



Newsletter February 2019

AGM

Our 35th Annual General Meeting was held in the Thames Room, Liston Hall on 5th November 2018. We were able to report a membership of 125 for 2018, 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

Those of you who have not yet joined the Association or renewed your membership for this year will receive a membership application form along with this newsletter. Once you have paid your membership fee you will be able to have a seed catalogue and your membership card will allow you to receive discount at Hunts Hardware Store in Station Road.

Website

The MAA website is currently managed by Scott Pickard and the Association would like to thank him for the invaluable service he is providing. If anyone has any articles, news or photographs of interest please contact Sylvia who will forward these to him so that he can post on the website for you all to enjoy.

This year's events

Social events were discussed at the AGM, we are hoping to continue barbecues at Hanging Hill throughout the Summer as well as a bonfire when possible, but we are keen for members from both sites to attend. There will be another splendid Dahlia Talk in August at Foxes Piece, thank you to Richard Bailey who will be organising this. Also there are plans for talks about growing Orchids in the home (the article below explains this) and making wine from your allotment produce. However, as we will need to arrange room hire we need to ensure there is sufficient interest, please contact Sylvia and let her know which talk you would be interested to attend.

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 would be appreciated. Please contact Sylvia Miller.

Message from Peter England

As most of you will be aware after over 30 years as a Committee Member and over 27 of those years as Secretary, he has decided to step down from all Committee obligations and become an ordinary plot holder, continuing to follow his favourite hobbies of cycling and listening to jazz. A Memory Book was passed around both sites, to enable tenants to leave a special message to Peter as a token of appreciation, which he can keep and treasure. There was also a collection made and at the AGM he was presented with the Memory Book, bottles of wine and store vouchers. Peter was quite overwhelmed with these gifts and would like to give a message to everyone as follows:

Thanks to you all. I thought something in the way of an appreciation was afoot, but I was very surprised and pleased at how much was collected and how much effort went into compiling the memory book. The wine has gone (very nice too!) and I'm working through the vouchers. Being secretary for 27 years wasn't really all that time consuming and difficult. I can assure you that I never lost any sleep over it. Thankfully the allotments are still here, so I hadn't been wasting my time and I'm confident that the future of the Association is in good hands.

Time to Get Started!!

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

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.

Maren Talbot: Growing Orchids at Home

Maren Talbot is a professional orchid grower with many years of experience and she intends to introduce the non-expert to the world of orchids to show how to look after the most popular types.

The talk comes in two parts:

Introduction to Orchids

A Powerpoint presentation of colourful pictures, showing a selection of some of the thousands of orchids in existence around the world.

Potting demonstration - where she shows how to re-pot orchid plants, discussing the important aspects of cultivation such as: watering, feeding, location, pruning, staking, pests & diseases etc. Please bring your orchids along for advice & help.

Website Forum

Follow the link below to exchange news and information with other Marlow allotment holders.

www.marlowallotments.proboards.com

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 Sylvia.

On site emergencies

Considering the implications of an emergency situation with the need to contact the Emergency Services. If it is not possible to unlock the gate or if there is no one else on site the Emergency Services will require access. Therefore, Marlow Town Council have posted notices on the gates of both sites, with contact phone numbers to be used in the case of an Emergency.

Theft & Damage

MAA has been approached by a Company which supplies a battery-powered, wireless monitoring device to offer protection against theft & damage. The Cube, can be monitored remotely & it will send an alert at any movement. For more details go to the website: www.uwatch.co.uk. If any member would like to attend a demonstration please contact Sylvia Miller.

Discount

Hunts in Station Road continue to give discount on gardening items to Association members. Hunts have a selection of different varieties of seed potato for 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.**

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 other suppliers. Furthermore, MAA receive a discount from Kings on every order submitted. For a catalogue please contact one of the Committee Members listed below. Maren Talbot is our Seeds Secretary and all orders should be sent to her with the payment in the envelope provided.

Winter Work Party

Over the last few months the Winter Work Party at Hanging Hill has cleared a spare area of ground & extended the car park area to approx. double capacity. MAA would like to give a huge thank you to those hard working volunteers.

Your 2019 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.

If any Association Member would like to be part of this Team please contact Sylvia Miller.

Chair – Fred Tillier (plot 53 FP) tel: 07910 904407

Secretary – Sylvia Miller – (plot 87 HH). 3 The Chase. tel: 473946. sylvia@sbmiller.plus.com

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

Member – Pete Cooper (plot 23 HH). 2 Stanley Close tel: 07941 315786. Email:petecooper61@gmail.com.

Member – John Stilliard (plot 2 HH). 5 Langley Way. tel: 483909. jstilliard@outlook.com.

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