
BHAS EAST SHEEN ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

News and Information for members of the Allotment Society....



In this newsletter we say farewell and thanks to Duncan Hoadley who has been Chair of BHAS for the last two years and welcome to the new Chair John Padgett.



A message from the new Chair of BHAS:

It's been a very strange period for elections recently, however, I'm pleased to report that the BHAS AGM on 17th June 2017 where your Committee is elected/re-elected was a much more customary event.

As our outgoing Chair Duncan Hoadley is temporarily relocating, I agreed to stand for this position and was delighted to be elected. The majority of the Committee stood for re-election so that will provide strong continuity looking forward.

I have lived in Sheen for 22 years and have had a plot now for over 5 years, so I have a feel for what makes a successful and enjoyable group of allotments.

My priorities for the year ahead are to maintain an effective and active allotment society, manage our semi-devolved responsibilities and drive the plan for maintenance and improvement projects.

John Padgett
Chair BHAS

Important Diary Date.... 3rd September 2017

The date for the Annual Show:

The show will be held at Hertford Avenue, near the Trading Shed on Sunday 3rd September, from 12.00.

Please come along to meet plot holders, show off your produce and enjoy a drink and a barbecue..



Having a good time: Open Day 22nd May 2017!



The sun shone on our very successful Open Day, with a great turn-out from our plot-holders and the wider community. The committee worked very hard behind the scenes to make the day such a success. Plant sales, the cake and bric-a-brac stalls, a raffle plus a delicious lunch all contributed to a healthy £1,203.55 profit for the Society. The kids were entertained with i-spy bingo and had the opportunity to meet the rabbits and the chickens!

Some pictures of the event.....





Trading Shed news for the summer period:

The Shed will be closed during August, so stock up on the following....
Slug Pellets and Tomato Feed.

New Items/Items back in stock:

All sizes of gardening gloves

Four foot canes (Ideal for tomatoes or brassicas)

“Garotta” Compost maker (Garotta is made from natural materials. It promotes bacterial growth, which in turn encourages the temperature in the compost heap to rise and accelerates the natural process of composting)

In the autumn the shed will stock Organic French Garlic.

N.B. A note to existing volunteers - If you amend the trading shed rota and swap dates could you please text Mark to inform him, this ensures that there are no gaps in the rota.

Mark Gourlay (Shed Manager)

Relax in the heat of the summer with a strawberry mocktail...Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 1lb strawberries
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup sparkling water
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- Ice

Method:

Place the strawberries, orange juice, sparkling water, lime juice and ice into a blender.

Blend on medium-high until it reaches a slushy consistency, add in ice as necessary.
Enjoy!



A word from the Allotment Secretaries...

Plot Inspections – why, where and when...

The aim of inspections is to keep the standards of our allotments as high as possible – that's in everyone's interests. It provides support for those keen people who work hard to keep a lovely plot to avoid having neighbours' weeds spread; it encourages those who really have lost all interest to pass their plot on to one of the **395** people that are currently on the East Sheen waiting list.

Perhaps most of all, inspections help the Society demonstrate loud and clear how deeply our allotment community values our allotments - a place to grow things, get away from the stresses of life, get occupational exercise and generally enjoy life in the open air. As you know, land is scarce and developers are avid to identify land for building.

The inspections this year started in late April and the first half of May with Pavilion and Triangle sites. Priory and Palewell Park plot inspections were done in June. Hertford is in process at the time of writing, in July.

The majority of our plots are in great condition and would make us proud to be featured on a BBC "Allotment Special" or even London in Bloom <https://www.londoninbloom.co.uk/awards/> .

Where we see plots that do not meet the Council standards of cultivation, the main issues tend to be:

- Trees planted on the edge of plots, especially unpruned, that are a nuisance to neighbours;
- Too many trees on a small space so that it is more of an orchard;
- Most of the plot turned over to soft fruit that is left to grow wild;
- Similarly - plots growing only one crop, such as potatoes;
- Weeds growing riotously and going to seed, spreading to neighbouring plots;
- Plots that are effectively flower gardens;
- Plots that are not being worked by the plot holder but by someone else.
- We hope that gives a flavour of what we see when we walk around the five sites.

The Allotment Secretaries work with the Site Reps to review all plots to make sure they are being well used and enjoyed. The Site Reps help enormously by telling us about the plots they are concerned about and by letting us know ahead of the inspection when plot holders are having difficulty maintaining their plots. Where there is no information, we send an email to individuals to ask what is happening and what their plans are. We do this to understand the situation and then we can try to be supportive.

Lettings:

Since January 2017, 17 plots have been let and 16 new plot holders have joined the Society.

Waiting List:

There are currently 395 people waiting for an allotment on one of the five East Sheen sites, some people have now been waiting for a plot for 7 years.

Any queries or comments, do get in touch with us at our email address:

Susan and Aileen

Joint Allotment Committee Secretaries, BHAS East Sheen Allotments

BHAS AGM 17 June 2017:

We had a good turnout on the 17th June and for those who were unable to attend, the minutes will be available on the website. There are changes to committee members and a full committee list with contact details follows. The main site rep change is that Donal Douglas, prior to the AGM, informed the chair of his intention to stand down from his role on Priory from autumn 2017. There will be an election for Priory site rep June 2018. As an interim measure, the role will be covered by Priory plot holders on the Committee. Any issues please contact:

Mark Gourlay

Brenda Lattimer

Nicolette King

Priory plot holders interested in becoming a site rep please contact Chair of BHAS John Padgett

It was suggested at the AGM that the Society gives a donation to charity. A unanimous decision was made to donate £500 to the Grenfell Tower relief fund. Thanks to Aileen Izett for organising this donation and for finding a donor organisation that doubled the donation. With Gift Aid this means the relief fund got £1,125.

Sad News:

I am sorry to report that Anna Stokoe, a long standing plot holder on Priory died suddenly on 19 June. Anna had an allotment on the Priory site for over 20 years and many of you will know her as the Trading Shed manager, a role that she successfully developed with passion and knowledge until standing down last year. Our sympathies go to her family and friends.

Key Contacts:

Chair: John Padgett (Hertford)

Allotment Secretaries: Joint Secretaries: Susan Moore and Aileen Izett

Membership Secretary: Janet Bostock

Treasurers: Sophie Parrett & Alistair Kennedy

Minutes: Sheena Clark

Events Organiser: Nicolette King

Newsletter Editor: Brenda Lattimer

Trading Shed Manager: Mark Gourlay

Site Reps:

Hertford - Derek Lawrence-Brown

Palewell Park - Paul Edelin (plot 15)

Palewell Fields/Pavilion - David Abel

Priory - Donal Douglas (**until autumn 2017**)

Priory - Mark Gourlay

Triangle - John Bentham

A Reminder to plot holders regarding Bonfires - Council Guidelines:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/allotments/allotment_locations

Links:

[East Sheen Allotments Web Site](#)

[Allotment Facebook Page](#)

[Twitter Page](#)

If you have any comments, suggestions or contributions for the newsletter, please email the Editor.

For Contact details please see the Newsletter emailed to BHAS members.