

THE BROADCAST

View from the Chair

Good day fellow Allotmenters

It was great to see so many of you at the 10 year anniversary event and I hope that you enjoyed the event as much as me. I think that it served as an excellent reminder of all that has been achieved over the last 10 years by past present and also new members. I hope that like me you are looking forward to future events and seeing the site improve further over the coming years. Thank you to all those who wrote or gave verbal feedback on how much they enjoyed the afternoon, relaxing enjoying the food and live music. On a personal note, I really enjoyed seeing plot holders taking the time to chat and get to know each other. The display which depicts the journey that MRALGA has taken over the last ten years has been erected in the tea room and you are very welcome to come and have a browse.

We are looking for volunteers to support with the trustees running of the site. If you have some free time, even if it is perhaps only a half day a month, we would be happy to have your help. We will be putting a list of jobs that need doing in the tea room. So please come along and have a look and if you feel that there is task that you can manage, please have a chat with a trustee. There is generally a trustee either in the tea room or shop that you can have a chat with.

Sadly, as many of you know, Terry Fisher has passed away. He was a valued friend and trustee of MRALGA. He worked hard in his role as Vice chairman and as a member of the maintenance team. He will be sadly missed by the trustees and members who knew him.

This season has I am sure for many brought its challenges with regard to the heat wave and lack of rain. Your crops may well be struggling in the heat and dry weather but looking around the site I have seen many thriving plots. Well done!

Maria (MRALGA Chair)

Welcome to the following New Tenants

152 Arta Wilk , **152.1** William Feighery, **161a**Aebbie Licchelli, **161F** Grace Oludayo ,
268 Emmanuela Ndifor , **327** Caroline Faulkner, **453.1** Angelina Blake. **600.1** Nic Todisco, **603.1**
Lisa Muxow and **615** Rebecca Bailes

Bonfires

Bonfires may resume after the heat wave. Please remove any rubbish from your plots and take to Barkers Lane Refuse & Recycling Centre.

Rodent Report

We thank Jake for all his hard work with Creature control. Please comply with his support and advice

Hello from the Events team

We had a very enjoyable afternoon at Kathy Browns Garden we were well and truly CAKED OUT having enjoyed Myra's cakes in the morning and Kathy's in the afternoon.

Our next visit is to RHS Wisley for their flower show and the National Dahlia Show this is on Tuesday 4th September 18 leaving mile road at 8.30, we have VERY FEW TICKETS LEFT at £16 each which includes admission.

Our next event on our Allotment site is to mark National Allotment Week which is 18th August which will include our friends Sue and Mick and they will be running a coffee morning with a bric-a-brac stall all proceeds will go to Sue Ryder.

On Saturday 29th September there will also be a coffee morning again run by Sue and Mick for MacMillan.

To finish of our growing season we have our annual show in the new marque which will be Saturday 1st September 2018. We would like to congratulate our plot holders for producing such quality crops in what has been a most challenging year and look forward to seeing lots of entry's in the show marque. At the show we will be having a Vegetable stall in aid of the **Royal Society for Protection of Birds**, please bring along donations on the morning of the show. The plot competition final judging takes place on Saturday 28th July 2018. The plots are being judged by 2 independent officers from sites from Seddington and Baldock Allotments.

Last but not least a date for your diary Friday 21 st September Quiz master allotmenteer and comedian the one and only Mr Gary Black tickets available soon.

Dave Os Events Chair

Tips of the Month

July and August are usually the driest months. Hoe regularly to break up the soil and remove weeds. Where possible every allotmenteer should have water butts to harvest any rain that does fall. The best time of day to water your allotment is during the cool of the morning or evening. Water the roots of the plant and concentrate the watering to once or twice a week, as opposed to giving your plants frequent light showers, otherwise you'll encourage the roots of the plant to seek water near the surface of the soil, as opposed to deep down in the earth.

When planting out your young plants it is always recommended that you water the hole or trench very well, before putting in your seedlings. This means the root system of your young plant will have instant access to water, also encouraging them to grow downwards to seek new water supplies, as opposed to waiting for you to come along with a watering can. Once the plant is well established, reduce or cease watering all together depending on the plant. Ensuring that your soil is always covered with a layer of mulch will help to retain moisture and suppress weeds; the mulch could be garden compost, composted manure, leaf- mould or a geo-textile etc.

The condition of your soil is of paramount importance to your crops, and the easiest way of ensuring your plants have a good start in life is by ensuring that the four main growing chemicals needed - calcium, nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous, are present in your soil. You can check this by buying a good quality soil testing kit, but as a rule of thumb, add back into the soil whatever was taken out by the last crop grown. One of the quickest ways of adding these nutrients is through the addition of well-rotted farmyard manure or homemade compost. Not only will these products improve the quality of the soil, but also the soil's ability to retain moisture, meaning you won't need to water your plants so frequently (and in some cases not at all). Dig the manure into the soil during a dormant period, end of the summer or early spring are ideal times.

Enjoy your plot!

MRALGA Trustees.