

View from the Chair

Happy new year to everyone. Time to get plots ready for this year's crops, happy digging. Sadly two of our Trustees have passed away, Alan Harrison and John Raymond. Alan recently joined us and was keen to join our community. Alan said "Having seen the achievements of MRALGA I am keen to be involved" and Alan certainly was. John had been with us for many years and his dedication with maintenance and plot inspections will be greatly missed. Christmas 2016 and his spectacular performance as one of Santa's elves were truly a day to remember. Our thoughts are with both families.

I would also like to ask if there are any Tenants who have skills or trades that may be useful for the allotment site. If anyone would like to volunteer their time or resources please contact us. All help is and will be greatly appreciated.

Maria (MRALGA Chair)

Shop News

Refurbishment work is near completion and the shop is now open. Many thanks to all who have volunteered their time and enthusiasm.

If you ordered Kings seeds they are now available for collection. Potato, onions and garlic will be available early February.

The Shop is open Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10-12 noon.

AGM 11/11/2017 agreed proposals:

As from 1st October 2017, any tenant wishing to take on a second plot will not be entitled to claim concession value for the 2nd plot. A general discussion took place and members were assured that concessions for existing concession holders with 2 plots would not be affected. It is only for the taking-up of a new plot.

Annual site tidy up day before annual show. Free lunch for all volunteers on the day.

For safety and security purposes, all new fences must be no higher than 4 feet from the ground level. This will give a clear view over the plots in case of intruders or accident. This only concerns boundary fences, new and replacement fences not existing ones. Mesh, picket fences and hedging fences are not affected.

We also agreed to increase the number of public events within the Public Liability Insurance.

Security

Rubbish on site is becoming an issue again. I remind everyone that it is the tenant's responsibility to clear rubbish from their plots! Rubbish is unsightly, unhealthy and encourages vermin. Please take your rubbish home or to Barkers lane tidy tip. Removing rubbish is costly and we will take action against anybody fly tipping on the allotment site.

Locking the gate. Although improved over previous months. There are still instances where the gate has been left unlocked. We all must remain vigilant and deny the opportunity for people who shouldn't be on site to gain access? Please report anything you think suspicious to the Committee. If we all continue to remain vigilant. With a little thought for each other we could all look forward to a great 2018 together.

Welcome to the following New Tenants

621 Alvin Matiba, **453.1** Teresa Daly, **406** Asrtit Myszkowsk, **225** Jim Kinns, **399** Malcolm Richardson, **402** Ricardo Patterson, **354** Juliana Nyatsambo, **307** Michael Bishop, **329** Terence Bentley-Brown, **305** Shahid Rabban, **295** Michael Jozwiah, **272** Rebecca Miller, **161E** Mrs Olszavski, **161C**Asmanterva Bibi.

We have plots available.so please spread the word to colleagues, friends and family.

Tips of the Month

Top of the list has to be clean up the plot and dispose of all of the damaged and rotten crops. Draw the soil up around the stalks of cabbages and winter cauliflowers to just under the first set of leaves. Check over Brussels sprouts and sprouting broccoli and support them with a strong stake to prevent them from being blown over in high winds.

Take advantage of days when the soil is frozen hard to barrow and stack manure and compost close to where it will be dug in later on. Don't walk on the soil as it begins to thaw it will be wet and sticky. If you have any plants or seedlings ticking over in a cold greenhouse cover them with fleece on frosty nights but remove it on warm days.

On days when you can't work on the plot clean the shed, greenhouse, polytunnel and tools. Maintain structures ensuring fences are not vulnerable to wind damage.

Bonfires

Please remember that bonfires can only be lit on the first full weekend of the month. Calendars for 2018 are now available in the shop and on the website.

Events

Many thanks to the Events team for all their hard work during 2017. The Christmas get together raised £172 .We look forward to a diary of events for 2018. Please see the events noticeboards and web site for further details.

Finance and Administration

We would like to thank all the Tenants who paid their invoice within 40 days.

Unfortunately, we had to send several reminders to some plot holders who incurred an additional charge.


Others were given notice to quit and bills sent when the plots were left in an unsatisfactory condition.

Our Annual Accounts have been filed at Companies House and the Charity Commission (pending web update). A copy is available in the trading huts.

Please let us know if your contact details have changed. You can contact us by text/phone, email, letter or just pop into the shop.

Rodent Report

Rodent Activity Indicator:

 Increasing
Stable
Decreasing

This increase is normal for the time of year but please be vigilant and try to keep your plots free of any food that attracts rodents. We thank Jake for all his hard work with Creature control. Please comply with his support and advice

Enjoy your plot!

MRALGA Trustees.