



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

Well, it's been a funny old growing year with the weather doing its best to keep us on our toes, but for most I suspect a disappointing year at the allotment.

Despite this a good range of produce was to be found at the fun mini show up at the shed.

As we have missed out on our Annual Show for two years, Colin Carter and the Trustees decided to hold a 'Mini Show' for the benefit of the allotment holders. This was held on Saturday, 31st July at the Shed and we were very fortunate to have a fine, sunny day. We were delighted with the number of entrants, especially some of the younger allotmenters, who entered into the spirit of the show. Larry did a display to show the best way to display some of the vegetables.



Judges Ann Magrath and Colin did a great job and the prize for highest number of points went to Tim Gover. Runner Up was Nicole Jones and Best In Show went to Annie Lowe for her beautiful tomatoes. Tea and Cake sales went well and it was lovely to see

people once again sitting outside enjoying the facilities. Thanks to all those who

participated and made the day a success.
Anthea

After many years of fantastic service Larry has decided that his job as allotment maintenance 'Jack of all trades' is becoming too difficult for him to manage on his own. He is not resigning as a trustee, and will take up other duties, but we are now looking for someone to volunteer as Maintenance Manager. Our plan is that this person who may or may not wish to be a trustee, will run a team of volunteers who can be called on according to their skills.

So, if you have any skills which would be useful in maintenance of the allotments, and are happy to put in some time please let us know. Similarly, if you would be to manage the work as it comes up on the allotments, we want to know. Larry has saved the club thousands of pounds over the years, for which he has the club's thanks and respect. We hope that we can find someone who can manage the work, and when necessary, call in volunteers or paid professionals to keep the site up to scratch.

Our allotments are incredibly cheap compared to others around the country. This is only possible due to the work of volunteers, so if you have the skills and time, please get in touch to offer you help.

On a positive note, it is good to see how well the scalplings have embedded on lane 2 although we will need to order more to complete the run.

Larry is ordering another load with a view to finishing lane 2 and doing the same for lane three. This will involve the need for volunteers to spread, so we be putting out a request for help soon.

After all the constraints of covid the trustees have decided to open things up a bit. Tea and coffee will be available at the shed for a charge of 10p for a paper cup, as we don't feel we can rely on washing up at the shed to be virus proof. We have also decided to hold our usual Annual Social at the Jubilee Hall.

Friday 15th October

Benjamin Pope

‘Making the most of what you have.’

Ben is lead gardener at a private garden in West Sussex, and lecture at The English gardening school and West Dean College of Art and conservation. He has travelled around several countries studying their flora and gardening styles, and has worked for the design practice of Arabella Lennox-Boyd. He has an interesting website ‘theworkinggarden.com’ with an instructive garden diary and a blog about his new venture the development of his own market garden.

Tickets will be available soon.

Best Kept Plot Award 2021

This was judged by two managers of Western Wards Allotment Association, Martin and Keith, on Wednesday 28th July. They had a shortlist of plots to judge picked by Trustees doing their annual inspection of the allotments in July. This year the winner was Peter Burkett, plot 13, with runner up Helen Campbell for plot 5. The Newcomers award went to Clare Dolan, for plot 92C. The judges were looking at the number of different

general tidiness of the plots. Congratulations to the winners, their prizes will be awarded at the AGM, hopefully to be held in January 2022. Anthea



Best kept allotment winner



Our best newcomer winner

At present so many of our allotments are a delight to look at, not just because they were close contenders for best kept allotment, but because of the profusion of flowers. A love of growing food for our own consumption or to sell, is probably what most people would think drives us allotmenters, but increasingly important to a lot of us is the wildlife on the allotment. It is then encouraging to know the benefit we are providing to pollinators.

All the alliums, leek, onion, chives and garlic if left to flower are major sources of nectar June to August for all types of bees.

Artichokes if the smaller side shoots are left to flower are sources for nectar and pollen for long and short tongued bees and butterflies in August and September.

Asparagus is a brilliant source of pollen, through the summer.

If we leave our unharvested brassicas, cabbage, turnip, kale and broccoli to flower they become a good nectar source.

All the beans we grow are good nectar and pollen sources, but broad beans which can only be accessed by long tongued bumble bees are so attractive that short tongued bumble bees nip a hole in the back of the flower to access the nectar. Honey bees will then use this hole to access the honey at a later time.

All the curcubits, melon, cucumber, courgette and pumpkin are major pollen sources for all bees.

Of course, the majority of the herbs are wonderful nectar sources. Basil, hyssop, mint, origanum, rosemary, sage and thyme can be allowed to flower before being cut back hard to provide leaf again.

Fennel is attractive to solitary bees such as mining bees and black stem-nesting bees as well as other short tongued insects, coriander provides pollen and nectar for a wide range of

bees and of course a usable seed for us. Borage, of course, we grow for the flowers.

All the fruits are very attractive to all the bees to varying degrees, from blueberries, preferred by long and short tongued bumble bees to tree fruit loved by honey bees. All currants and berries are attractive for their pollen. So, although we can increase the attractiveness of our allotments by letting some of our produce go to seed, the needs of bees and humans coincide for a lot of our harvested crops.