

BLAA

BACK LANE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER March 2009

BLAA gets going !

You should all have received your renewal notices recently, and having paid your subscriptions to BLAA you will probably appreciate that this means that the allotment site is now entirely self managed rather than being a council site. As a result all tenants can have a lot more say over how things are run.

For the Council, the allotment site was one of a number of public spaces in the Parish so that the site was not always a high priority. We now have the opportunity to maintain and improve the site more regularly, and hopefully to arrange a few social events. (See the 'Dates for your Diary' at the end of the newsletter)

Future self-management

Whilst the committee is the forum for sorting out issues, self-management means that everyone who shares the site needs to become involved. For starters, this means keeping our own plots in reasonable condition, cutting the surrounding grass when necessary and helping to prevent areas becoming over-grown. Try to get to know your neighbours and establish a working relationship on how you deal with your paths and boundaries. A tidy site is easier to maintain and will also help to encourage new tenants to take on the remaining vacant plots, and continue the trend that has found more than 20 new tenants since BLAA was established.

The committee intend to make regular inspections of the site to check on maintenance matters, and meet monthly to discuss this and other issues such as fencing, permission for sheds and control of dogs (we have recently received a complaint that a dog, allowed to run free, had dug up a newly planted seed bed). Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have suggestions or wish to raise issues. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

Self-help

Some maintenance items may have to involve contractors, but we are keen to keep these to a minimum. We are therefore keen to hear from anyone who has maintenance equipment or tools and is willing to help out on specific clearance or improvement areas. Others of you may be willing to lend your skills and a little of your time, and since we are operating on a fairly tight budget we could reduce running costs to enable capital improvement projects. The Council are offering to supply materials to set-back the upper & lower gates similar to the central one, but volunteer labour will be needed!

One immediate example is that we would be grateful for any help in making new Notice Boards for the site, rather than purchasing them commercially. Any volunteer carpenters in our ranks will be especially welcome. If you have any other useful ideas, or perhaps you have local contacts that could assist the committee or promote the allotments, please advise one of your committee members.

Benefits

Your Renewal Notice included advice of discount facilities offered by Yaldens at Three Households, to members of BLAA. When we return your signed tenancy agreements, you will receive details and an application form to register on Yalden's system, for 10% discount on all gardening products. Many of you may already be using their Loyalty scheme, and the BLAA discount is in ADDITION to that scheme.

'Gardening products' covered by this scheme, in no particular order, include.....

Water storage systems, Cans, Hoses & Hose fittings, Hose Carts, reels and sprayers, Irrigation systems, Composts/Sands/Grits, Compost Bins, accelerators etc., Gloves, Riddles etc., Bulbs, Onion sets, Lawn Care, Lawn Seed, spreaders etc., Plants & Shrubs, Pots & Ornaments, Suttons Vegetable & Flower seeds Seed Potatoes, Seed Trays, Weed Controls, Pest & Disease Control, Plant feeds, & Houseplant Care Disinfectants, Crop Protection, Wheelbarrows, Lawn and Hedge cutting tools & spares, Cutting & Pruning Tools, Axes & Hatchets, Greenhouse Products, Stakes, Canes, hooks, brackets & plant supports, Hanging baskets and liners, Netting, Cord, String, Labels tree-ties etc, Incinerators, Pond materials, Tip bags, Tarpaulins etc

Small Ads

Audrey Costello has a Rotavator for sale - £100 ono. Anybody interested should contact Audrey by telephone - 873300

N.B. BLAA does not provide any warrant for the working condition etc of the machine, and will not be party to the sale and purchase.

Finally, a few dates for your diaries.

Please see overleaf,

Spring Get Together - Sunday 3rd May from 11am to 12.30pm White Hart Entrance

We should all be starting work on our plots and planting seeds for the new season. Many of us grow more seedlings than we can use and this will be an opportunity to exchange spare plants, to express your views on what improvements you would like to be considered or to exchange stories and information whilst hopefully enjoying a social morning. Tenants new to the allotments could probably also obtain a full range of different advice and opinions on what they should be doing.

If this day proves successful, further dates will be considered for similar mornings.

The Village Show

Last year the Village show introduced Allotment classes , and there will be three competition classes again this year - Most Interesting, Best Kept and new for this year, a Novice Category (i.e tenants of less than three years). This year we hope that you will not need to enter, but that ALL Allotments will be treated as having entered the first two classes, and all qualifying tenants in the Novices. Another change is that the judging will take place in **July** – when the plots should be at their most presentable, and you won't have picked and eaten all of your produce. Exact dates and details will follow as soon as we have them from the Show committee.

AGM - 13th October

Further details later – but don't forget to plant your seeds for the Pumpkin and Sunflower competitions.