



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

An unusual few months

As if corona virus is not difficult enough the weather **decided** to throw up some unusual tricks, with our summer consisting of a long hot dry spell which has suddenly collapsed into a cool wet one, but if the allotments are anything to go by allotment holders have risen to the challenge as they seem to be wonderfully productive. This unfortunately did lead to some 'produce envy' and some thefts from the plots.

Thefts at the allotments

Following some recent reports of theft of produce and equipment from some members' allotment plots, three

Gardening Club Trustees had a very worthwhile meeting with our BW community Safety Officer, Ben Partridge to discuss any control measures that should be taken. Ben emphasised that all cases of theft should be reported, no matter how small as this helps him and our PCSO, Sarah McCullough to build up a wider picture of what is going on in the community. They can then justify increasing their visits to the allotments, track any incidents of anti-social behaviour that might be happening and hopefully 'nip it in the bud'.

Our allotments are not fenced and are very accessible so we must all be vigilant in trying not to leave equipment around, lock it away if possible and take some time to be aware of what is going on around the area. Above all please report any theft or anti-social behaviour that you see so it can be followed up by our CSO. He really sees this as essential as the way of keeping this kind of thing under control.

Ben was happy to give out his contact details which are as follows; Ben Partridge, Community Support Officer, cs0@bishopswaltham-pc.gov.uk mobile 07837 026413

News from the allotments

As our annual show was cancelled, we thought a mini competition might give us a bit of light relief. There was also an opportunity to dig up the competition potatoes and weigh them in at the same time. The turnout was fantastic – 17 boxes of vegetables were brought along, and the standard was extremely high. Nigel Gould brought along a box to show us what to aspire to and donated a bottle of wine, which went to Helen, as runner up in the potato competition. Judges Larry Mabey and Ann Magrath took their time deciding on the winner, who turned out to be Tim Gover, with a lovely selection of vegetables from his plot.



The winner of the potato competition was Nicole Jones, with an impressive 1.85 kilos of potatoes. Second was Helen Campbell with 1.6 kg. The variety was 'Celebration' a first early with very distinctive colouring.



A big thank you to Tina Jordan for cleaning the toilet daily so that we can keep it open.

Also, thanks to the volunteers keeping the paths mowed – Sandy, Brian, Liz, Nicole, Colin, Ann, Gill, Larry and John. Please help make their job a little easier by keeping the paths clear of tools etc.

We are looking forward to seeing you up at the shed in September and October when we resume sales of manure.



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Chairman's report

During the Lockdown, your Garden Club Trustees have met 'virtually' every month via the 'Zoom' app on our iPads and computers. Once we all got used to the format, we have found it to be a very successful way of meeting and keeping the management side of the club running smoothly. There is a bonus side to this too, as it also means that, as winter approaches, we will not have to leave home in the cold evenings to sit in the shed for our meetings!

With the Government Covid 19 restrictions, the social side of the club has sadly been curtailed completely for the moment with our Plant Sale, the Annual Show, the Social evening and the Wednesday talks all being cancelled ...although you will read elsewhere in this newsletter that we have exciting plans to address the latter in the coming months.

In the last month your Trustees were very sad to receive the resignation of two long standing Trustees from the committee. Gill Stainer and Linda Smith have both decided, after very many years of commitment to the club, that now is the time to retire. Trying to fill the gaps that Gill and Linda leave on the committee will be very hard as, between them, they have covered so many different jobs.

Gill was known by many over the years for organising many memorable visits and holidays as well as her work on the Show Committee, the organising of the catering at the Social evening and other 'foodie' events, all the raffles and raffle prizes at these events and the Wednesday Speaker evenings. She also did all of the cashing up and banking of the takings at the shed, evening meetings and any plant sales or charity fairs.

Linda was the club membership secretary for many years, chasing up payments and liaising with the Treasurer and recently changed to taking on the important Health and Safety role. She was also helped Gill with the catering for the Show, BBQ and Social Evenings. Phew, what a list!

As things hopefully improve to allow some Covid19 restrictions to be lifted, your committee must be in a position to be able to re-start some of the activities of the club...and we will not be able to do that with only 9 Trustees instead of the 12 required as stated in our constitution. The burden on each Trustee will be unfair and just not be sustainable by people who already give so much voluntary time to the club. So we are, once again, looking for members to take on the role of a Charity Trustee. Because we are a registered charity, this comes with insurance cover for our Trustees and, as a club, we also take on extra insurance so that our Trustees face no liability for the voluntary work that they take on in good faith for the club.

Please talk to any of our Trustees if you are able to join us or just need some extra information. We will not expect anyone to fill all the roles that Gill and Linda did over the years, any roles taken on will be appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Gill Cooper Chairman

7.30 Wednesday 21st October

Adam Pasco – A Garden for Every Season

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions, our lectures this year have had to be cancelled, but on **Wednesday 21st October** we will have a **Zoom Webinar garden talk/presentation** by the well-known Gardening Journalist and Horticultural Consultant, **Adam Pasco**. He will talk to us on the subject of 'A Garden for Every Season'.

Firstly, you will need a computer, tablet or smartphone. Before the presentation takes place, an invite will then be sent out to you by email. You will then just have to click on the link in the invitation a few minutes before the start of the Zoom presentation. Adam will set-up and host the evening using the Pro version of Zoom. The meeting can accept up to 100 people to log in (or more if sharing the screen).

If you have the Zoom app installed on your device already then just join the meeting using the meeting id/ password in the invitation link. If you don't have the Zoom app then you will be prompted to download the Zoom app first before joining the presentation. There is no requirement for you to have a **Zoom account** to watch the presentation. The basic Zoom is **FREE** to use.

Please can you register your interest in this lecture by emailing webbwgc@outlook.com by the 30th September as invitations will be issued on a first come, first served basis after that date.

The invitation will be sent out to you a few days prior to the 21st October.

Questions can be posted during his talk using the Chat facility on Zoom, which allows people to type questions and then when he has finished his talk, he can answer a few of the questions put to him. The meeting should last just over an hour.

We are sure this will prove to be a lovely evening, but please remember to respond to us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Membership Renewal

Next year's membership forms are being sent out in a separate email to this newsletter. If you wish to renew at just £6 per membership, please ensure you return the forms and fees by 1st October 2020. Allotment fees are also due by October 1st



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Suttons discount Scheme

I am still awaiting the new code for the 2021 gardening year, but the old one holds until then.

Meanwhile.... Here's an update on how our group membership has worked this year:

- Members who have placed orders = 40
- Number of individual orders received = 59
- Value of Seed Orders after discount = £1470.34
- Value of all Orders after discount = £2300.13

So, by using our scheme, our members have saved £1470.34 on seeds and £146.45 on other supplies, making a total of £1616.34 discount, just over £40 per member who used the scheme.

Robin Breach

Safety on the allotments

Allotments can be dangerous places, there are canes, cloches, differences of levels and lots of things to trip us up. Those on our own plots we will be aware of but we have a duty to look to the safety of other site users.

Many of the paths are not level and may cause someone to trip and fall. With this in mind it is wise to ensure that anything within a person's length would not cause injury if fallen on. We are, I am sure all aware of the need to cover canes at eye level, but those lower at the edge of the plot should be covered also, for the sake others if not ourselves.

It is always a good idea after stormy weather to get down to the allotment as soon as you can. Winds on our open site tend to take anything light and not secured onto neighbouring allotments, and of course in the storm a few weeks ago many of us found our bean supports collapsed. On walking round a few days after there were many canes still over the pathways causing trip and eye injury hazards.

The following is advice from the National Allotment Society website.

Look after yourself

Be aware of risks to yourself and from sharp objects, broken glass, waste timber and objects left lying around. Remember untidiness can cause accidents.

- Wear sturdy footwear
- Ensure that tetanus vaccinations are up to date
- Cover any cuts and grazes with a waterproof dressing.
- Wear gloves when handling manure and chemicals
- Reduce risks of tripping/slipping by keeping plots tidy and carrying out necessary repairs quickly.

Look after children on an Allotment

Bacteria, machinery, tools, glass, water storage containers, poisonous plants, weedkillers and pesticides are some of the dangerous things children may come into contact on an allotment site.

If children put their fingers into their mouth after touching soil or even eat soil, they may be at risk from chemicals which may be in the soil or harmful bacteria from manure or other animal products. Encourage children to wash their hands after helping on an allotment.

Some hazards that may be found on an allotment

- **Water dangers** – can present a drowning risk, some bacteria can thrive in water and cause illness.
- **Chemicals** -products such as fertilisers, wood preservatives, pesticides and weedkillers are toxic substances. These need to be used correct and can be dangerous to humans ,pets and plants.
- **Pests** – as well as damaging crops rats and mice can carry diseases which can be harmful to humans.

On a lighter note

For those of us still suffering from an excess of courgettes here is a recommended recipe.

Nigel Slater's Courgette Cake

Serves 6

200mg butter

200mg caster sugar

2 eggs

150gm courgettes (about 2 small ones)

1 small apple

200gm plain flour

A large pinch of salt

½ tsp baking powder

Pinch cinnamon

60gm pecans or chopped walnuts

80gm sultanas

Preheat oven to gas mark 4/180C butter and line a loaf tin measuring 20cm x 12cmx9cm deep. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat the eggs and incorporate them in slowly. Coarsely grate the courgette and apple. Squeeze them with your hands to remove any excess moisture/Mix the flour, salt, baking powder and cinnamon, and gently fold into the mixture. Stir in the nuts and fruit. Transfer to the tin and bake for about an hour, or until golden and firm to touch. Allow to cool before turning out.



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