

Woburn Sands Allotments Newsletter

October/November 2009

Committee News

Due to the difficulties over bonfires the Committee has had three meetings since the last newsletter. By now all ploholders will probably have read the documents received from Milton Keynes Council. As said in the letter to all, the Committee made the decision about bonfires with great reluctance. To have ignored the threat of an abatement order being imposed would have caused greater problems and costs for the Society in the long run.

We must now look to alternatives. We have considered the possibility of green waste being collected but this is too expensive on a regular basis. And, no, the Council will not pay for the collection. We are, though looking at applying for grants to solve the issue. (All ideas welcome.)

We are sorry to report that Alan Symon and Peter Leadbeater have both stepped down from the Committee. Both have offered to continue supporting the work of the Committee and with their extensive knowledge of the Allotment Field this is very welcome. We would like to thank them both for the years of hard work given to the Society.

New gate

The last wooden gate has been removed and replaced with a new metal one. The entrance at the top of Woodland Way is now a little wider. Thank you to Roger Hansard who installed the gate with a little help from his friends and closely supervised by Ron.

Pumpkin and Sunflower Competition

On Saturday October 4th Peter Leadbeater judged both the largest pumpkin and the tallest and widest-head sunflower. Congratulations to the winner of the largest pumpkin, Steve Hutchinson. Anna Harrison was second and Joseph Walton (grandson of Jim & Diane) third. The tallest sunflower was grown by Phil Rowe and the widest head by Peter Richardson. Details of the winning sizes and photographs are on the website.

Reminder:

Potato, seed and manure orders are due in by the end of October

Skip and Waste

A skip was hired to help out with some of the problems caused by not being able to have bonfires. Unfortunately some people abused this by bringing rubbish from home, others tried to fill it with materials that really should be composted. The piles of rubbish left alongside the skip have been given a temporary position – markers have been put up.

If you are the person who put your rubbish in the ditch, would you please clear it out before next weekend and put it on the most suitable pile. There is little point in solving one problem to cause another.

Shredding Woody Material

Andy Malleson has offered to bring his shredder onto the field on Saturday 31st October. It will be on site from 9.00am until 2.00pm. If you have any items that can be shredded, please bring them down to the bottom of the field on Saturday.

Working Party

Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help out with the working party. We will be working down at the Bow Brickhill end of the field.

We will just be working on Saturday 31st October. From 9.00am onwards. There is plenty to do, so if you are able to join us, do let Marie know: secretary@wsallotmentsociety.co.uk. There will be a BBQ at lunch time.

There are ditches to clear, hedges to trim and trees to be lopped and cut down. (Later in the Winter Alan Symon will be taking down a tree growing through the hedge and Andy Malleson will be laying the hedge between the two gates at this end of the field.)

Also, we will be setting out composting areas and areas for rubbish such as metal. In the first instance this will be done using pallets as markers. If we are successful in searching for grants these will be replaced by more substantial barriers.

Pallets

Dave Cockerill, one of the Committee members, provides a regular supply of pallets. There are two piles: on the top track – next to the water tank and at the bottom of the field – please help yourself.