

 **Stop Press** 

**Don't miss the social event of the year!**

**Summer Barbecue on the site**

**Sunday 10 July at 12.30pm**

Please bring your own drinks/glasses

£5 per person (names and money to Barbara, 2 Mill Cottages by 30 June)

**WELCOME**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members and people new to the allotments. It has been a difficult growing season but we wish you every success with your new plot.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**HALLOWEEN EVENT – SATURDAY EVENING – 29 OCTOBER**

Further details to follow - food, games and pumpkins!

Talk to your pumpkins (well feed and water them anyway) – we need them to light the site!

**JUDGING OF BEST KEPT PLOT – LATE JULY**

Plots will be judged during late July and results will be communicated by email. We are indebted to Aylett Nurseries who have again kindly agreed to judge the plots and provide prizes in the form of vouchers.

**SUNFLOWER GROWING COMPETITION**

Results for the tallest or the widest to be announced in late September by email

**ANNUAL DRAW 2011**

This year the Annual Draw will take place on 30 October at the Halloween Event on the site. During August we will be delivering £10 worth of tickets for each plot holder to sell to family and friends. We haven't finalized prizes yet but, as always, they will be worth a bit of a gamble! Money and counterfoils through Barbara's door please with name/contact number on each individual ticket, not just the strip. If you would like more tickets to sell just ask. All the money collected goes towards our continued improvements to the site.

## **ST ALBANS DISTRICT IN BLOOM**

There is a new category in this year's St Albans District in Bloom Competition – allotments! As there have been so many improvements to the site and to demonstrate all plot holders enthusiasm and community spirit the Committee decided to participate. We await the inspection of the site by judges in early July.

## **OUR WEBSITE**

The Committee are indebted to Kim Scrivener, Secretary – there is no end to her talent! She is currently revamping the website so that it contains more useful information about upcoming events and other news for Association members. You will receive an email with the details of the new website when it is ready to be revealed! All comments and input gratefully received.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new committee member Jan Carpenter who was elected onto the committee at the AGM.

## **REPORT OF OUR THIRD AGM HELD ON 8 MAY 2011**

### **Your Committee**

Following the AGM in May the existing committee were all prepared to stand for a further year and were elected unanimously. Approximately 37 people attended. The rain held off and it was a good social event. The plant sale was very popular and £101 was raised for BLAA funds. There was plenty of food and everyone enjoyed socialising.

Due to illness Derek, our Chairman, has played a minor role in the association during the last year but plans to take on a more active role during the coming year.

The Council were thanked for their continued support in difficult circumstances. It was pointed out that we are fortunate compared to other sites to have running water, grass cutting and twice yearly provision of skips.



**Plants for sale at the AGM**

## **Keep digging!**

Due to the waiting lists for plots the Council now apply much stricter enforcement of their rules and it should be noted that there is now a 75% cultivation rule. Falling below that level would result in a non-cultivation order when the plot holder would be given a limited time to satisfactorily cultivate the plot. For more information please see a copy of the Council rules on our website.

## **Breaches in security**

Members were informed that there had been recent minor breaches of security, resulting in some losses to plot holders. It is important that we all ensure the gate is locked at all times. In addition we must report any infringements of the law (however minor) to the Police (08453 300222) as they keep a log and the number of reported incidents has a direct relationship to prioritising patrols in Burydell Lane.

## **Membership of the Association**

Thank you to all members for renewing your Membership and to new plot holders for joining the Association this year. We are pleased to report 98% Membership of the Association. Of the 53 plots now on the site only three plot holders have not joined the Association. We are proud that our Association has created the feeling of a community, coupled with direct communication through with the wonders of the internet

The Association is not directly linked to the Council although it benefits from Ian Getley's role as Plot Officer and his relationship with the Council. He is the person to contact about any concerns you may have with your plot or you can contact the Council direct on 01727 819329 Please email the committee you have queries about Association activities and we will make sure that you are put in touch with the relevant person.

## **Fundraising**

Barbara reported that there were two fundraising priorities for the year ahead – renovation of the shed and the fencing to be completed along the edge of the back field. There would be a working party, details to follow.

## **Quiz**

Gill reported that the quiz and fish and chip supper had been highly successful, with 80 people attending. The next quiz is planned for February 2012.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The total income for the year was £2823.93, including a balance brought forward of £749.66. The total expenditure for the year was £2438.46. The balance of income over expenditure was therefore £390.47.

## **TRAVIS PERKINS**

Please note Jan/Pat and Barbara hold a discount card. If you want to borrow the card, both for allotment related and personal use - please see them.

## **GARDENING MAGAZINES IN THE SHED**

There are gardening magazines going back 3 years in the shed if you are looking for light reading or inspiration.

## **ST STEPHEN'S GARDENING CLUB**

The St. Stephens Gardening Club is for people who like growing vegetables, flowers, etc. for their own use and enjoyment. We have a trading hut in Drop Lane that is open every Saturday from 2pm to 4pm. Here you can buy many items needed in a garden or allotment, some at special prices. ( 3 bags of compost for £11) we have 3/4 visits a year to various gardens (unfortunately all are full this year) and several interesting talks throughout the year.

Our highlight is our annual show, this year on 10 September between 2.30pm and 4pm. It is fun and don't be put off if someone has the biggest, longest what ever-they don't always win. If you would like a schedule please contact Martyn Dadswell on 01727 872127 or [martyndadswell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martyndadswell@yahoo.co.uk) or Graham Wilson on 01727 872718 Or [graham-g-wilson@hotmail.com](mailto:graham-g-wilson@hotmail.com).

So your vegetables, flowers, etc. are for your own use and enjoyment but if you exhibit them even more people will be able to do so."

## **PAT'S POEM**

**Kim and Nick. And Barbara and Alan our fellow allotmenters, leave me in charge of their cats while they enjoy a few days away from their lives in Park Street and Burydell lane:**

I have been cat sitting for some friends of mine  
While they've been away having a grand old time  
Italy and Turkey are the places to see  
So their poor little pussy cats put up with me.

Now, there are three in one household and one on her own  
Two smallish tykes and two fully grown.  
The lovely Bodie and Doyle where mischief abounds  
And gentle Archie who patrols the grounds.  
Round the corner that bundle of fluff Lola resides  
She`s a pretty thing even with only one of her eyes.

Sleeping with cats can be quite a difficult thing  
Doyle's purring is so loud he makes my ears zing.  
Then dear Bodie thinks the bed is a trampoline,  
On and off she jumps slowly running out of steam.  
Along comes Archie who settles and is so still,  
He's a big heavy boy who just likes to chill  
And of course dear Lola who's tail tickled my chin  
Because most of the night she was like a second skin.

My time of sitting has reached its allotted end  
So until the next time my lovely furry friends.

**Pat Solomons**

## COMMITTEE

Please phone Ian in the first instance if there are any problems with the site

**Site co-ordinator Ian**

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