

BLAA

BACK LANE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



Newsletter – Christmas 2009

Victory at the Village Show

A big thank you to everyone who donated produce and helped run the BLAA stall at the village show in September. The 'make an alien out of veg' was particularly popular with children and the great range of allotment produce sold brilliantly. The whole stand was such a success that BLAA won the coveted 'Jester Cup', awarded to the best stand at the show.



Monies raised at the stand will be put towards planned site improvements in the New Year.

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The winners of the allotment classes at the village show were:

Best Kept Allotment

1st – Tracy Allen – Richard Jackson Cup

2nd - Jenny Gandy

3rd – Tim Baldwin

Most Interesting Allotment

1st – Jane Keogh

2nd - Anne Snow

3rd – Minn Dawson

Best Novice Allotment

1st – Richard Cottrell

2nd – Nicola Hine

3rd – Phil Glendinning

Highly Commended – Peter Crown & Glen Constable

AGM

There was more success at the AGM in October which saw Marion Challis Warren win best pumpkin lantern, Andrew Ilsley 'small but perfectly formed' pumpkin and Tony Farrow's pumpkin – too heavy for the judge to lift – won biggest pumpkin.

It was agreed that we should repeat the successful and enjoyable 'Big Lunch' event in 2010.

The committee has secured funds to provide signs at the entrances to the allotments and also noticeboards within the allotments to display items of interest, general notifications, news and events.

It was agreed to provide an additional tap at the far end of the lower allotment.



It was with great sadness that it was announced that Gillian Bickford passed away at the end of September, having lost her battle against melanoma. She will be missed.

Members were reminded of the BLAA discount arrangements at Yaldens and Rowan Nursery.

Re-elected members Tracey Allen, Andrew Ilsley, Tim Baldwin, Tony Hubbard and Nigel Pendall have been recklessly joined on the BLAA committee by David Willis, Amy Sinclair and Venetia Hawkes. Chris Goldson will also join the Committee from January 2010. After distinguished service Bob Burton, Anne Snow and Julie Hallam are retiring from the committee, everyone would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Improving Security

A vote was taken at the AGM regarding the installation of gate locks on the other two entry gates following the trial of one on the central allotment gate. There was a clear majority vote in favour of installing locks and this will be undertaken in 2010.

Further details to follow in the New Year.

Shed Padlocks

Chiltern District Council provided BLAA with free padlocks (and keys) for sheds and these have been distributed. There are some more padlocks available for anyone else who may be planning to apply to the committee for a shed in the future.

Free Horse Manure

The provision of free unrotted horse manure is working well. The supply is located on the concrete slab in the central allotment section. Although current supplies have been eagerly used up, more will be forthcoming – so keep your wheelbarrows at the ready.



Seed Potatoes

Those who took advantage of the offer of discounted seed potatoes via Yaldens' bulk buy will receive their spuds in January and will be contacted directly re delivery arrangements.

But don't worry if you didn't place your order in time - if anyone else who hasn't already ordered potatoes would like some please contact Tim Baldwin on tim.baldwin5@btinternet.com and he may be able to find some spares for you!

Emails

For those who receive a hard copy of this newsletter and would like to switch to an electronic copy to save on costs please send your e-mail contact details to - info@backlaneallotmentsassociation.org.uk

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact info@backlaneallotmentsassociation.org.uk or visit www.backlaneallotmentsassociation.org.uk

And wishing all BLAA allotmenters a very Merry Christmas and a productive New Year!