



Another year has passed, but as gardeners we hope you will be anticipating next year and have taken advantage of the spring bulbs which we have been selling in the trading sheds in preparation for a colourful 2016. Also in readiness for next year you can order your seed potatoes now; new seeds from Dobies will be arriving in the New Year as will summer-flowering bulbs. Let's hope the weather next year will be kinder to gardeners than the previous two have been.

Please contact me if you have suggestions or copy for future editions of the newsletters.

Good gardening, Happy Christmas and all the best for 2016!

Lesley Spence

ALLOTMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another allotment year has ended and it is hoped that tenants had a rewarding and successful year. When visiting our various sites, one sees allotment plots ranging from the very good to the very poor. Invariably, the very good are experienced and enthusiastic gardeners who put in the necessary time to keep their plots in good order. At the other end of the spectrum, many tenants are learning on the job and perhaps finding that more time and effort is required than was envisaged. In some cases, circumstances have prevented the necessary input. When a new tenant takes a plot, they receive with their tenancy agreement, a statement of the tenancy terms and conditions. I suspect that many tenants place these documents in a file or drawer and they do not see the light of day thereafter. Listed below are some of the items mentioned in the terms and conditions together with some further observations which will assist in ensuring that we have good plots, good sites and good administration:-

1. Plots must be kept in good order and free from weeds. If tenants are unable to maintain their plot for whatever reason, please let us know as soon as possible. Overgrown plots after weeds have run riot is one of our biggest problems. A useful aid in suppressing weeds is black plastic. The use of carpet for this purpose is not permitted.
2. Keep paths between plots in good condition. The tenant is responsible for that portion of the path adjacent to the plot.
3. Any shed or greenhouse requires the consent of the Association. It is not permissible to lay down a concrete base for any structure or a concrete path.
4. Tenants may not dump or store on the plot any refuse or other matter unrelated to gardening. Under no circumstances may refuse be dumped elsewhere on the site. Such activity would be considered a serious breach of the tenancy conditions.
5. Seek consent of the Association before planting trees. Have regard for neighbouring allotment holders when siting trees once consent has been given.
6. Chickens and bees may be kept with the agreement of the Association. The Association's requirements for chickens must be adhered to.
7. No bonfires are permitted during the months of June, July and August.
8. No crops or any other items may be taken from another tenant's plot without permission. This is theft and is considered a serious breach of tenancy conditions.
9. Dogs must be on a leash and under control when on an allotment site.
10. Close and lock gates when leaving the site.
11. Advise the Association of any changes in address, telephone or e-mail.
12. Advise the Association if you intend to terminate your tenancy. The sooner we know, the sooner we can put the plot back to useable condition.

If allotment holders notice strangers on the site it would be helpful if they felt able to politely challenge them. This includes dog walkers who think it is appropriate to walk their dogs on sites where the gates are left open. Please inform a committee member of any incidents witnessed.

Don Hartridge

TRADING SHEDS

The opening times for both trading sheds are printed on the reverse of your membership card. Very bad weather may affect opening times especially if the snow is so deep we can't open the doors! You can always check using the e-mail address or telephone number below.

Please be aware that those working in the sheds are volunteers who willingly give their time to run the sheds, so please make it worth their while to be there and support this service. We would also ask you to be considerate and not turn up just a few minutes before the shed is due to close and then wonder why we are rushing to usher you out of the door as soon as your purchase has been made!

If you would like to be part of our team we always welcome new helpers and you will be amazed how much (gardening!) knowledge you can pick up at the same time.

For Christmas and New Year both trading sheds will be closed from Sunday 20th December, reopening on Sunday 3rd January.

Contact Lesley Spence for more information: membership@wahga.org.uk 01753 831863.

DID YOU KNOW?

We frequently inherit tools from members who have given up their allotment plots. These are on display in the trading sheds and can be acquired by members by placing a donation in the Thames Hospice charity box on the counter.

TALK FOR NEW (& NEWISH) ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

There will be a talk on Sunday 10th January at 10.30am in the Bar at Gardeners Hall. Areas covered will be: working effectively, useful tools and other tips for new and not-so-new gardeners.

As usual, the bar will be open from 12.00, so why not stay for a pre-lunch drink and chat with other members.

WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Hickman, who for many years has edited the WAHGA newsletters, has had to resign from the post because of work commitments. We are therefore looking for someone to replace David. Some of the copy consists of reports by officers of committee but we like to have articles and recipes from members too.

If you think you would like to be involved please contact me for more information.

Lesley Spence, Membership Secretary

membership@wahga.org.uk 01753 831863

JOHN FILMER

We are sad to report that John died at the end of October. Some of you may remember him from the Fairground trading shed where he worked every week for many years. He was a long-serving member of the WAHGA management committee, serving as Chairman and also as Purchasing Officer for the trading sheds. He will be sadly missed.

WAHGA is Windsor Allotments and Home Gardens Association Ltd.

Visit our website: www.wahga.org.uk