

## **Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association**

### **Newsletter – Spring/Easter 2019**

Spring is well underway and it's time to dust off the gardening tools, find your boots and get out on the plot. We have had a good mix of weather over the last month or two, with some very hot days in February followed by high winds in March, a fair amount of rain and now some sharp frosts. Hopefully the blossom on our plum and greengage trees will survive long enough for the insects to pollinate them this year.

The ground is quite workable at the moment but our Wendover soil can change quickly from wet and sticky to hard and dry, making direct seed planting difficult. I start most of my seeds in the greenhouse, which is now bursting at the seams while I wait for a nice warm day to start planting out.

We held our AGM in the Library Room on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, where we received reports from the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and welcomed four established tenants as new shareholders in our Association. It was my sad duty as Chairman to report that John Elliott, a long-time plot holder, shareholder and previous chairman had passed away just the week before the AGM on the day of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Your committee and officers of the Association were re-elected unopposed for 2019.

Bob Bulpitt (Chairman), John Currell (Secretary), Neville Morton (Treasurer), Sharon Peters, Mary Tanner, Francis Biggerstaff, Peter Lockett and Margaret Winstanley. Additionally Rebecca Miller will continue to attend committee meetings as Website Administrator. To further strengthen the committee Alison Woods was seconded as a member at the committee meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **MANAGEMENT**

The smooth running of the Ashbrook site is due to the efforts of our secretary John Currell and his small team of helpers. His work includes arranging tenancies and authorising the erection of sheds, greenhouses and other substantial structures. Please note that the tenancy agreement signed by all plotholders requires you to obtain permission before erecting sheds, greenhouses or other sizeable structures on your plot. Contact John so that he can advise on suitability and location.

John also organises regular site inspections and this helps to identify potential issues with site maintenance and helps us to maintain the site in a safe and tidy manner. We have full occupancy for this season and a small waiting list of prospective tenants. Potential new tenants should contact John to be placed on the waiting list

### **SITE MAINTENANCE**

Everyday site maintenance is managed by Francis Biggerstaff and Robin Beattie with the help of volunteers. They look after the water tanks, the shared equipment for use by all plotholders and the larger equipment for use by the maintenance team and the volunteer mowing team. They are happy to make the shared equipment available to users and will point out the working instructions and advisory precautions. A small donation is requested for use of the petrol mower, rotavator and

small trimmer that are for general use by tenants. Instructions and the usage log book are located in the hut behind the garage.

Due to increases in supply costs the charge for the communal muck heap has been increased to £1.20 per barrow load with effect from February this year.

You may have noticed that the maintenance team are constructing a new parking area to augment the existing area at the North end of the site. This is being constructed from clean hardcore and will be topped by a layer of stone. If you want to help with this work please contact Francis or Robin.

## GRASS CUTTING

Keith Waterman has prepared and distributed the new rota for the volunteer mowing team who look after the central grass roadway, the parking areas and the area around the garage. I expect we'll have rather more to do this year as we are unlikely to have such a dry summer as last year.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the plot-holder to maintain the paths around their plot so that they are mowed and level with a minimum width of two and a half feet or 75cm.

## BONFIRES

You may have seen the notice in the Wendover News stating that bonfires on allotments have been banned by Wendover Parish Council. This applies to the Council allotments at Hogtrough Lane and London Road. The ruling does not apply to the Wendover Ashbrook allotments-yet! To retain this facility it is most important that we act sensibly and don't annoy our neighbours. Don't light bonfires when the wind is blowing towards houses and wait until dusk to avoid nuisance to other ploholders. You can only burn non-compostable allotment waste and must not bring general rubbish, such as old window frames etc, from home to dispose of on our site.

## WEBSITE and NOTICEBOARDS

The website ([wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com](http://wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com)), managed by Rebecca Miller is a mine of useful information with practical guidance from John Marshall, details and instructions for use of shared equipment and links to other gardening websites.

Rebecca would welcome details and photographs of successes and failures.

The notice boards are also an important source of information and we will continue to post details of dates for social events, items for sale and general information and notices.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

As you will have noted from the recent email sent by John Currell, we have dates for the coffee mornings and plant swaps organised by Derek Patton. These are on the first Saturday of the month for 2019: 6<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June. Volunteers are requested to host July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rent Day.

Please contact Derek if you are willing to help on the day or can provide cakes etc.

Happy gardening 2019

Bob Bulpett – Chairman WAAA

robert.bulpett@yahoo.com