



Boundary Way Allotments and Community Garden

July Newsletter



Tom Jones and Adrian Wise searching for the leaking water pipe. Thanks to Simon and Andrew Taylor this was fixed with the minimum of disruption during "Flaming" June.

We need your help

I am afraid that this newsletter is rather a long read so please do your best to plough through it. The essence of what follows is that the Boundary Allotments need your help. The site is 75 years old and several members of the committee

are even older. The infrastructure of the site: gates, fences and plumbing are needing more and more attention. We would very much like to have more support for the work that needs doing and the responsibilities this involves.

How can you help? Firstly and most importantly by making the best of your plot. A healthy productive plot with well kept boundaries and structures where conservation of Nature's gifts reduce the need for man-made "solutions". Secondly by giving some of your time helping out in maintenance tasks. And thirdly, by reading and following the rules and advice contained in our site rules. (available online to save paper and printing. If you need a printout and have no printer yourself, let me know and I will get a hard copy for you.)

Gates

The main gate is getting difficult to open due to the posts subsiding. To rectify this will be very expensive. Alma has contacted local councillors for help, but as we are self-managed it may well be passed to us to fund. If you know of a company that could undertake this kind of work for a reasonable price, please let us know.

[Despite the difficulties in handling the doors, please continue to lock them each time you come in and out.](#)

Increasing costs

As a self-managed allotment, we have to rely on the talent, hard work and support of our members. Plot holders are required to do as much as they can to make sure that their plot does not become a drain on our financial resources by becoming the repository of junk- especially plastic junk. We have had to spend nearly £1,000 on skips over the last twelve months. That equates to the rent of 22 full plots. Clearly this is not sustainable.

Water is our biggest cost. Have you noticed, it's getting hotter and drier each year? Each plot should be striving to acquire and conserve as much rainfall as possible. There are still plots with structures that are not collecting water. The committee will be considering charging higher rents for those that are not making sufficient efforts in gathering water.

As gardeners we must respond to the changing climate by adopting techniques that maximise moisture conservation. Please read the NAS leaflet for details Click on the link below or look on our Website under Learning Hub/Help for growers.

[Water Use on Allotments](#)

Inspections

We will be undertaking plot inspections over the next few weeks. The good news is that there have been marked improvements in many plots. However there are several plots that need attention. The criteria we are using are detailed in the inspection documents and are summarised as follows:

- The plot is productive
- The plot is not infested with weeds and spreading them.
- The boundaries with other plots are well defined and maintained
- No unsuitable items are deposited on the plot.

Structures on the plot are safe and cared for.
Efforts are made to capture and store rainwater.

Underlying this is the plotholder's motivation and commitment of time and energy. In a positive way motivation and commitment increase time and energy. However, lack of time and energy may often reduce motivation and commitment and this ends up as one of those things that you might get around to doing when you have a moment and the weather is nice. Time and tide (and allotments) wait for no man or woman.

I have been in the embarrassing situation of showing keen newcomers very neglected plots. This presents them with a tough start and their motivation and commitment may not be strong enough and the negative feedback described above sets in. We need to break this cycle.

Late payments

Paying for your plot entails you coming to the allotment on one of the two specified Sundays in April. If this is not possible, you can contact the Treasurer to arrange another time as soon as possible. This year some plotholders have dragged this process on well after 40 days have elapsed- which means that we could serve notice of relieving them of their plots.

Please consider this simple requirement as part of your responsibility as a plot holder. Our Treasurer should not have to remind people and wait for them to fulfil their obligation.

Polytunnel tidiness

Plotholders with tables or raised beds are reminded that they need to follow the polytunnel rules. These are in the rule book which is available by following the link below. Please remove weeds that grow underneath your tables.

[Boundary Way Rule Book](#)

Sheds

Here again there appears to be ignorance of the rules regarding putting up sheds and any other structures. You must ask permission in writing (emails will do) and the structure should be in keeping with the size of the plot. You are also responsible for any inherited structure that is on your plot if it is falling down it is your responsibility to repair or remove. A large amount of the skip space mentioned earlier has been taken up with the remains of dilapidated sheds and their contents.

Kings Seeds help

This season we will be continuing with the Kings Seed Scheme. For new plot holders, this allows you to buy your seeds at a reduced cost. It also means that the Boundary Way Allotment Association gets work a share of the income; last year we made £139.68 (about half the cost of a skip!).

This doesn't just fall into our lap, we have to distribute the catalogues, collect the individual orders and cash, collate the orders, send off the collective order and finally organise the distribution/collection of individual orders. Tom Jones has overseen this for several years. He needs help. Firstly if plotholders and their families and friends share an order sheet and make sure that it is correct and that the money is added up to the correct amount, this will make the process more efficient and

ease the burden on Tom.

If you are willing to give a hand in this please let me or Tom know.

New plotholders

We have several new plotholders. Please be as welcoming and helpful as you can to your new neighbours.

Aaron Craddock 8b, James Hewitt 15a, Sue Pitt & Jacky Fellows 30b, Sandra Williamson 32b, Rebekah Conway 39a, Glynne Taft 48a, Julia Gregorjeva 50a, Hugh Hughes 51a, Lee Glasby 60a, Serwen Kang 60b, Debbie Mills 1r, Nazir Khan 2r.

A plan of the plots will be placed in the trading hut notice board. We are full and there are several people waiting for plots.

National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NAS)

As plotholders you are members and you can access the members area of the site by logging on with the membership number b9105 and the password: nsalg12.

[NAS Website](#)

Finally a reminder:-

70th Anniversary of Boundary Way Allotments.

Saturday 5th August 2023

4pm- 8pm

The orchard Community Garden.

This celebration is for the Plot Holders and family and friends of Boundary Way Allotments.

Bring and share a picnic.

Flyers with more details will be distributed to those on site or left on your plot.

Best wishes for a fruitful harvest.

Howard Berry

Secretary

BWAA

Boundary Way Allotment Association

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