



LRRHAA June 2015

YOUR ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Best Kept Allotment Competition 2015.

As many of you are aware, the Association won the Alderman Knight Trophy for the Best Kept Allotment in Oxford in 2012 and the Committee have decided to enter the competition again this year: the judging will take place on 5th September. The judges do not require all plots to be immaculate with all plants in straight lines and at the same distance apart, but the Committee would be grateful if all members could ensure that their plots and the surrounding areas meet the following criteria:

Plots and sheds to have working water catchment facilities or a water butt and a composting area,

Pathways between plots and the areas to the top and bottom of each plot to be strimmed or mown with the plots themselves tidy and largely weed-free,

Unwanted wood, carpets and junk are disposed of.

In addition the judges will be marking the site on the availability and condition of the facilities (car parking, play areas, communal water catchment, toilet, shop etc) and their overall impression of the tidiness of the site itself.

And this leads nicely on to Working Parties!

The working parties so far this year have been held well attended and the numbers on either day much the same, so for the future, both Saturday and Sunday will be picked. The allotment competition entry means that there will need to be three more working parties to complete the following outstanding communal work.

- a) Water catchment facilities for the shop, container and Prince's Trust sheds
- b) Repairs to the play area summer house and Prince's Trust sheds
- c) Moving the remaining disabled bed from the car park and rebuilding it
- d) Installation of plot number markers
- e) Work on the wild life area.

The dates are Saturday 11 July and Sunday 19 July with a final pre-judging working party on Sunday 30th August, all between 10 am and 1.30pm. Please try to attend at least one of these sessions to help get the site into tip-top condition to impress the judges. **We want to win!** If you cannot make any of those dates there are some of the tasks can be undertaken during the week, please contact me.

Weeds. Other people's weeds are a nuisance and the Committee would be grateful if plot holders could keep their weeds down or preferably, take them out. While it is appreciated that many weeds are conducive to wildlife, there are adequate areas around the site where insect life can flourish, so weeds must be controlled and not encouraged to spread onto neighbouring plots or allowed to obstruct access to sheds, pathways or the boundary fence.

Water. Water is expensive and the largest outgoing from the budget. Please only water when necessary and do not water in the heat of the day or when it is raining. The Committee are monitoring the water usage, and if it becomes too high measures will need to be taken to minimise it.

The Treasurer. Due to business pressures Arnold Harpin has resigned as Treasurer and Bill Whaley has volunteered to stand in temporarily through to the AGM. He will cover the key and busy period involving the collection of the rent and the preparation of the annual accounts for the AGM. So we will need a volunteer to take over as Treasurer at the AGM. Please talk with Bill, Arnold or myself about the role – it's not as bad as it sounds!

Rent Requests. The rent requests will be delivered in August and ideally payments should be made by bank transfer saving work for the acting Treasurer.

Plots. The Committee has a responsibility through the tenancy agreement with Oxford City Council to ensure that plots are cultivated or vacated so that people on the waiting list have a chance to join us.

There have been 2 site inspections recently and as a result some members who had not been cultivating their plots have handed them back or downsized. This has enabled us to welcome several new members who have been assigned either ¼ or ½ plots, significantly reducing the waiting list and allowing some existing members to be given space up to a maximum of 1 full plot. Rather than let your plot become overgrown, which then affects the neighbouring plots, please contact Paul Wavell (Lettings Secretary) on 01865 777564 or at irrhaalettings@outlook.com to discuss reducing your plot size so that you can continue to cope with and enjoy the allotment.

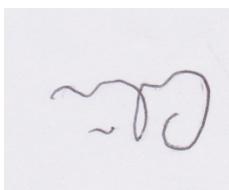
The Website. The new website should be ready soon and an e-mail will be sent out when it is up and running.

Dates for 2015

Committee Meetings – 28 July, 15 Sep, 27 Oct, 8 Dec. **AGM:** 10 Nov

Working Days: Sat 11 Jul, Sun 19 Jul, Sun 30 Aug, Sun 20 Sep, Sun 18 Oct & Sun 15 Nov.

Summer Party – Sunday 6 September on the Play area. Pearl Bevan will be promulgating the details soon!



Colin Sharp, Chair

