



Newsletter January 2017

AGM

Our 33rd Annual General Meeting was held in the Thames Room, Liston Hall on 8 December 2016. We were able to report a membership of 143 for 2016, which together with sales of chicken manure pellets, the seed scheme and donations for bags of rabbit manure enabled us to end the year with a surplus. Minutes of the meeting are attached.

Membership

At the AGM it was agreed that from 1 November 2017 the annual Association membership fee would increase to £4. This is largely due to the decision of NSALG to increase their affiliation fee per member to £3 as from January of this year. It is very important that we maintain a high level of membership to protect the allotment sites and to show our commitment to their future. Those of you who have not yet joined or renewed this year will receive a membership application form along with this newsletter.

This year's events

Social events were discussed at the AGM. Declining interest in barbecues and lack of events at Foxes Piece were raised. We are hoping to continue barbecues at Hanging Hill throughout the Summer as well as a bonfire later in the year, but we are keen for members from both sites and particularly those at Foxes Piece to come up with suggestions for social events which could be organised on their site.

Discount

Hunts in Station Road continue to give discount on gardening items to Association members. Hunts have informed us that 19 different varieties of seed potato are now on sale. All varieties are available loose - so you are not restricted to purchasing a set weight. **Please ensure that your membership is up to date, as it is essential that you present your membership card if you wish to claim the discount.** We have also negotiated 5% discount with Toad Hall Garden Centre (this side of Henley) on week days only. Remember to present your card before the purchase is rung up.

Concessions to Committee members

Most of you will know the Secretary, Peter England or one of the site coordinators Fred Tillier and Sylvia Miller. You would have met one of them when you were shown your plot, unless you have been a tenant for many years. It was not always like this. Many years ago potential tenants were shown round by an officer of the Town Council and sometimes were not shown round at all. At some point when the situation became difficult for the officer to do the job the Association Secretary was asked if he could do it. At first this was just for Hanging Hill but later for both sites. In recognition of the time involved the Secretary was offered a rent concession. This continued for several years and when the job was shared with site coordinators, who eventually took over, they also each received rent concessions, in recognition of the time and effort they were saving the Council. In fact over time they were not only showing tenants around but also carrying out other jobs, which otherwise a council employee or contractor would have to do – or the job might be delayed or not get done. The concession does not extend to the water levy which all three pay.

This arrangement benefits the Association, as prospective tenants are contacted as soon as possible when plots become available, helping to maintain full occupancy of the sites, which is an important consideration for us.

In recent Committee discussions concern was expressed that there could be a perception that committee members in receipt of rent concessions might be involved in discussions relating to rent increases and that this would be inappropriate, if it were the case. We would like to assure all tenants that we have no input into discussions relating to rent increases. We are simply informed by the Town Council as a formal procedure what the annual increase is going to be.

Chicken Manure Pellets & Rabbit Manure

20kg bags of chicken manure pellets are available to members for £9.00. Rabbit manure is free but donations to the Association are appreciated. Contact Sylvia on 473946.

Seed Scheme

Catalogues and order forms for The National Society Seeds Scheme are now available to all Association members. The seeds, which are very competitively priced, are supplied through Kings, and are of an equivalent standard to those available from the better known suppliers. In addition the Association gets a discount from Kings on every order we submit. For a catalogue contact one of the Committee members listed below. Maren Talbot is Seeds Secretary and all orders should be sent to her in the envelope provided.

Woodchips

Woodchips delivered to Hanging Hill are available free of charge for all tenants of both sites. Foxes Piece tenants are requested to contact a committee member if they wish to collect woodchips from Hanging Hill.

Change of Address

If you change your address or contact details please remember to let us know.

Newsletters by e-mail

More than 180 tenants now have their Newsletters delivered electronically, which still leaves around 60 delivered by hand. Thanks to the volunteers who do this. If you do not yet receive the Newsletter by email and would like to do so please contact Peter England.

On site emergencies

We have considered the implications of a tenant on site contacting the emergency services following an accident or a heart attack. If the victim is unable to get to the gate or if there is no one else on site the emergency services will not on arrival be able to get beyond the locked gate. Following discussions with the Town Council notices giving emergency contact phone numbers will be displayed on the gates.

Home Made Wine

Members who might be interested in learning how to get started can contact Sylvia, who would be able to give help & advice on this subject. If sufficient numbers are interested a Wine Talk could be arranged for later this year.

Town Council Administration

The Town Council is short-staffed and no one in the office is currently able to look after allotment matters. If you wish to call in the office about an allotment matter please ring them first on 484024 to confirm that someone will be able to deal with you. Or contact Sylvia on 473946 or 07939 097771.

Your 2017 Committee

Committee Members can have several roles but perhaps most importantly in keeping an eye open for matters of concern at both sites and ensuring that the Council is informed. Committee Members attend five meetings a year to discuss on-going issues and ideas for projects and events.

Chair – Denise Bagge – (plot 66 Foxes Piece). 35 Claremont Road. tel: 483192.

Secretary – Peter England – (plot 65 Hanging Hill). 53 Station Road. tel: 473300.
hscape@talktalk.net

Treasurer – Maren Talbot – (plot 24 Hanging Hill). 4 Hazel Close, Marlow Bottom. tel: 486640.
mtalbot@talktalk.net

Member – Fred Tillier – (plot 53 Foxes Piece). tel: 07910904407

Member – Sylvia Miller – (plot 87 Hanging Hill). 3 The Chase. tel: 473946. sylvia@sbmiller.plus.com

Member – Bill Kilner-Smith – (plot 72 Hanging Hill). 38 Barnards Hill. tel: 471284.

Member – Scott Pickard – (plot 21 Foxes Piece). 48 Glade Road. Tel: 476545

scott_pickard@yahoo.co.uk

Time to Get Started!!

This time of the year gives you the ideal opportunity to sit in the warm with a hot drink & plan for the busy sowing & planting that will start in March. Check your seed stock and plan your layout. Clean out pots & trays that you used last year and stock up on seed compost to give the small seedlings a good start. Outside, when possible, dig over the ground incorporating weeds and adding compost and manure.

Website Forum

Follow the link below to exchange news and information with other Marlow allotment holders.
www.marlowallotments.proboards.com