



Newsletter No 43 April 2023

Dear Members,

The past winter and early spring have been cold, and March was one of the wettest in recent history. Consequently, many plants are behind in growth, but with warmer days they should soon catch up.

The water was switched on a few weeks ago, but remember that if you need to water your plots the most effective time to water is in the early morning and in the evening, rather than in the middle of the day. Also, it is better to water the soil around the roots rather than spraying the plants. If you can, please collect rainwater to help reduce our mains water use and bills.

This Spring, a number of plots have been taken on by new plot holders and the Committee welcomes them, many of whom have already been working hard on some plots which had previously been neglected.

Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be in St John's Parish Hall (opposite 5 Grove Lane) on Sunday, 21 May at 4pm.

The current committee members, Karol Smal (Chairman), Camilla Sykes (Secretary), Rebecca Hurley (Treasurer), Joan McConn (Lettings), Gordon Bell, Pascal Boulvais and Beryl Randall have all offered to stand for re-election to the Committee.

The Committee would like to co-opt a social secretary or even a social sub-committee to help with, or organise social events at the allotment. If anyone is interested to help, please contact Camilla (camillasykes@blueyonder.co.uk).

The Agenda and the Accounts showing the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for each of the past two years will be circulated shortly.

If you wish to raise any matters at the AGM please let Camilla know as soon as possible.

After the formal meeting we will be having the usual tea, coffee and cakes and biscuits for those who wish to stay to chat and also meet new plot holders. If anyone would like to bake and bring contributions, these would, as always, be appreciated.

On the subject of cake....

June Tea Party

This year we plan to hold a tea party on the upper field lawn on Sunday 11 June in the afternoon. More details will be given nearer the date.

Woodchip and Manure

There have been recent deliveries of manure and woodchip, so please keep these areas tidy, particularly the woodchip area on the upper field. There is a brush available.

Bonfires and Strimmers

We should be considerate neighbours to all the residents on the South and West sides of the allotment site, so please remember that bonfires to dispose of **DRY** waste materials should only be lit when the wind is blowing from that direction – the windsock between the two fields is a good indicator. Any other non-compostable waste must be taken away from the site and disposed of at home or at the Villiers Road Recycling Centre, not thrown into the woodland or bramble areas. Also, please remember that petrol strimmers should only be used during weekdays and Saturday mornings, and not in the evenings, on Saturday afternoons or all day Sundays and Bank Holidays. Electric strimmers can be used throughout the week.

Parking

On the upper field there are three parking areas (room for 1 car by the manure corral, well tucked in), 2 by the noticeboard if parked carefully, and 3 cars in front of the chippings and communal shed, and 1 on the freshly mown grass alongside). Please do not park in the space opposite the end of the main path as this is used as a turning space.

On the lower field there are spaces for two cars between the shed and the chippings corral and for one directly in front the gate but parked sufficiently forward to enable cars to turn into the main parking area. You are responsible for your vehicles so please always park considerately!

Remember that after 6.30pm and at weekends and bank holidays you can park safely on the road.

Sheds and Greenhouses

All plot holders are given RBK guidelines for sheds and greenhouses when they become members. Please look at these before undertaking any such project, but in summary:

- (a) A single shed and greenhouse is allowed on a plot, and
- (b) The shed and/or greenhouse shall be no larger than 8ft by 6 ft by 7ft 6 inches high (or the approximate metric equivalent).

Dogs

Remember that any dogs brought to the allotments should be kept on a lead at all times and any poo should be picked up and taken home for disposal. Also, please do not feed the foxes as they are becoming more and more a nuisance.

We hope everyone has a good and bountiful growing season.

Best Wishes,

Karol Smal and the AGAA Committee.