

## Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association

### Newsletter – Autumn 2021

As we approach the end of our growing season this year, it is sobering to reflect that we are still under the threat of Covid-19 despite the efforts of the vaccination programme and the sensible precautions taken by the majority of the population. The allotments provide a very healthy environment for all us fortunate enough to have one. The combination of social interaction, honest toil and the subsequent enjoyment of our own vegetables fruit and flowers are truly beneficial

#### THE CENTENARY HOG-ROAST

We are delighted that the Centenary Hog-Roast could be rebooked with just a twelve month delay following the cancellation last year due to Covid. Derek Patton and his team of assistants have made an outstanding effort to organise this evening and we expect it to be very well attended. This all-ticket event will take place in the evening of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, starting at about 5pm with food available from 6pm. Details of the event and how to obtain tickets were provided on the letter circulated earlier. Hopefully the weather will be kind!

#### SITE MANAGEMENT

Our Secretary John Currell, together with a small team have recently inspected the site and have reported that nearly all the plots are being very well maintained. As in most years we have experienced a small turnover with several tenants downsizing or giving up plots and several aspiring new allotment gardeners taking up the challenge.

With the general relaxation of some of the precautionary Covid rules we were able to reinstate the provision of equipment such as mowers, strimmers and rotavators for use by tenants. Users are still advised to take due precautions; use the hand sanitizer supplied, wear gloves, where appropriate, and wipe down the equipment using the sanitizing wipes before and after use.

#### SITE MAINTENANCE

The volunteer site maintenance team and the mowing teams continue to help us keep the general areas of the site in good condition.

Our thanks especially go to Francis Biggerstaff, Robin Beattie, and Alison Woods for their continued support. Amongst other tasks Alison has also planted a number of hedging 'whips' in gaps along the hedge boundary with the field at the West side of the site. It would be helpful if tenants in the adjacent plots would provide support for the new plantings by carefully clearing weeds and watering occasionally. Wayne Griffiths (who has recently joined the committee), Simon Axtell, Christian Hodges and Graham Newman also helped with fence repairs, rotavating overgrown plots and mowing the central grass tracks.

The charges for muck from the communal heaps remains at £1.20 per barrow load and the heaps are currently at about half capacity. Further deliveries will be arranged as space becomes available. The record book located in the small shed behind the garage has been reinstated so you can record the number of barrow-loads and make payment to our Treasurer, Neville Morton, as and when requested.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

We were able to hold several Social Saturday coffee mornings and these events were very well attended. Thanks to Derek Patton, Jenny Summerfield and many others who helped make coffee and tea and provided tasty cakes and other treats.

## WEBSITE and NOTICEBOARDS

Matthew Wren has taken over the management of our website following on from Rebecca Miller, who initially set up the site but who has now given up her plot. Her efforts were much appreciated and the site provided a valuable source of information on allotment gardening. The site is still accessible and we will inform you as and when further developments take place. As well as through the emails sent out by the Secretary, we also post details of meetings and forthcoming events on the notice boards by the gates and on the central garage.

## GROW TO GIVE

The charity food collections have happily been well supported by tenants, which is very much appreciated by the charity organisers and those using the local foodbanks. Please continue to support this extremely valuable service whenever you can. However, please take care to ensure that you only contribute fresh and useable produce.

## RENT DAY

Rent Day this year will be on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Rent can be paid direct to Neville by bank transfer so you don't need to attend the site this year to renew your tenancy. It would be helpful if you would also settle any outstanding charges for hire of equipment or barrow-loads of manure at the same time.

The Association's account details are: **30-90-38 Acc. No. 52348168** It would also be helpful if you could email Neville to let him know that you have paid in this way. [nevmorton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nevmorton@tiscali.co.uk)

**We currently have a considerable waiting list of prospective tenants seeking a plot on our site. If you are considering giving up your plot or downsizing , please contact John Currell before Rent Day so that he start to plan the necessary arrangements to allocate plots to new tenants**

## MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of September. Please let the Secretary or me know if you have any items you would like to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

It is hoped that the improved situation with Covid 19 will allow us to hold the shareholders **Annual General Meeting** at 7:30pm on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November in the Library Rooms. More detail will be provided nearer the time.

Bob Bulpett – Chairman WAAA

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