



Newsletter – Spring 2010

The Big Lunch – Sunday 18th July

After the success of last year's event The Big Lunch is back. BLAA will be taking part in the national Big Lunch Day, which this year is on Sunday 18th July. It'll be a similar event to last year with lots of food! More information to follow, but for now – put the date in your diaries!



Tenancy Renewals

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their allotment tenancy renewals. An impressive 95% have been paid. Just a gentle reminder for the few outstanding allotments... please make cheques payable to BLAA and post to BLAA c/o Andrew Ilsley, Apple Tree House, Back Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PF. We'd be grateful if we could have the remainder in the next few days.

Village Show

This year it is planned to increase the number of allotment classes at the village show. In addition to 'Best Allotment', 'Best Novice Allotment' and 'Most Interesting Allotment' there will be two new classes: 'Best Scarecrow' and 'Best Under 16s Patch'. All BLAA members will be automatically entered into Best Allotment, Best Novice Allotment, Most Interesting Allotment and, if there is a scarecrow on the plot, Best Scarecrow. If you wish to enter 'Best Under 16s Patch' you will need to complete the village show entry form and clearly mark the patch to be judged on the plot.

Additionally, there will be a new trophy – a cup awarded to the BLAA member who wins the most points across all adult classes (including eg cookery as well as vegetable classes). The cup is being sponsored by Yaldens.

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The village show will be on 4th September, judging of allotment classes will take place July/August.

Introduction of Gate Locks

As you will be aware the number of thefts from the allotments and break ins to houses backing onto the site have risen over the last couple of years and sadly we continue to experience security problems. Concerns have also been raised over strangers seemingly entering the site to simply wander around and a number of instances involving the dumping of domestic and trade waste.

Following consultation with allotment holders, the trial of a lock on the middle gate and the decision taken at the last AGM, new locks are being introduced to all three entrances on 1st May. In an effort to balance a range of views on daytime security with the need for swift access by the emergency services it has been decided that the gates will initially only be locked at night with the first arrival in the morning unlocking and the last departure in the evening locking up. If you are in any doubt when leaving the site towards the end of the day please lock the gate. During the day the gates are to remain unlocked but kept shut. Each gate will carry new signage advising that the site is private and that entry is only permitted by allotment holders.

Your new key(s) are included with this letter. Please carry the key with you whenever you are on site to ensure you are not locked in or out! Should you lose your key, replacement keys can be arranged through BLAA but we reserve the right to charge a fee to cover costs incurred. We will continue to review security measures and if anyone sees anything suspicious on site please do not hesitate to report the matter to a member of the committee. The new locks, keys, security chains and signage have been provided courtesy of grant funding from Bucks County Council, secured by BLAA.

Notice-boards

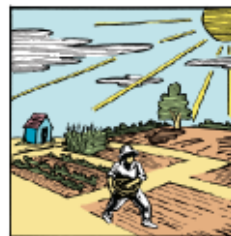
The grant from Bucks County Council has also enabled BLAA to provide each section of the site with its own notice-board. The notice-boards will be to display news, information about events and for allotment holders to put up notices.

Taps & Water Supply

There have been some problems with water supply over the winter, with taps being left running, leaks unreported and in one instance a blow torch was used which burst a pipe! If you spot a problem with the taps, or any problem on site, please notify

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info@backlaneallotmentsassociation.org.uk as soon as possible so that the problem can be fixed.

The committee is reviewing water supply needs and will be taking up the repair, maintenance, improvement and extension of the water supply with the Parish Council over the coming months to try and ensure a better winter in 2010 / 2011.

Using water butts not only saves trips to the tap, but is environmentally friendly and keeps down our water rates bill! Water butts are available at Yaldens and there is a 10% discount for BLAA members.

Shed Padlocks

A reminder that Chiltern District Council provided BLAA with free padlocks (and keys!) for sheds. There are a few more padlocks available if anyone else would like one.

Free Horse Manure

A more permanent container is planned for the free un-rotted horse manure on the concrete slab in the central allotment section. This is available to all allotment holders on a first come first served basis. The possibility of similar containers for the other allotment sections is being explored. Anyone with contacts regarding the supply of manure please contact info@backlaneallotmentsassociation.org.uk

Seed Potatoes & Onion Sets 30% off sale at Yaldens

Clearance sale of seed potatoes and onion sets at Yaldens. Discounts of at least 30% on variety of seed potatoes and onion sets.

General Reminders

If you would like to put up a shed on your plot please apply to the BLAA committee. Permission for sheds will not be unreasonably withheld. Sheds should be no more than 6' x 8' and not more than one shed per plot.

Now that the grass (and weeds!) has started to grow please remember upkeep of plots is part of the tenancy agreement, cutting grass and keeping down weeds helps prevent them spreading onto other plots.

BLAA is a member of the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardens, NSALG, <http://www.nsalg.org.uk>

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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