

West Byfleet Allotments Newsletter

Issue 8, October 2012

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Introductory Note

Since the last Newsletter in May we have had a rather wet summer with prolific growth, at least of the couch grass, bind-weed, nettles etc. if not of our carefully nurtured crops...

We have also had a successful barbecue, enjoyed by all who attended, and the only sunny and dry for ages. It was a wonderful opportunity to chat and relax rather than dig and grunt.

Forthcoming AGM

Please note that we will be holding our next AGM at our usual venue, Our Lady Help of Christians Church on Madeira Road West Byfleet, on **Monday 19th November** starting at **8.00pm prompt**. Definitely a date for your diaries. Agenda will be circulated nearer the date with copies of the last AGM minutes.

We are always looking for members to join the committee, so if you would like to become a committee member there will be an opportunity to step forward.

Organic Seed Catalogue

This year's catalogue is now available.

Mid-November: Orders must be returned to Mike no later than the AGM.

Late-December: Orders arrive and continue as items are available.

To reserve your copy email seeds@wballotments.org.uk (preferred) or call: 01932 340885. Please include your name and contact details.

Trading Hut

We will be re-stocking ready in early 2013, and as a trial, are offering you the opportunity to place your orders through us if there are items you want that we don't normally sell. In this way you can benefit from our suppliers pricing, and probably, free delivery.

Similarly, if you think there is something we should be stocking but currently don't have, let us know. We can only stock items that are good sellers or limited stock of items that don't keep very long.

Our suppliers are Interhort and their web-site is www.interhort.com. If you are interested in ordering something, have a look at their site and then email the secretary with your wish-list at sec@wballotments.org.uk or phone on 01932 400177.

Remember the next order is now likely to be placed early 2013 and that, unless it is a regular line, we will need to operate on a payment in advance basis. Items purchased will be delivered to the trading hut for collection by you.

Meanwhile, there's still plenty of stock still available in the trading hut, and although we don't open on a regular basis, just ask a committee member to open up when you find one down on the allotments. Or email the chairman and ask when it can be opened. Committee member plot numbers are on the noticeboard.

End of season sale: we have a few bags of compost remaining, and are selling them at 2 for £10 whilst stock lasts.

George Noblett Memorial Plot

We plan to make George's former allotment an area for resting or having lunch. The plot was treated with weed-killer earlier in the year and is now ready for digging and levelling so that it can be sown with grass seed in the spring. If you can help please come along with your fork and rake on **Saturday 27 October at 2.30 pm.**

Allotment Ditch Working Party

We need to clear the ditch along the Dartnell Park boundary to prevent water-logging and flooding of allotments. This job entails cutting back all over-hanging vegetation and removing the accumulation of leaves from the ditch. If you can help please come along on **Sunday 4 November or Sunday 18 November at 10 am.** You will need your Wellingtons or strong boots and thorn-proof gloves. Suggested tools are loppers (short or long), pruning or bow saw, fork, rake and leaf grabbers and something to put rubbish in.

Plot-holders with plots adjoining the ditch should remove any of their flower pots, timber etc. that may have fallen into the ditch as these will be removed and may be thrown away.

Letters to the Secretary

We are looking to develop free flow of comments/ideas/pleas/appeals etc. and we see this Newsletter as an ideal vehicle for this purpose. With this in mind we include a letter sent to our chairman which I think falls under the category of "appeal".

Dear Mr Booker,

Thank you for your swift response to my email. I look forward to the ditch being tidied up shortly with a full clearance in the autumn. We too are avid recyclers of rubbish, so I can fully understand keeping items that may potentially be useful in future. However, may I politely request that in your next newsletter you ask the plot-holders, to keep such items in a neat pile rather than strewn in an untidy mess.

Kind regards

RT (Dartnell Park)

New Allotments At Horsell

Allotment history was made on 16 June when the celebrity gardener Cleve West opened a new allotment site at Carthouse Lane, Horsell. Cleve, who has been an allotment holder for 12 years, encouraged plotholders to make the most of their new facility where people from all walks of life could share their interest in growing produce.

This new site comprises 70 full size plots with a very secure perimeter fence topped with barbed wire and a sturdy entrance gate. Some plots will be divided into two half plots and all plots are accessible by vehicle making deliveries simple. The site also has strategically placed water tanks, a site hut, electricity, toilets, car parking and bicycle racks. There are also specific area for fruit trees and bee keeping.

The Horsell Allotment Association under the Chairmanship of David Inns will manage the site.