

## **ASHFORD ALLOTMENT REPORT MAY 2017**

1. April's meeting was due to be held in May, because of the lack of available rooms at the Civic Centre due to the County Councils elections. The announcement of the General Election in June meant that the meeting to be held on 10th May also had to be cancelled because of the lack of available rooms. The spring meeting was therefore cancelled and the following reports have been collated

### **2. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

'Although the committee is not formally meeting this month I wanted to make sure there was an opportunity for tenants to read this latest information presented as if we had met.

It has been a very dry winter and spring with a record low rainfall and mild temperatures. This has meant a very early growing season and almost perfect conditions to get plants started. Many people including me took a chance and planted potatoes early and even transplanted beans and courgettes. Of course the recent frosts and forecast low temperatures have taken their toll and on many sites there is evidence of frostbitten plants. So back to re sowing and starting again. That's allotment gardening !

Water is now on at all sites but remember to use it sparingly and respect the hose pipe ban.

I wish you all a very good growing season and hope to see you at some of our events this year. '

### **3. The Show Secretary report**

'In the absence of a committee member I have with the agreement of others on the committee decided that the summer show 2017 will be at Kennington Junior School, Upper Vicarage Road Kennington on Saturday July 15th from 10 am to about 4pm.

Entries will remain at 25p each entry and should be brought to the school hall between 10 am and 11 45 am. Judging will be from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm

I have been able to confirm that we will have an experienced judge of local allotment shows and I am keen to make sure we have lots of entries. Please please check the show schedule and start growing your potential entries. Anyone can take part and there are great prizes for the best entries in each category. Please support this event. It takes a lot of work to organise and I will be asking for help on the day to make sure things go smoothly. There will be teas and coffees served from 2.00 til 4.00 pm so if you think you can make a cake and donate it, that would be really helpful.

I anticipate as usual having the presentation certificates for the best plots from the judging at about 3.30 pm

The schedule is available on the website and if you have an email address you should have had it sent electronically. There will be paper copies at the Trading Store

### **3. Events**

The Summer Show Saturday 15 th July 10.00 am til 4.00 pm

The Hospice Fete Saturday 5 th August: Please support this charity by coming along and / or bringing surplus produce to sell on our stall. Last year we were able to donate our best total yet to this most worthy cause.

Plot judging Likely to be between 16 th and 30 th June '

### **4. Bulk Buying Managers Report**

The Trading Store :

This continues to be open on alternative Saturdays from 10 00 am. IF we are not busy we will close from 1.00 pm so do make sure you arrive early enough to avoid being disappointed.

If you have not yet paid 2017 subscriptions or you would like to join the annual fee is currently only £4 and is great value.

There are a few seed potatoes left and limited onions and shallots all to be sold at a very reduced price.

### **5. Treasures report**

#### income

no1 account bank	£2343.62
no1 account float	£ 26.73
no 1 account total	<u>£2370.35</u>

#### income

no2 account bank	£3301.74
no2 account cash	£ 125.57

#### expenditure

no2 account	£ 219.00	(uncleared cheque to cropwatch)
no2 account	£ 182.40	(uncleared cheque to cropwatch)
no2 account total	<u>£3025.91</u>	
<u>total assets</u>	<u>£5396.26</u>	

## **6. Website Manager's Report**

A handful of new Trading Store members have been added to the contract list.

## **7. Publicity Officers Report**

### Local Press

The KM have agreed to do an article on Ashford Allotment Society to both raise the profile of the allotments and increase interest in vacant plots but also to link allotment gardening with improving lifestyle and mental health. I am now looking for a couple of allotment holders to talk to the journalist along with Penny and will be sending out the request email to all site reps in the next few days.

### Posters

I am keen to get posters out this month for the summer show so designing those is underway.

### Facebook & Twitter

User engagement has increased on Facebook within the last 3 months and I am pleased to see that Facebook is getting more and more posts that aren't just me putting up content. Please do make an effort to join our Facebook group and let your plot holders know that it is available and a great way to increase that community feel that we all have on our sites.

### Summer Judging

This year we will be introducing again a prize for the best plot number sign, I will be putting together some communication for this for our site notice boards.

### Signs

I will be working with the council to get some multi language signs created - these will just be laminated 'lock the gate' and 'hoses not permitted' etc signs for each site. This is due to wide range of different languages spoken by our plot holders to ensure they don't miss out on important information.

## **8. Report of the Allotment Officer**

Geraldine Gorrige has recently taken on the role as the Allotment Officer and Eileen is currently in the throes of training her up on all allotment procedures/issues. She asks if you could forward any emails concerning allotments to the following email address [allotments@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@ashford.gov.uk) please. Please find below the current status with regards to the allotments.

People on the waiting list 68	Christchurch Road	Vacancies 2
People on the waiting list 12 months 68	Gas House Fields	Vacancies 6
no of notices 1	Henwood	Vacancies 4
no of offers 0	Musgrove Farm	Vacancies 2
No of Tenancies 528	Musgrove New	Vacancies 1
No of Tenants 555	Repton	Vacancies 1
Expired/Expiring Notices 1	William Road	Vacancies 2
	Wye	Vacancies 2

#### **8. Site representatives report**

Bybrook- At last we have all plots being worked and this has made a huge difference to the overall appearance of the site.

The grass needs cutting as at 5/5/17. Please can the GRASS BE MOWED RIGHT UP TO THE EDGES OF THE PLOTS ESPECIALLY AT THE ENTRANCES AND PATHS.

The hedge also needs some growth removed after the nesting season.

Tenants are all working hard to maintain a good weed free allotment.

**Date of the next Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 6.30 in Committee Room 2**