



Newsletter February 2018

AGM

Our 34th Annual General Meeting was held in Liston Hall on 8 November 2017 with 44 members and guests present. The meeting was addressed by Town Mayor Jocelyn Towns. We were able to report a membership of 148 for 2017, 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 2018 the annual Association membership fee would increase to £5. This follows a proposal by your committee to keep ahead of NSALG affiliation fees, which currently stand at £3 per member but may increase in the near future. 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

We plan to continue barbecues at Hanging Hill throughout the Summer as well as bonfires early and later in the year. We have a provisional programme of social events with a number already promised by their presenters, including cheese making, growing dahlias, growing orchids and growing kiwi fruit and cut flowers.

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.

Discount

Hunts in Station Road continue to give discount on gardening items to Association members. Hunts have informed us that 21 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 were unable to continue with the discount previously offered by Toad Hall Garden Centre.

Chicken Manure Pellets & Rabbit Manure

20kg bags of chicken manure pellets are available to members for £10.00. Rabbit manure is free but donations to the Association are appreciated. Contact Sylvia on 01628 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.

Damage

We advise all tenants who have not checked their plot during the last few weeks to do so, as some damage occurred, firstly as a result of strong winds and later following a break in at Foxes Piece.

Website Forum

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

Your 2018 Committee

Allotment History

We have started to gather information on the history of allotments in Marlow. The earliest mention we have found was in 1872. We have some information on the subsequent history and how over time the sites were established in their current locations and latterly reduced in size, but we would welcome any additional information, possibly from family memories.

Newsletters by e-mail

More than 190 tenants now have their Newsletters delivered electronically, which still leaves more than 50 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.

Hops

Our own local brewery (Rebellion) are happy to leave their spent hops in neat white bags just near the shop area for all local gardeners to help themselves to. These are good activators for the compost bin, just empty a bag every now & then into your compost, mix it up a bit & it will help with the magic of turning garden waste into compost.

Winter work at Hanging Hill

More clearance work is scheduled for Hanging Hill during the rest of this month and March. If you would like to join one of the working parties at 10am on Saturday mornings please contact Sylvia or Peter.

Eggshells

If you collect your eggshells & crush them, then sprinkle the shell pieces around your brassica seedlings, they will not only provide important nutrients for the brassica but the rough & jagged shell pieces may deter slugs & snails, as does shingle.

Surplus Crops

The One Can Trust hand out food twice a week to families in crisis at a church in High Wycombe. They welcome donations of fresh vegetable or fruit. If you would like to donate any surplus crop to the Trust please contact either Sylvia 07939 097771 or the Trust directly on 07584 637697.

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

scott_pickard@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary – Peter England – (plot 65 Hanging Hill). 53 Station Road. tel: 473300 or 07884 964871. 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: 07910 904407

Member – Sylvia Miller – (plot 87 Hanging Hill). 3 The Chase. tel: 473946 or 07939 097771. sylvia@sbmiller.plus.com

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

Member – Peter Cooper – (plot 15a Hanging Hill). 2 Stanley Close. tel: 07941 315786

Time to Get Started

The weather so far this winter has not been encouraging, but take any opportunity to get on your plot. If you leave ground preparation and tidying up jobs until the spring you may be fighting to control the weeds when you should be sowing and planting.

When you do begin sowing try to include a few flowers, like marigold, nasturtium and cornflower. They give a pleasing flash of colour & their delightful fragrances attract bees & beneficial insects aiding pollination. Herbs such as Rosemary, Thyme & Oregano are also effective in attracting pollinators

Toilet roll tubes & shredded paper

Use cardboard tubes and shredded paper on the compost heap, they will help with the 'magic mixture' needed to make good compost with the addition of providing air pockets which aids the process.