

HAZELBURY BRYAN ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION AGM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013

Welcome to the 4th Hazelbury Bryan AGM and a special welcome to our 4 new plot holders - MICK & PAULINE MONAGHAN (Plot 5), JILL OLIVER (Plot 11), KEN HUGGINS (Plot 8) and JOAN HART (Plot 4)

Since the last AGM BARBARA RANCE, JANE & ROGER PALMER, SARAH DARNELL and ELLEN HOLMES have given up their plots.

At this time there are 4 applicants on the waiting list.

I would like to thank Sarah who is standing down as Secretary after just over three years in the role for her help and support on behalf of both Clive, the previous Chairman, and myself. I would also like to thank Angela Chatters who has volunteered to take over from Sarah.

Can I also thank Caroline, the association Treasurer, Alan Cheeseman for mowing the grass around the allotments this year, I certainly have noticed the difference, and those, especially Mike Darnell, who have done little repair jobs during the year.

What a difference a year can make. Last year we had a record breaking cool, wet Summer and Autumn leaving us struggling with a plague of slugs, the dreaded potato blight and any nutrient left in the soil after the growing season being leached out over the winter. This year we had a cold, dry Spring, in fact the coldest Spring for the UK since 1962, followed by a warm, dry Summer, the warmest summer in the UK since 2006.

Those of us, including me, that decided to do their early planting by the book had a frustrating time struggling to get satisfactory germination of seeds planted in the cold, dry soil. Those of us that sensibly waited until things warmed up had more success. On my plot the slugs were replaced by a pesky mole and an ever increasing family of field mice and the warm summer certainly benefited the cabbage white butterflies. However I think most plot holders that I have spoken to have had a more productive year than last year and are generally happy.

The Annual Plant Show in the village hall in August was again well supported by members of the association. The 2013 allotment cup was won by Sarah Darnell, joint second place – Mick & Pauline Monaghan, Rosemary & Norman Parker and commended - Jean Riley, Sarah and Matthew Mills.

I haven't had any success with any financial help so far for the car parking area. I got a detailed quote for creating a parking area for four cars which was £1,800. I will try another couple of sources before I concede defeat.

I would like to discuss the proposal of a communal compost bin and the fruit trees later in the meeting.

The annual BBQ didn't happen this year for a number of reasons. Does everybody want a social event?

Can I repeat the requests Clive made to everyone last year –

- If you are unable for any reason to maintain your plot, please let your adjacent allotment neighbours and the secretary know. This will avoid the need for reminders coming out from the Parish Council.
- Please keep the common paths mown.
- With regard to the communal shed – if you use it please leave it in a tidy state.

I have a couple to add of my own

- Please don't use the strimmer near the fence. The rabbit proof mesh has been damaged in a number of places and will need to be repaired.
- Please don't wash your garden tools in the troughs. There is a water container supplied for this purpose at the upper trough.

There are a few jobs that are going to have to be done over the winter. Firstly the water trough near the shed has sunk into the ground and needs to be levelled up so that it doesn't overflow. Secondly, the algae in the troughs need to be cleaned out. And thirdly, the hedge between the plots and the Poor Lands and at the entrance gate will need to be trimmed in the Spring. Hopefully I can persuade David Maughan & Ray Smith to do this again but a clear up party will need to be organised. And finally the rabbit proof fence needs to be inspected and repaired where necessary.

The petrol lawn mower has gone back to Helen's friends who loaned it to the association but there is another in the shed. Many thanks for the loan. Please could you remember to re-fill the petrol container when you use the strimmer and lawn mower.

Finally the water has been or will shortly be turned off for the winter.