

NEWSLETTER

SHEPHERD ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Learning at Shepherd Road Allotments—by Mick Smedley

Saturday 10th May was a lovely spring day. Ten allotmentees attended the first of the Society's short gardening courses.

Bob Hughes of Myerscough College came along to deliver three short talks held at the YMCA.

"Starting a new allotment" was aimed initially at those on the waiting list, but in the event was useful to all who attended the course. After coffee Bob gave some technical information on "soil management" emphasizing the

problems with our sandy soil and suggesting some solutions. This was followed by "control of pests and diseases without chemicals".

After a break for lunch it was down to practical work on the allotments. Bob had been asked to include some work on sowing seeds. He showed how to plant up seed trays and pots. His techniques for this certainly improved on our methods! We also learnt the correct way to lay down a planting line so that there was no sag or change in position of the line.

Finally, Bob toured



Bob Hughes guides Dawn Lock as she sows seeds
From Left: Ruth, Iain, Andrea, Dawn and Bob

individual plots offering suggestions and answers to specific problems.

Feed-back from

participants was very positive about the whole day, with expressions of interest in future courses.

Town Council Concerns—by Councillor Roger Walker

The Allotments are managed by four Town Councillors and four members of the Shepherd Road Allotment Committee. Meetings are held monthly.

Looking back through the minutes of the last 12 months, I find that a considerable amount of time has been spent discussing overgrown plots and how best to deal with the situation. It is not the plot that is responsible for being overgrown but rather the plot-holder who fails to cultivate on a regular basis. The responsible plot-holders are hampered in their efforts when adjacent plots become overgrown and infested with weeds.

The Town Council has adopted a policy of fairness to all. Plots must be under

regular cultivation at all times. It is no longer acceptable to occasionally tidy a plot after it has become neglected. Plots that are not being worked on a regular basis will be monitored and the plot-holder given the opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances, which the Town Council will take into consideration. Please let The Town Council or Allotment Society know as soon as you encounter any difficulties.

At the time of writing 10 plots are being monitored. If there is no immediate improvement the Town Council will inspect the plots and may issue a Notice to Quit. There is a substantial waiting list and the Town Council is anxious that only dedicated plot-holders should work the Allotments and that the whole area is kept under constant cultivation.

OPEN DAY

Saturday

16th August 2008

11am to 4pm

CONTACTS:

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Open Day—16th August The Present Committee

In support of National Allotment Week (11-17 August) the Society proposes to hold an Open Day on Saturday 6th August from 11am to 4pm for members of the public. We hope you will support this attempt to show the benefits of allotment gardening to a wider audience.

On the day we hope to offer, for donation, surplus vegetables. If you are willing to provide any of your excess crops we would be grateful.

More information will be provided as we make more detailed plans. Please watch this space. Mick Smedley

There were no additional nominations for the Committee at the AGM so the existing Committee were re-elected en-block.

The Officers:

Chairman—Eddie Mackay
Vice Chairman—Tony Howard
Secretary—Mick Smedley
Treasurer—Andrea Whitaker

Committee members:

Pam Coupe; Piers Fenwick; Avis Halpin; Peter Highton; Joanne Kendall; Fred Lloyd; Clive Remnant and John Wilkin.

AGM Tombola



Avis Halpin and Pam Coupe after their tombola session at the AGM earned £70 for the Society

Letter to the Secretary — by Society Member Dawn Lock

Dear Mick,
I would be grateful if you will put this letter before the Committee at their forthcoming meeting on Friday 25th April. In my opinion the recent Annual General Meeting failed to deal with one important matter and that is the appreciation and thanks due to you, the Committee. I am writing, therefore, to attempt in part to try and redress the balance. You as a Committee have worked hard and effectively throughout the year on behalf of us all. You have shown initiative, inventiveness and

drive to achieve many things within the confines of your limited resources. You have attempted to raise a real spirit of comradeship amongst the members of Shepherd Road Allotments with such devices as the excellent bonfire, tool sales, the raffle, a training course and weekend work parties.

I have watched and appreciated your efforts over the last year. While I know that you listed the tasks that the Committee had carried out during the year at the AGM, I would have liked to hear others recalling and giving you credit for all your achievements,

and on the occasion when the largest number of allotment members were present, it would have been nice, as well as right and proper, if a vote of thanks had been minuted to let you know how much you are appreciated. I am certainly grateful for all you have done and I suspect that many others are also, even if they have not voiced their opinions. Please accept my sincere thanks and I hope that the next year will be as productive as the last. Once again, many thanks for all your efforts.

Yours sincerely,
Dawn Lock—Plot 28B

Editorial — by Fred Lloyd—freddielloyd@yahoo.co.uk—Tel:726371

Greetings and welcome to the 7th issue of your newsletter. First of all let me welcome all 10 new plot-holders to the site. New plot-holders mean new energy for allotment sites, and the benefits could be widespread.

This year there is going to be some more improvements to the site. For example, a new shed for the sale of seeds, etc, is to be erected on plot 82. This, we hope, will be in place by the Open Day on 16th August. Please contact us if you wish to become involved - the more people who help the quicker the work is done.

Some members of the public have been gaining entry to the site so will you please not let anyone through the gate if you don't know them.

We have had several complaints about burning waste material on the site. Please use a container and ensure the wind direction is away from the housing, and your neighbour.

If you are a train buff, Vernon Smith (726549) is eager to hear from you to help keep the gardens tidy on St. Annes Station.

On behalf of the Committee may I thank all Society members who have helped us, it is much appreciated.

The Schools' Plot 5



Pupils from Clifton Primary School Enjoy Working Their Plot