

Woburn Sands Allotment Society Newsletter

June 2012

Administration

(i) Annual General Meeting – Thursday 26th April '12

Some 90+ members attended. Notable decisions and approvals were:

- A majority voted in favour of bonfires being allowed once again, with certain controlling restrictions.
- Ron Hale (Chairman), Peter Toogood (Vice-chairman), Marie Baker (Secretary) and Paul Hamer (Treasurer) decided not to seek re-election for the Management Committee. All these Officers and other Committee Members were thanked for their significant contributions to the Society's work.
- Anne Corbett was elected as Chairman but nobody came forward to fill the roles of Secretary & Treasurer. A decision was made not to elect other Committee members.
- It was agreed to hold a Special General Meeting in a month's time with a view to electing a Committee and modifying the bonfire proposal in the light of comments made at the AGM. These called for even more stringent restrictions.

(ii) Special General Meeting – Thursday 24th May '12

Sixty-seven members attended. Anne Corbett was in the Chair. Key aspects were:

- Anne outlined developments since the AGM Key decisions.
- The most significant of these was the formation of a Committee comprising volunteers and others whom Anne had approached after the AGM.
- This 'ad hoc' Committee discussed and came up with modifications to the bonfire proposals, ie along the lines that the AGM had suggested.
- A majority voted to accept the Chairman's nominations for the formation of the Management Committee with the following members: Anne Corbett (Chairman & Secretary), Ralph Purcell, Phil Rutt (Treasurer), Phill Rowe, Roger Hansard and Barry Byrne. Although not yet a full plot holder, Bob Larbey, who has been looking after Plot 10 since last autumn, was co-opted to assist.
- The bonfire permit proposals tabled were voted for by a majority of members. The key change to the proposal originally agreed at the AGM was to extend the 'summertime' bonfire ban to the period 1st May to 30th September.

The first meeting of your newly-formed Committee took place in early June. Tony Gale was co-opted and attended. It was agreed that Trevor Templeman be approached with regard to his co-option. Trevor has accepted.

Project responsibilities were identified.

Other major matters discussed and agreed are covered below under the various headings.

Lastly, Anne wishes to express her gratitude to the members who supported her after the AGM and at the SGM. She is looking forward to working with them in the best interests of the society. She is also confident that the team she has assembled, which has been elected by you, the Members, will continue with the great work done by its predecessors and serve the membership to the best of its ability.

Anne's contact details are: Anne Corbett, 9 Vandyke Close, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK17 8UU
Tel. 01908 587045 and 07535 352 248.
E-mail: annekcorbett@aol.com

Field Matters

(i) Bonfires

By now, everyone should be aware that, as in earlier years, plot holders are again allowed to have bonfires on their plots, but with strict conditions applied. To summarise:

- Bonfires allowed only during the period 1st October to 30th April.
- No tyres, plastic waste or domestic household rubbish to be burned.
- Only the individual plot holder's allotment waste to be burned.
- Bonfires only to be lit when the wind direction is away from Tidbury Close.
- Bonfires to be completely extinguished before leaving the Field.

All Plot Holders will be sent a one-pager outlining the terms and conditions for bonfires. It will have a tear-off slip which the Plot Holder must sign, date and return to the Secretary. This will confirm the acceptance of the terms and restrictions being applied by your Management Committee. Bonfires only allowed when the returned slip has been lodged with the Secretary.

(ii) Gates

Difficulties have been experienced with the locking of some padlocks. Roger Hansard was given and accepted responsibility for resolving the problems. New padlocks have now been fitted to the middle track gate, Woodland Way, and also to the Bow Brickhill Road Gate next to Tidbury Close. New keys that have been reproduced from the master are available on request to Anne (Tel. 07535 352 248) or Roger (Tel. 01908 582548).

Everybody, please don't spray locks with WD40 – we spray regularly with an appropriate silicon-based fluid specifically designed to do the job. Also, we ask everyone to lock the gate behind you when entering and leaving the Field.

(iii) Rabbits

We are well aware of the damage, sometimes severe, being done to some plots by the large rabbit population on the Field. We'll be putting our minds to how best to minimise the problem.

(iv) Manure

The greatly improved quality of this late winter's deliveries of manure has been reported by satisfied Plot Holders.

(v) Valuables in Sheds

One Plot Holder had a strimmer and other items stolen from his shed in January. Please do not leave valuable items in your shed.

Some of you may have seen a notice posted on your sheds by the local police unit. This advised each and every one of us to secure our equipment the best we can.

A free-of-charge service to engrave tools etc has been offered.

Anybody wishing to avail themselves of this service is requested to send an e-mail to:

mksouthcluster@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

(vi) Plot Inspection

Our annual plot inspection will take place during June. Due regard will be taken of the adverse weather conditions experienced this spring and early summer. And allowances will be made for plot holders experiencing personal or domestic difficulties. Anybody with extenuating circumstances which have led to plot inactivity is asked to give Anne a call.

(vii) Plot Judging

Just to let you all know, Dave from the Seed Box, Flitwick, will be judging the Field sometime during the

last week of June. To make the entire Field presentable, we are arranging for Mike Brandon to cut the grass on our communal plot tracks by 23rd June.

(viii) Pole Charge

Anyone who hasn't yet paid the annual pole charge, which became due on 1st April, is requested to send a cheque for £20 to Anne.

Awards/Social Evening – Friday 13th June

As is customary, on Friday 13th July at 7.30 pm on the Field, we plan to stage an Awards/Social Evening. We trust that most, if not all, award winners will be able to make this date. As in previous years, your Society will provide alcoholic and soft drinks. Also sausages, hamburgers and chicken drum sticks (and bread rolls) will be made available. These will be cooked on a barbeque. Members attending are kindly requested to bring along cakes and biscuits. To get an idea of numbers, please could you let Anne know whether you'll be able to attend and how many will be in your party.

Also, anyone who could offer to supply and erect a gazebo or something similar, please contact Anne. Please bring folding chairs for yourselves if you require seating!

As given elsewhere, Anne can be contacted on: 01908 587045 and 07535 352 248 or at annekcorbett@aol.com

Website

Your Committee is seeking a computer literate Plot Holder to manage and/or develop the Society's website. Anybody interested is requested to contact Anne (Tel. 07535 352 248).

Comments, Suggestions & Ideas

It would be great to hear from you about any comments, suggestions and ideas you may have on aspects of managing the society's business and related on- or off-Field activities. Please send an e-mail to Anne.

For example, we'd be interested in your views about people (ie non-Plot Holders) using our Field and its pathways for shortcuts, jogging and, simply, a pleasant walk.

Remember, this is your Society!

Enjoy the summer, when it arrives, and happy gardening!

Your Management Committee, June 2012