

BATHFORD ALLOTMENTS

Founded on May 19th 1880 for the "labouring poor"

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2008. No 17

DEVELOPERS FORCED TO SET UP NEW ALLOTMENTS

The Local Government Association which represents more than 400 councils in England and Wales is calling on councils to make the most of the powers they have (The Planning and Compensation Act 1991), to include space for allotments in planning proposals, especially where long waiting lists exist. It is estimated that over 200,000 plots have been lost to development in the last 30 years, but the last

few years has seen an upsurge in demand, with allotments being particularly popular with environmentally aware young professionals keen to grow organic food. The chairman said "A whole generation of 20-somethings and young families are rolling up their sleeves and picking up a trowel.

Having an allotment is no longer about flat caps and thermos flasks. Nowadays allotments are the preserve of Jamie Oliver as much as Arthur Fowler"

New guidance, entitled *Growing in the Community* is geared to ensure full consultation where allotments are concerned. Several areas were particularly mentioned, Trowbridge and Basildon have waiting lists of 100, Braintree 278, in Swindon there is a 5 year wait and seven of the major Yorkshire cities have a total of 3,500 on their waiting lists.

PLOT HOLDERS MEETING 2009

Next years Plot Holders meeting will be held at the central water butt at 10.00am on Saturday 18th April 2009.

RATS

We appear to have been very successful in controlling the rat population on the allotments, but it does require constant vigilance and the co-operation of everyone in ensuring that their composts are turned regularly. Please turn it completely in April/May and twice more during the year. Under no circumstances *feed* them with kitchen waste, apples, potato peelings etc.!!!

BATHFORD SHOW

The Show is to be held on Saturday 6th September. The Show depends on the support of the allotment holders and there some 20 categories for you to enter, not to mention the various fruit, flower craft and photographic classes. It especially includes a collection of four different kinds of allotment vegetables in a standard seed tray. **So come have a go!** Very shortly application forms will be available on the Bathford web site or in the Community Shop.

SHOP PLOT.....The shop plot is up and running and any help anyone can give will be gratefully received, not just now, but in the future. At the moment, having dug some strip, we are growing parsnips, rhubarb, outdoor tomatoes, runner beans and plan courgettes and leeks, but there is lots of space!!See what you can do.

COMPETITIONS

The winners of the annual Scarecrow competition were;-

1st, Plot 57a Mrs L Wilson, 2nd, Plot 30a Mrs C ADean and 3rd, Plot 44a Mr M Wright.

Sadly no separate classes were possible. So those splendid crows had to be judged against the hardy Wurzel Gummidges.

This years Scarecrow competition was rather spoilt by the prevailing weather conditions prior to the event. After weeks of wet windy weather, there was little time or enthusiasm left for making a scarecrow.

As a result it has been decided to hold the competition at a later date to give time for 'the sap to rise'. So next year It will be held on **Saturday 23rd May 2009**. The judging to take place at 10.00am with a Speciality class, a Childrens class and the Wurzel Gummidge Class. Other entries from any where in the Village are invited to have a go on the piece of ground at the top of the central pathway.

The **Tallest Sunflower** will be judged on either Saturday 16th or 23rd August 2008(whichever date is in National Allotment Week)

The **Largest Pumpkin** will be judged on Saturday 27th September 2008

MINUTES OF PLOT HOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING

held at the central water butt on Saturday the 19th April 2008 at 10.00am, in inclement weather conditions!!!

Present

Wendy Chambers, Stan Cherry (Parish Council reps) and 18 plot-holders.

Apologies were received from warden Martin Wright, who had a last minute appointment.

The other warden (MS) introduced Wendy and Stan and thanked plot-holders for their attendance in such dreadful conditions.

1. The meeting began with MS updating everyone on the events from last years meeting.
 - a. There has been a substantial turnover this year, with 12 new plot holders joining the ranks. There were just 2 half plots vacant, but weed killed, with 4/5 on the waiting list
 - b. Last years attack on rats had resulted in about a dozen rats destroyed, but it was essential that everyone turned their compost now and again in about a month to prevent them from breeding here
 - c. Plot holders were now running Plot No 11 as a Shop Plot and everyone was encouraged to come and have a dig and plant something the shop could use. It has just been weed-killed and by May was ready to go.
 - d. Any spare seedlings should be left on the seat above Plot 8 for general circulation.
 - e. The Scarecrow Competition had been judged that morning and despite the weather a 1st 2nd and two 3rds had been awarded. The Tallest Sunflower Competition would be measured during the National Allotment Week in mid August and the Largest Pumpkin on 27th September.
2. Stan Cherry then introduced the results of the questionnaire (18/70 responses) and on the question of rents, the votes on the wardens proposal to put the rent up by £1 and the PC proposal to raise it by £4 were inconclusive. The former would probably require a further and more regular reappraisal, whereas the latter would probably see rents staying the new rate until at least 2013. After some further discussion and the promise that clear accounting of the allotment monies would be made available, the meeting voted unanimously in favour of a rent of £14 for a full plot next year, £7.50 for half plot all, with concessions. It was the proposed that from now on all new plot holders would need to pay a deposit of a refundable £25 to ensure that vacated plots are left in a usable condition. This was also unanimously agreed by the meeting. Stan went on to indicate that the PC felt that a Tenancy Agreement should be put in place and discussions were taking place with the wardens.

3. MS went on to remind Plot-holders of their responsibilities. Any dog owner should keep the dog on a lead except on his/her own plot. That the sanctity of each plot should be maintained and the owners consent was required to pick or take anything and finally all Plot-holder had a responsibility to keep the paths on the north and west sides of their plots in good order.

4. ANOB

Roger Boakes reminded everyone that the Bathford Flower Show would be held on Saturday 6th September 2008 and that there was an allotment section as well, all with money prizes.

There was a vote of thanks to the wardens for their years efforts .

BATHFORD ALLOTMENT RULES.

- 1. Applications for allotments shall be made to the Clerk to the Council or to the Allotment Wardens.
- 2. An allotment or part thereof will be allocated as appropriate or the application will be put on a waiting list.
- 3. Residents of Bathford will take precedence over other applicants.
- 4. Each applicant on being assigned an allotment will be supplied with a copy of the rules.
- 5. The rents will be reviewed and fixed by the Parish Council and shall be paid in advance by the 30th September each year.
- 6. Each tenant shall:-
 - a. Keep the allotment in a proper state of cultivation at all times.
 - b. Keep any hedge, which is bordering the allotment trimmed and cut to a height of one metre.
 - c. Not cause any nuisance or obstruction to the paths of the allotment.
 - d. Not to sub-let or dispose of the tenancy or any part of it.
 - e. Not, without written consent of the Parish Council, cut or prune any timber or other tree or take or sell any minerals, gravel, soil or clay.
 - f. Not, without the written consent of the Parish Council, erect any building.
 - g. Not use any barbed wire on a fence adjoining any path adjacent to the allotment.
 - h. Keep trimmed and in good order, level and free from stones and other debris, the paths on the south and west sides of the allotment.
 - i. Not use any hosepipe or sprinkler by connection to the allotment field water supply.
 - j. Not use any plastic sheets or other materials as ground cover .
 - k. Shall comply with any order or condition, which the Council considers necessary to preserve the allotment field.
- 7. The Parish Council has the right to cut down weeds on a neglected allotment and charge the cost to the tenant.
- 8. The tenancy may be ended by the tenant, by giving at least one months notice.
- 9. The tenancy may be ended by the Parish Council, by giving at least six months notice
- 10. The lighting of bonfires must be kept to a minimum. Only dry material, which produces a minimum of smoke should be burnt. Attention must be paid to the weather conditions and the advice of the National Society for Clean Air.
- 11. The allotments are as let and shall be cultivated as allotments within the meanings of the Allotments Act 1922-1950.