

Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association Limited

Newsletter – September 2015

The allotments are now in full bloom and present a wonderful sight with flowers, fruit and vegetables all at, or approaching, maturity.

Once again we suffered from dry windy weather for most of the early season, which did not help my spuds or onions but most other crops managed to survive with extra watering. This was not as tedious as before due to the addition of much needed, and appreciated, extra water tanks.

RENT DAY

At the recent committee meeting it was agreed that rents would be increased with effect from this September to £2.00 per pole. This represents the first increase for five years.

Rent Day this year will be on Saturday 26th September and Neville Morton and Mary Tanner will be at the allotment garage to receive your payments between 9:30 and 12:30. We will be serving tea and cake, so hopefully the weather will be kind and you will stay and chat.

MANAGEMENT

John Currell reports that all the plots are currently tenanted or under planned renovation and we have a waiting list of prospective new plot-holders. As usual there have been a few plots becoming vacant during the year and we have been able to allocate some to new tenants and others to existing tenants who wanted to expand their holding or move to a more convenient site.

If you are considering reducing or expanding your holding in the future please inform our secretary and you will be added to the waiting list.

The management group has recently surveyed the site and has reported that conditions are generally good with some plots in excellent condition. A few are in very poor condition and those tenants will be receiving a letter pointing out that an immediate improvement is required. Some pathways between plots are in poor condition and the old excuse that 'I don't have a mower' is not acceptable. We now have a small motor mower available for loan. This is located in the garage and Francis Biggerstaff or Robin Beattie can show you how this works. An 'honesty' book will be used to keep a record of usage and a small fee for petrol will be charged on rent day.

Just to remind you, our tenancy agreement rules require that:

- There is an adequate level of cultivation – at least 70% cultivated,
- All paths & hedges are kept in a reasonable state,
- Seeding grasses and weeds are properly controlled,
- There is no accumulation of rubbish and no dangerous or inappropriate structures or items.

Tenants whose plots do not comply will be contacted so that we can discuss the situation and provide support if required. If problems persist, it might be necessary to ask the tenant to reduce the size of their holding or terminate the tenancy.

MAINTENANCE

The central path, car park and garage area have been maintained by the volunteer mowing crew and this is much appreciated. Thanks to Francis Biggerstaff and Robin Beattie who have looked after the equipment, strimmed and mowed problem areas and generally provided help and advice.

The 'honesty' manure heap has been replenished and users should fill in details of manure collected and arrange to pay Neville Morton at the rate of £1 per load as before. We have established a second heap closer to the Aylesbury end and expect a manure delivery in the next few days. Please settle up promptly with payment to Neville, or any Committee Member. Those with outstanding debts will be expected to settle their account with Neville on Rent Day.

Individuals may arrange their own deliveries of manure with due consideration to road conditions and any manure dumped on the paths or other common areas must be cleared without delay.

OTHER NEWS

The Saturday Social Mornings proved very popular this year and Derek Patton has volunteered to arrange a series of Saturday coffee mornings with plant swaps next summer.

The events will be between **10am and Noon** outside the garage. Dates will be advised but are expected to be on the 2nd Saturday each month from May to September.

Come along and have a chat, make new acquaintances and, perhaps, pick up some unfamiliar plants to grow on your plot. Derek would welcome more helpers to join the social group so if you think that you can help – even occasionally - please contact Derek at: 01296 623624 - derekpatton@email.com

Derek is also looking for a suitable site to hold an evening bonfire party this year. Details will be provided on the notice boards and website nearer the day.

NOTICE BOARDS and WEBSITE

We are very pleased that Rebecca Miller has agreed to take over the running of our website – wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com and this is now a very useful source of information, which we hope tenants and prospective tenants will make use of. Rebecca would welcome new content including for example, updates on plot holders projects and photos of interest.

The notice boards at the North and South gateways, and by the garage also display general notices, and information regarding items for sale, manure deliveries etc.

MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting will be held on November 2nd. Please let the Secretary or me know if you have any items you would like to be considered for discussion. The shareholders Annual General Meeting will be held in the Library Rooms at 7:30 on the 4th of December.

Bob Bulpett

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