

Woburn Sands Allotments Newsletter

September/October 2009

Plot Awards 2009

The winner of the Plot of the Year Award this year is Peter Toogood. The award winners for the second best plot are Carol and Tony Gale and Jane Roberts was awarded the third best plot. The Novice Award winner is Sarah Bryant. Congratulations to all. Maurice Rust, Frost Garden Centres plant expert was our judge and he commented upon how good these particular plots were and how good so many other plots looked too.

The awards were presented by Maurice on 17th July at our social evening. What an evening it was, rain, wind and rather chilly. The poor weather conditions didn't stop over 50 members attending the evening. Thank you to everyone who brought along food and drink. Although it was a bit awkward holding onto the gazebos with a glass in one hand and a plate in the other we all managed to have a good time. Thanks to Paul and Tim who organised the BBQ.

Peter is seen here receiving his award from Maurice.



For more pictures, see the web site.

Membership

A number of members have, or are about to, give up their plots. We will be welcoming a number of new members and tenants in the coming weeks. Full details in the next newsletter.

Information & Dates for your Diary

Drainage

If you were a member of the working party that helped dig a drainage channel across several allotments a few months back, we're sure you will be delighted to know its works! The water was pouring out of the pipe a while back and the plots that were flooded have dried out and can now be worked.

Summary of Dates

25th Sept. Have your scrap metal ready for collection

4th Oct. Pumpkin & Sunflower competition

24th Oct. Seed swap - Bletchley

31st Oct. Working party

Next Working Party:

The hedges and ditches adjacent to the Bow Brickhill Road entrance are in desperate need of clearing and cutting back. We are proposing to have another working party over the weekend of **31st October/1st November**. If you are able to help out we would be very grateful. A barbeque lunch will be provided. Please let Marie know if you are available.

Sunflower and Pumpkin Competition

Judging will take place of the biggest pumpkins, tallest sunflower and sunflower with the widest span at 10.00am on Saturday 3rd October. Do come along to join the fun.

Scrap Metal

If you have any odd bits of old metal on your plot, there is an opportunity to get rid of them. On Saturday 26th September a scrap merchant will be collecting from the field. You will need to deposit any scrap down at the bottom of the field in the area marked off for this purpose. Please do not leave scrap anywhere else. The scrap **MUST** be there by the end of Friday 25th as he may collect early in the morning.

Security

You will know that we had two serious thefts from the allotment in May and June. If you have not received the security report which was sent by email it should be enclosed with this newsletter. The Committee has listened to a number of views and taken advice from the Police. We have also considered secure storage on the site. The general view is that no action we can take will stop the determined thief. For this reason the advice from the Committee is not to keep valuable property in the shed on your Allotment.

There is one aspect of security we wish to tackle and that is the high hedges on the Bow Brickhill Road which obscure the view of anyone passing the field. We would ask you to give some time to the working party (see above) to cut back these hedges.

Gates

While the thieves cut the padlock on the gates, leaving them open gives the chance for fly-tippers and the opportunist thief to help themselves. Please lock the gates when you leave the field rather than assuming someone else will do it.

The gate at the top of Woodland Way will be replaced soon, as the wooden one is about to fall apart.

The padlocks on each of the five gates is the same. This means that we all have the same key. Some of the keys can be a bit fiddly but with persistence they work – trying to force the key is less successful than a more patient approach.

Planning for next season

The seed catalogue from Kings seeds will be with you shortly together with order forms order forms for potatoes, onion sets and manure.

Our manure supplier from last year has moved away from this area so we will be using a new supplier.

Once you get you order forms please return them as soon as possible so that we can get them off to the various suppliers.

Parking on the Field

PLEASE DON'T – DELIVERIES ONLY!

Being Good Neighbours

It has been one of the most 'weedy' summers on record. Please be a good allotment neighbour and cut the heads off your weeds to prevent them spreading, even if you don't have time to take out the roots.

As a Society we also have responsibility to our neighbours on Bow Brickhill Road and in Tidbury Close. If our neighbours are sitting enjoying their gardens on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, the last thing they want is smoke from bonfires or the noise of mowers and strimmers. Please try to avoid making a noise at these times. Bonfires should not be lit if there is a chance that smoke will blow onto Tidbury Close. If it changes direction please put out the bonfire and try again another time.

Seed Swap Scheme

Bletchley Garden Club are holding a seed swapping event on **24th October** at the Freeman Methodist Church Hall in Buckingham Road from 10.00am - 1.00pm.

It works like this:

- Collect seeds from your vegetables and flowers and bring them in labelled envelopes or packets.
- Pay £1 entrance.
- Hand in your seeds. You are entitled to one packet for each packet you bring. You may take away extra for a donation of 50p per packet.
- Choose the seeds that you would like to take away.
- No seeds to swap? Packets can be taken away for a donation of 50p per packet.
- Stay for refreshments and a chat! For details phone Jan on 01908 372138 or Heather on 01908 378945

email address: If you have received this newsletter on paper it means I do not have your email address. Please let me know on secretary@wsallotmentsociety.co.uk