

 **Stop Press** 
Halloween - October 27th on site
Time: - 6-8pm
Cost £3 per head – children free
(including free raffle ticket)

WEBSITE - <http://burydellallotments.wordpress.com>

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HALLOWEEN EVENT 27 OCTOBER

Dressing up is fun but optional! There will be two competitions:

The best carved pumpkin

The heaviest pumpkin grown on site

Pumpkin soup, jacket potatoes and punch will be provided along with silly games!

SITE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Autumn is here now, the main growing season is finishing but the weeds on the site continue to flourish. The Council and the Association are aware that this is a frustrating situation and both are doing their best to gradually reduce the number of empty and uncultivated plots.

The Council are doing more site inspections now and are taking a stronger view on non cultivation and neglect of plots. They are contacting any tenant who is not complying with the St Albans City and District Allotment and Leisure Garden Rules and Procedures v1.1 which say that: "a minimum area equal to 50% of the total plot should be cultivated and in active use during the main growing season (March to September)" and that "the tenant shall keep their allotment plot in a good state of cultivation, and not allow weeds and grass to cause a nuisance to neighbouring plots".

We are pleased to say that we have 4 new plot holders and the waiting list is gradually going down. As we all know starting up an allotment is hard work so it will take time and we ask you to be

patient with them and us! They are enthusiastic and hopefully will be ready to start growing by next Spring. (See note below re water and the barrier.)

Look forward to seeing you on 27th October for Halloween.

Pat – Site Officer

SITE MATTERS

The New Shed

In July a working party of BLAA members demolished the old green shed to make way for the new one.



It came down without a struggle.

We are grateful to Gill's husband - Chris Feakes - who designed and drew up plans for the new shed to take its place. We would also like to express our thanks to members of BLAA who worked so hard over two weekends in September and October constructing the base and the frame. Weather permitting there will be further working parties to complete the shed – hopefully this side of Christmas.

Barrier

The Council rules state vehicles are not allowed on site from 1 November to 1 April the following year. The barrier will again be put in place at the end of October.

Water supply

Every year the water supply is turned off during the winter months. We have just heard that it will be turned off from the beginning of November.

Secondhand timber

St Albans Wood Recycling receives hundreds of wooden pallets a week of different types and sizes. To the allotment holder they are probably only second in value to the compost (which you can make in your pallet constructed compost container). St Albans Wood Recycling will even deliver - subject to a minimum of 30 pallets. In addition they sell second hand wood suitable for use as fencing posts – which we all need to keep those bunnies out! They are a not-for-profit social enterprise.

St Albans Wood Recycling
11a Pickford Road (off Sutton Road)
St Albans AL1 5JH
Tel: 01727 568202
Website: www.stalbanswoodrecycling.org.uk
Contact: geoffdeans@yahoo.co.uk

Delivery of Pallets to the site

The Association will order 30 pallets at the end of October. Once we know the delivery date we will alert all members.

Membership 2012–2013

We welcome 4 new plot holders to the site and wish them well in their new venture. Hard work to start with, clearing all the rubbish and weeds, but we hope they'll find it worth it in the end.

Recent events

The last event held on site was the summer barbecue in July. The day was fine (a rarity this year). 47 allotment holders, friends and family turned up to enjoy the occasion. Thanks to the generosity of members and Burston Nurseries we had a tombola with some really great prizes – everyone a winner! After Kim's legendary Pimms no-one was fit to drive. There were games and Derek's quiz (a few people managed to complete it!). A great community day on the allotments



Queen of the Punch



Derek presenting his award to Derrick Davies

Prizes for the winners of the Best Kept Plot competition were awarded.

Contratulations to Derrick Davies and Keith Woods of Plot 34 who were awarded 1st prize

2nd prize went to Jan Castle and Pat Solomon of Plot 29. 3rd prize went to Gillian Wilkes and Sandra Farr of Plot 1b . Also Highly Commended were Greg and Anna Galus and family of Plot 27c after only four months of having a plot! Mark Hoar of Plot 41 also received a Highly Commended award.



Derek with Anna and Julia

The plots were judged this year by Ayletts and an observer from a neighbouring allotment. The judges were exceedingly impressed with the quality of the plots, especially given the challenging weather conditions we have been experiencing. Thanks to them for so generously giving up their time.

The St Stephens Gardening Club Annual Show

This took place at How Wood School, Park Street in September. Once again some of our plot holders exhibited their fruit, veg, jams and cakes, handicrafts and paintings and the RHS judges gave their opinions and awarded prizes.

If this sounds a bit demanding – it isn't! You don't have to produce giant or perfect veg. It is competitive but it is a fun and relaxed event! How about other Burydell plot holders to joining in? We'll tell you how to do that and what is involved in next June's Newsletter.

Jan and Pat had considerable success. Other BLAA members also did well, notably Derrick with his sweetcorn and Alan with his picture.

St Stephen's Gardening Club

The Gardening Club Hut (Drop Lane, Bricket Wood) hut closes at the end of September and will reopen on the first 1st Saturday in February 2013. If members require any items that they have in stock during that time give Martyn (01727 872127) a ring and he will try to accommodate them. The next meeting is on the 6th November at the Parish Centre in Bricket Wood, starting at 7.30pm. It will be a talk by Peter DeLoy on birds of St. Stephens Parish. (That is the feathered variety!) This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.

YOUR COMMITTEE

If there are any problems regarding the site please call Pat in the first instance

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