

Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association Limited

Newsletter – September 2016

After a much needed and very welcome wet start to the growing year the summer weather was windy and dry. This seems to have become a regular pattern and we will have to adjust our gardening techniques to cope. I found that the runner beans made a welcome windbreak for some of the smaller plants but I also made use of netting to reduce damage.

In general the site looks good and plots are both productive and attractively managed. There are one or two plots needing attention and by the time this newsletter is published the site will have been inspected and any problem areas noted.

MANAGEMENT

I am sorry to report that Rachel Kingston has resigned from the committee and given up her plot due to heavy commitments and lack of time. We are grateful for her support and hope that she will return to allotment gardening when time allows.

Our secretary John Currell takes responsibility for managing the allotments and carries out regular inspections of the allotments with the help of a small team. We would like to remind you that it is the responsibility of the plot-holder to maintain the grass paths around their plot(s) by keeping them level and mowing on a regular basis. As we now have a mower available for use at a very reasonable price of £1 per session, there is really no excuse for not keeping your paths in good order. Those of you with plots adjacent to the field should also maintain a clear area between your plot and the hedge and not use the hedge as a rubbish dump. In the future we plan to re-establish the track adjacent to the hedge and new sheds etc should be sited three meters from the boundary line.

As we approach rent day some of you may be considering reducing the size of your plot or maybe you are looking for more space. If so please contact John in good time so that he can make arrangements. You can contact him by email (j.m.currell@ntlworld.com) or in person on the allotment.

SITE MAINTENANCE

The central driveway and grass parking area have been kept in order by the volunteer mowing group. This is much appreciated and if anyone wants to help with this please let us know.

Francis Biggerstaff and Robin Beattie have been invaluable in offering advice and helping with repairs and maintenance of equipment. One problem that occurs on a regular basis is damage to the mowers when they are tipped on one side to allow access to the blades and under-tray for cleaning. It is important to tip the mower so that carburettor and air cleaner are uppermost or oil will flow into the air cleaner and the mower won't start.

There have been some issues recently with obstruction to paths and adjacent plots by fruit trees that have spread beyond their intended site. If you have an issue with such a tree please discuss with the owner or bring the matter to the attention of Francis, Robin or John Currell who will assess the situation and deal with the problem if necessary.

WEBSITE and NOTICEBOARDS

The website (wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com) is maintained by a small group led by Rebecca Miller. The site is developing nicely and we now have an advisory section written by John Marshall based on his extensive knowledge of allotment gardening. The site is well-worth a visit and Rebecca would welcome input based on your experiences and photographs to illustrate features.

The notice boards 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 24th September** and Neville Morton will be at the allotment garage to receive your payments between 9:30 and 12:30. We hope to be serving coffee, tea and cake, and look forward to seeing you there.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our social Saturdays organised by Derek Patton were well attended and proved to be a good opportunity to swap plants and catch up on news. We hope that Derek will continue to arrange these events. The barbecue, which was held towards the end of August and organised by Jenny Summerfield, was a success and the rain held off. We plan to repeat this event next year.

MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 31st 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 7:30 on the 11th of November. All ploholders are invited to attend but only shareholders are entitled to contribute to discussion and vote on any matters during the initial, formal part of the meeting. This will be followed by a social event, which will include a presentation on the web-site, a short talk and wine and nibbles.

Bob Bulpett – Chairman WAAA

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