

Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association Ltd

Newsletter – Autumn 2019

It doesn't seem long ago that I was planting out brassica plants, potatoes etc, and doing my best to persuade carrot seeds to germinate and now here we are with Rent Day almost upon us once again. There was a lot of watering due to the hot, dry weather but the crops are good and well worth the effort. My potato yield was excellent but clearly certain varieties were much too attractive to slugs despite the ground being hard and dry. Lifting the crop was not very easy and a crow bar might have been more useful than a fork and this despite the plot having been regularly manured and cultivated in rotation for over thirty years.

Evidence that the end of the season is approaching was shown by the surprise wilting of my squash and courgette plants due to the light frost early on Sunday morning the 8th September, hopefully some of the fruit will survive.

MANAGEMENT

Our Secretary John Currell has reported that the general condition of plots is not quite as good as in previous years and this may of course be due to the hot weather, causing weeds to seed prolifically. Additionally, we need to remind tenants that it is their responsibility to maintain the paths around their plots in good order. They should be mown and be reasonably level to provide safe access. A mower is available for a contribution of £1 a session – see Francis or Robin.

With Rent Day approaching John would like to know in advance whether you would like to increase the size of your holding, downsize or even, perhaps, vacate your plot. This will allow him sufficient time to allocate plots to those on the waiting list and get them started in good order.

You can contact John by email (j_m.currell@ntlworld.com) or in person on the allotment.

SITE MAINTENANCE

The mowing team, with a schedule organised by Keith Waterman, has maintained the central driveways and the grass parking area at the North end of the site. The team cannot however claim all the credit this year as Christian Hodges, using his super mower, made our life a lot easier and produced a better finish. Thanks Christian.

As always, our volunteers, Francis Biggerstaff and Robin Beattie offered advice and support on practical matters and helped to site sheds and greenhouses. They also maintained our mowers, rotavators and trimmers, and provided access to some of these pieces of equipment for use by tenants where appropriate. The volunteer maintenance team was joined by Alison Woods who is qualified to apply herbicides and has been treating abandoned plots and our weed-covered new parking extension at the South end of the site. Having prepared the foundation, with a willing work party much earlier in the year, we hope to obtain suitable surfacing material in the near future to complete the task. If anyone knows of a suitable, inexpensive source of material please let me know.

The much loved communal manure heaps are awaiting a refill. We expect to obtain deliveries of well rotted horse manure very soon. We also hope to maintain the charge per barrow load at £1.20. Please make a note in the book located in the small shed behind the garage of the number of loads you collect. Neville will then bill you accordingly.

WEBSITE and NOTICEBOARDS

Our website (wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com), is well worth a visit. It is maintained by Rebecca Miller and contains lots of helpful information about our Association, the techniques of allotment growing (contributed by John Marshall) and a number of useful links to other sites. We welcome contact via the forum and contributions; serious or light-hearted that might be useful to other tenants. You might also be able to dispose of unwanted tools or obtain useful items via the website.

The notice boards, located at either entrance to the site and on the central garage are used to post contact information, copies of our regulations and details of upcoming events.

RENT DAY

Rent day this year will be on **Saturday 28th September** and Neville Morton will be at the allotment garage to receive your payments between 9:30 and 12:30. We have held the rental charge at £2 per pole for the present. We hope to be serving coffee and tea and a barbecue is planned by Derek Patton to start at around 11:00 am.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The monthly Social Saturdays were hosted by Derek Patton again this year. In his absence, Margaret Winstanley and Jenny Summerfield continued the events during the latter part of the summer. Unfortunately I was unable to attend a couple of these and missed out on the excellent cakes etc.

MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 28th of October. Please let the Secretary or me know if you have any items you would like to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

The shareholders **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the Library Rooms at 7:30pm on Friday the 29th of November. All plotholders are invited to attend but only shareholders are entitled to vote on any matters during the formal part of the meeting. This will be followed by a social event, which will include wine, cheese and nibbles.

Bob Bulpett – Chairman WAAA

robert.bulpett@yahoo.com