

- Stop Press -

Christmas Party

5 December, Bricket Wood Social Club 7.30pm – details below

Raffle

To be drawn at the Christmas Party. Please support our main fund raising event of the year – see below.

MESSAGE FROM IAN

From both a personal point of view and on behalf of the Council I would like to say I am absolutely delighted by the improvements implemented by the Committee to the Burydell Lane site. I would also like to thank the membership for their fund raising efforts which have now truly borne fruit.

DIARY DATE

Xmas party Saturday 5 December
New Years drinks Sunday 10 January

Christmas Party

Date: 5 December
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Bricket Wood Social Club

After a good social year down the allotment what better way to draw to a close this year than with a Christmas celebration? Its time to dust off those party clothes and come and have a merry night. With food and music in plentiful supply we expect to end the year on a high.

Friends and family are welcome. Booking forms have been sent out by via email. Tickets cost £10 for members and £13.50 for non-members. **Please note for catering purposes payment must be received by 21 November. Payment on the night can not be accepted.** On receipt of payment tickets will be sent, please provide address details.

The Committee looks forward to seeing you.

Caroline - Social Secretary

Raffle

We are again organizing a raffle to raise funds for continued improvements to the site. Last year's

raffle raised £374. This year we hope to beat that. You may already have received some tickets to sell.

The draw - will take place at the Christmas Party on Saturday 5 December

Prizes - A Christmas Hamper and other gifts donated by Ayletts, Nottcuts, Burstons and other local businesses.

Tickets - £1 per strip

Please pass counterfoils (with name and contact details on the back), together with money from sales to committee members (or through Barbara's door) **BEFORE 5 DECEMBER** or **SEND TO 12 WOODSIDE ROAD, BRICKETWOOD, AL2 3QL.**

Pat - Treasurer

GENERAL MEETING

At the BLAA Open Meeting on 26 October PC Vince O'Malley the Neighbourhood Police Officer for Park Street, spoke to us and answered questions relating to security on the allotment site.

He reiterated that sheds were personal property and if they were entered (even where nothing was taken) this is trespass and such incidents must be reported. Due to the number of reported crimes the allotments have been identified as a 'neighbourhood ward priority', one of only three in Park Street, Chiswell Green and Bricket Wood. The police try to patrol the Burydell Lane area once on every shift and incidents reported get an upgraded priority response. All incidents should be reported individually (even where items are discovered missing at a later date) so that the police can keep their incident log updated. It is important that you say that the crime is in a 'ward priority' and the call will be dealt with more quickly. **The number to call is telephone 0845 3300222 – remember to mention 'ward priority'.**

THE COUNCIL'S NEW RULES

Following the receipt of comments from the various allotment societies there will be another consultation before the new rules are implemented. We will keep you updated.

SITE ISSUES

Dogs on site

We continue to have problems with dogs being allowed to roam free and causing nuisance to plot holders particularly when mess is not cleared up. It is important dogs are kept on the lead and only allowed off the lead within the fenced confines of the allotment holder concerned. As we have previously stated the Council propose banning dogs altogether. If they are to be persuaded to change their minds it is important plot holders are seen to be responsible.



Welding extra height to the gate

Cameras

You will have noticed that additional security cameras have been installed.

Fencing

It will not have escaped your notice that there has been a huge improvement in the boundary security of the allotment. Not only has the height of the gate has been increased, but fencing around the site has been erected. We are indebted to the Council for the provision of fencing. The Committee also owe a huge debt to the membership who turned out on four consecutive Saturdays to erect the fencing. Thanks to Keith and Derek for donating strong wire and particular thanks to Tim and Nick who were the only two tall and strong enough to ram the posts home! But it wasn't all hard work; on each occasion the weather was kind and we enjoyed a barbecued breakfast break.

Rear Boundary Fence

Ross Parker (our neighbour who runs the small holding) has very kindly agreed to help us lay a hedge along the rear boundary. This involves partially cutting through the trees and weaving them



into a thick hedge which should ultimately be impenetrable. We will be calling for volunteers soon to make up a working party once the leaves have dropped.

Car parking

The normal Council rules apply, i.e. the road through the site is closed to vehicles from October to March to prevent damage to the grass track. The car park on the left can still be used. There have recently been instances of the barrier being removed and vehicles driving up the grass track. Please note that these are not our rules, but the Council's, so please ensure that they are observed.

Locking the gate

We still have an issue with the gate being left unlocked and on several occasions during the summer they were left wide open only to be spotted the following morning. This is totally unacceptable and lays us wide open to theft, vandalism and trespass. Please double check the gate is locked.

Manure and Wood Chippings

Doriel and Ross continue to provide a ready supply and plot holders are pleased to have this facility. We are grateful to plot holders for preventing the heaps from becoming too untidy.

MEMBERSHIP

The Association currently holds contact details as supplied when the plot holder first joined the Association. We would now like to bring our records up to date, as there is often more than one person "working the plot". Please therefore let me have the contact details of relevant partner/family members, etc, who could reasonably be classified as Members as soon as possible. This will not affect the Subscription, which is by plot.

We are anxious to ensure all persons involved in working the plots are kept informed about the

activities of the Association. The revised contact list will be reviewed by the Committee.

Membership of the Association will be renewed at the beginning of April 2010 and the Membership Form will be amended to include these additional details. Only one membership fee will be payable by the named plot holder. There will be still be one vote per plot in General Meetings as specified in the Constitution. Please contact me if you would like any clarification.
Jan (Membership Sec)

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Committee currently has two vacancies. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Association, please contact Derek the Chair for a chat or drop him a line (contact details below). The Committee will review any expressions of interest. We meet monthly and although we work hard for the Association, we also have a good laugh! We're looking for people who don't mind rolling up their sleeves and who want to make a difference. Please pass this information to those associated with your plot pending the new contact list coming out.

Kim (Secretary)

SOCIAL

Wisley

In June we had our first outing to RHS Wisley Gardens which was supported by 41 people - both members and non members. The coach picked us up from Bricket Wood Social Club and we headed out to Surrey. On arrival everyone was given a pass and we went our separate ways. It was my first visit to Wisley after years of trying to get there. From the car park it doesn't look much! However after a stop at the coffee shop we finally entered the gardens. 'WOW' is all I can say - the huge pond covered with water lilies gave a new meaning to the word entrance, especially with the Tudor style house as a back drop.

From the entrance, areas of the garden led off in all directions to different worlds, from the magnificently carved Chinese gazebo to the huge greenhouse full of exotic blooms, endless fruit gardens, huge allotment plots and begging carp. A thoroughly enjoyable day. Most importantly the sun shone!

I came away with lots of ideas for next year, now I wish my plot looked as good as Wisleys' (lots of work needed). I hope everyone else enjoyed there day and hopefully will be interested in another trip next year (venue to be decided).
Caroline

BBQ

In September we had our annual summer BBQ and thankfully we were again blessed with a fine day. 38 people came along and with a plentiful supply of food, drink and cider several hours were spent socializing and having a good time.

It was nice to see members playing Croquet and Jenga and participating in the treasure hunt. With several members' children it was a true family day.

Thanks to all the members who participated in the sunflower competition. It has been lovely to see so many growing on the site - their bright heads have made a pleasant contribution to allotment life and the birds will enjoy the seeds during the winter months. The tallest sunflower was awarded to Peter Archer whilst Barbara's granddaughter Ellis-Rose won the widest head category.

Unfortunately when the chill of the night air approached we had to end our gathering but I believe everyone went home contented if not a bit merry! Thanks to all those helpers out there that made the day a success.
Caroline

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising opportunities at How Wood Primary School fete and Greenwood Park

The Association was asked if we would like to participate in How Wood Primary School Fete in July. At the last minute we managed to rustle up some plants to sell and raised £62 for Association funds. Whilst we were there our Community Support Officer suggested that we went to their event at Greenwood Park in August. Not the right time of year for plants but just the right time for some fruit and veg from our plots. Thank you to everybody for your contributions. We had an enjoyable day in bright sunshine and raised £101.74. The police are always very supportive when we have problems on the site and, by participating in this event, BLAA was able to give something back into the Community.
Jan

ST STEPHENS GARDENING CLUB

AGM

Will be holding their AGM on 11/11/09 followed by a talk. Contact Martyn Dadswell on 01727 872127 for further details.

Show

In August they held their annual flower and produce show. Ian even following back surgery was still formidable. Kim and Nick and Jan and Pat also won in several categories. Jan and Pat won the Novice Cup!

Quiz

In August BLAA entered teams at the St Stephens Gardening Club annual Quiz and we certainly gave them a run for their money! It was a good evening with a fish and chip supper.

THANK YOU FROM JIM

Jim Stockley has had an allotment for many years. He had his 80th birthday in August and would like to thank BLAA members for their cards and good wishes - he was very touched.

PAT'S POEM

Autumn is upon us, this year has just flown by

We have sown, picked and harvested, our plots look bare and dry.
Our winter vegetables are ready to be dug into their beds
Autumnal duties completed, all tools returned to sheds.

This year has been exciting with the events we have planned,
Punch at the ready, the New Years soirée was really grand.
Quiz Night and Wisley were next on the list,
Both were very popular and, we were informed, not to be missed.
The next destinations were How Wood School and Greenwood Park.
We sold allotment produce, we definitely left our mark.
September 5th was imminent, the BBQ day arrived,
The weather held, the food was great and all our guests survived.

On to the local horticultural gardening and exhibiting show
We picked our wares and laid them out; with pride we were all aglow.
Our allotment site did really well and collected prizes a plenty
Jan and Pat's cabbages even beat Mr Ian Getley!
Last but not least our Christmas Party that is soon to come
December 5th is the date, please joins us for lots of fun.

Burydell Lane Allotment Site and its community do really strive
To keep the warmth and friendliness positive and alive.

So from all of us to all of you have another cracking year,
Enjoy your Christmas, have happy thoughts and we wish you all good cheer.

Pat

OFFICERS

In the first instance please call Ian if there are any problems with the site

Site co-ordinator: Ian Getley
Chair: Derek Eyre
Secretary: Kim Scrivener
Membership: Jan Castle
Treasurer: Pat Solomons
Information: Barbara Vernon