

# West Byfleet Allotments Newsletter

Issue 1, March 2011

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## Introductory Note from Chairman

At our AGM in November 2010 I sensed a mood of wanting more communication so that you could all be more aware of issues and what was happening etc. So welcome to Issue 1 of the West Byfleet Newsletter!

This is your newsletter, so we welcome contributions and suggestion. There is no fixed issue date. If there is something worth sending out then we'll publish it - typically more than once a quarter... but who knows?

In the interests of keeping costs/paper wastage down we will be circulating this via email or on the web site (what web site?). We will try and get a paper copy to those of you without email.

I think this is an exciting new venture that should mean we will be much more in touch. It is to be managed by our Secretary, Bill Goodman, but with contributions from the committee and yourselves.

## Work Party Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April -Open Bottom Road & Fill Water Troughs

We need volunteers to help with a Work Party to be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 10.00 in the morning. We envisage that, given a reasonable turn-out, the work should complete in about one hour.

The Work Party is to repair a section of the Bottom Road by removing the central grass area where the deep car tracks have made the road all but impassible. It is also to clean and re-connect the water troughs. Both will then be officially "open" for the summer.

Work is to be coordinated by Dave Watkinson. If you can help, please advise Dave or Bill Goodman (Email [biugoodman@hotmail.com](mailto:biugoodman@hotmail.com) tel 01932 400177) or just turn up.

## New Treasurer Sought

John Wright, our Treasurer for over 20 years will be retiring from the post at the next AGM (Nov 2011), and so we are looking for a replacement. Are you that person? Ideally you would start in July the so you can work with John on the year-end accounts (which are presented to the AGM in September) and take over thereafter.

If you feel this is something you can/would like to do, can you please contact our Chairman, Mike Booker

## Trading Hut

At the AGM it was intimated that the Trading Hut should be run down. Since then there has been a groundswell of opinion that this would be a waste of one of our key assets and that we should make a further effort to keep it going.

Barbara Neville has volunteered to take charge of this effort. She is arranging for a new delivery of provisions to generally meet members needs at sensible prices.

Please support this initiative by using the Trading Hut. If you have any ideas/suggestions of things we could/should stock, please contact Barbara or any Committee member.

## Membership/Waiting Lists/Neglected Plots

Allotments generally are popular and ours is no exception. Melissa Gill, our Membership Secretary, has just completed a review of our waiting list (including phoning everyone on the list to make sure they are still interested). We currently have 28 names on our list.

We are open to adding new names to the Waiting list. Please direct any enquiries you may receive to Melissa Gill, Membership Secretary, Mike Booker, our Chairman or any Committee member.

In the spirit of fairness to those on the Waiting list, it is intended to periodically review our plots to see if there are any that are neglected. Where it is found that the plot-holder circumstances are such that they have not the time and/or inclination to maintain their plot then we will look to giving it to the next name on the waiting list. It is proposed to have the next review in April/May.

### **Grass Cutting**

Members have been good about cutting the grass on paths around their plots. We need to extend this "self-help" approach to other grassy areas. We would like to encourage you to go a bit further and help maintain the grass verges and central strips of the road near your plot too if it's easy for you to do so.

It would however be helpful if anyone has a lawn-mower and feels able to cut grass in these more "public" places if they could contact Bill Goodman.

### **Donation of old wheel barrows**

These are always welcome. Please contact Bill Goodman if you have one or if you need help transporting it to the allotment.

### **Rabbit Fencing/Gates around plots**

Rabbits are, thank goodness, no longer with us. The fencing/gates erected as a deterrent at the time are now a bit of a hazard. It is asked that holders remove these unless there is some other valid reason for them to be kept. They make using and cutting the grass verges more difficult.

### **Rents**

We have been advised by our land-lord of a 5% increase in the rent they require from us. We have been fortunate in not requiring any increase in plot-holders subscriptions this year. I am afraid that that will change and next year some increase will be required. We'll do our best to keep it a sensible amount, and hope to let you know at the next AGM.

### **Getting In Touch**

Chairman: Mike Booker . T: 01932 340885 (H), 01932 340318 (O) email: chair@wballotments.org.uk

Committee: email: committee@wballotments.org.uk

Secretary: Bill Goodman, Tel no. 01932 400177 email: biugoodman@hotmail.com  
(This Newsletter Contributions/General enquiries )

**Or at the Trading Hut Sunday 10:00 – 12:00**

### **Committee Members**

Mike Booker	-	Chairman
John Wright	-	Treasurer
Bill Goodman	-	Hon. Secretary
Melissa Gill	-	Membership Secretary
Barbara Neville	-	Trading Hut Secretary
Dave Watkinson	-	Member
Katrina Allen	-	Member
Sue Booker	-	Member
Alan Coy	-	Member
Gen Howgate	-	Member
Rob Moore	-	Member
Dave Stagg	-	Member
Jane Weisz	-	Member