelming vacant plots have been strimmed and cleared of waste ready for renting.

The Allotments Officer has been active on site. In addition to clearing and strimming some of the most neglected plots so they can be let, they have been increasingly active in terms of inspections and follow-up on uncultivated plots or plots with large quantities of waste material on them.

Plot viewing and new tenants:

Several new tenant plot viewings have taken place over the spring and summer months. New tenants were shown round by Committee Members on behalf of the Council in March. An additional number followed on the 13th, 14th and 26th July, with the latest viewings taking place last weekend – 14th September - and more planned for the 12th October. We anticipate that by Christmas we will have nearly 100 new tenants on site.

Site Services:

The Committee has started to introduce a number of 'site services'. These include the restoration and/or supply of existing and new greenhouses on site, and the negotiation and introduction of a service from Continental who will quote for and collect bulky waste from plots including plastic, glass, metal, carpet etc as well as sheds, fences and other wooden items. We continue to look for someone who can help with tree and shrub pruning.

The shop has continued to operate as normal, and you may have noticed the communal area by the shop and the shop car park have been cleaned up. A big thank you to Paul who maintains the communal area for us and to Giuseppe for clearing the car park up at the High Street end of the allotments.

Meetings and Newsletters:

Six Committee Meetings have been held and a newsletter has been issued every 2 months including a 'Committee News' summary following the July Meeting.

Finance:

The Committee currently holds just under £5000.

3) Your support is requested with the following:

Volunteering to help:

A group of 'site volunteers' is starting to come together - this is a group of people willing to help with site management when work is required. Thank you to those of you who have already indicated your willingness to get involved.

If you too feel you are able to help when occasional work is required, please let us know by emailing Phil on: -

phil.iddison@arcadis.com.

Plot numbers:

Please make your plot number easily visible - paint in on your shed or use plastic numbers on bins etc.

4) Some thank you's:

Finally, some BIG THANK YOU'S to people who are not committee members but often put their services forward:

To Paul for clearing and maintaining the communal area

To Tony and Ros for introducing the greenhouse repairs service

To Jo for agreeing to split the woody waste area and pay for an additional collection

To Phil for continuing to produce the Newsletter and sending out emails to keep plot holders informed.

To Riitta for maintaining the website.

To Irena for her help on Open Days