

Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association

Newsletter – September 2022

Another allotment year has gone by and we are hopefully busy filling our sheds and garages with stored vegetables and preserving fruit or making jam with our excess produce. Despite the exceptionally hot and dry conditions many of us have had a very productive year. The absence of slugs certainly improved my potato crop.

Sadly, this year will also be remembered for the very unexpected and sad loss of our Secretary, John Currell. John was an exemplary secretary and we all miss his humour, attention to detail and friendly attitude.

SITE MANAGEMENT

A small team of volunteers have recently carried out the regular site inspection and I can report that nearly all the plots are being very well maintained despite the difficult conditions. A few letters were sent to tenants whose plots were causing concern and happily all those contacted have advised us of their plans to carry out remedial work.

A few plots have been vacated and we will be contacting prospective tenants on the waiting list. Unfortunately, the numbers waiting for a plot are high and the turnover is slow.

SITE MAINTENANCE

The dry weather this year meant that the mowing teams, organised by Keith Waterman, had little to do, especially as Christian Hodges was happy to mow the central path on a couple of occasions. Hopefully next year we'll see more rain and our grass cutting skills will be needed.

The maintenance team, including Robin Beattie, Alison Woods and Wayne kept an eye on the general condition of the site and Robin also organised the deliveries of muck. It is expected that the charges for muck from the communal heaps will remain at £1.20 per barrow load. There is plenty available at the moment and further deliveries when the heaps are used up. Remember to fill in the number of loads taken in the record book located in the small shed behind the garage. Payment will be requested in due course by our Treasurer.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Social Saturday coffee mornings were well attended this year. It is always a pleasure to see other plot-holders, to exchange plants and more importantly to sample cakes and coffee. Many thanks to all those who helped out on the day, those who contributed cakes and especially to Derek Patton and Jenny Summerfield for organising and hosting the events.

WEBSITE and NOTICEBOARDS

The new website, managed by Matthew Wren, is full of useful information and links:

<https://ashbrookallotments.com/> . We also have a Facebook page, which you can easily access and use to keep in touch or send in items of interest. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ashbrookallotments>

Additionally, we 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, organised this year by 'local champions' Paul Frost and John Marshall, are well supported by tenants. This initiative is very much appreciated by the charity organisers and those using the local foodbanks.

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. After much discussion at the AGM and at committee we have made the decision to increase the annual rental charge to £3 per pole. This should enable us to improve our financial position and of course will help us meet the inevitable increase in the water bills. Rent can be paid direct to Neville by bank transfer so you don't need to attend the site 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

We still have a long waiting list of prospective tenants seeking a plot on our site. If you are planning to give up all or part of your plot, please contact us by email ashbrook.allotments@outlook.com or via the website.

MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 19th of September. Please let us know if you have any items you would like to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

It has been decided that the Annual General Meeting will be delayed until early in the New Year 2023. More detail will be provided nearer the time.

Bob Bulpett – Chairman WAAA